



# “THE PRIORITY OF WORD CHOICE FOR CHRISTIAN SPEAKERS”

by Dr. Mike Paramore

In freshman English classes, students learn that to a great extent effective composition is the result of good word choice. The writer’s choice of words is literally that which creates the qualities of clarity, coherence, correctness, and style. In fact, Jonathan Swift was absolutely correct when he observed that quality writing is simply “proper words in proper places.”

Although many would argue that the correct “written word” is much more critical than the

correct “spoken word,” the Bible repeatedly lets its readers know that good word choice is extremely important for the speaker. The apostle Paul, in particular, points to the significance of word choice on several occasions. He encourages the use of “words easy to be understood” in I Corinthians 14:9. In Ephesians 5:6, he warns the church of the danger of “vain words,” and in I Timothy 4:12, he tells Timothy to be an example in “word.” Most Christians will agree that Scripture—as well as common sense—indicates that believers should be concerned with the words that come from their lips.

Certainly, public speakers should be

especially cautious regarding word choice. Those of us who teach in Christian schools or in college classrooms send multiplied thousands of words every day to the ears of young listeners. Those of us who teach or preach on Sundays utter numerous words in the house of God to the people of God regarding the truth of God.

“Believers should be concerned with the words that come from their lips.”

Unfortunately, the likelihood of saying something in a public forum that we shouldn’t—or in a

way that we shouldn’t—probably increases proportionately to the number of words that we speak. Perhaps Proverbs 10:19 relates to this notion: “In the multitude of words there lacketh not sin” (cf James 3:2). It stands to reason that we as public speakers must be concerned about the actual words we use when communicating.

## 1. First and foremost, we must maintain the priority of truth in the words we choose.

Although this statement seems extremely elementary, it may be more profound than we sometimes recognize. In fact, the very essence of all that we

as Christian educators believe and teach must be saturated with and predicated upon the truth. If we stray from unadulterated truth, we stray from the character of our Lord and God (John 14:6; 16:13; 17:17). Truth is the bottom line. Every notion, concept, ideology, or doctrine has to pass the ultimate test of truth. And when we stand before impressionable minds, we must take care that the words we use are truthful.

Moreover, our most important concern when we are promoting or defending our particular position should not be whether our words are right-wing, conservative or even fundamental. The most important concern should be whether or not our words are true. In fact, if our comments are to the right of truth, we have not spoken truth anymore than the liberal who makes comments that are to the left of truth. We have both missed the truth. Even in an attempt to confirm the truth, if we overstate or embellish the truth, we only demean the truth.

Our words must also be true when we refute those who oppose the truth. If we misrepresent those who are clearly wrong by lifting their statements out of context or by making broad

sweeping statements that are not truly representative, we do a disservice to the truth we are claiming to defend. If we paint our opposition worse than they really are, we have disrespected truth. We are obligated to tell the truth—even about those who are wrong.

How much more should believers take care to be truthful with and about each other. As Christians, we may not have to agree with each other, but we certainly have to tell the truth about each other. God expects it; our personal integrity demands it.

## 2. Secondly, we should realize the importance of tone in the words we choose.

When studying argumentative writing, freshmen English students examine the significance of purpose and tone. If a writer’s only purpose is to lambaste, ridicule, and demonstrate the idiocy of those who have a differing viewpoint, then the words chosen will probably convey that tone. However, if the writer sincerely desires an opportunity to refute the opposing position and to get the opposition to give some consideration to the merits of his own position, then he had better be very concerned about the

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# President's Pen



## A CALL TO SERVICE IS A CALL TO PREPARE

DR. LORENZA STOX

When someone enters the military they must go to "boot camp." This is a place and time of preparation. Before anyone is sent into battle they are trained and prepared for the type of combat they will face.

So it is in the work of the Lord. To be effective in the service of our Lord there must be a preparation period. In most cases that is what college is all about. It is a time of sharpening your ax, and the time you spend sharpening your ax is not wasted time when you are chopping down a tree. This preparation time includes not only your head (your intellect)

but also your heart. II Chronicles 12:14 makes an interesting and important statement

To be effective in the work of the Lord, there must be a preparation period

concerning Rehoboam. He followed his father Solomon as King of Israel. The verse states that "he did evil," and then it tells us why: "because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord." It's one thing to prepare your head and yet another to prepare your heart. You can have a great mind and graduate from college with a 4.0 average, but if your heart is not prepared, you will not

succeed in the work of God.

**One must have a SUBMISSIVE heart.** To be effective you must be submissive to authority. You must submit to those over you and be totally submissive to the Word and the work of God. Rehoboam failed because he did not submit to the counsel of the older men. It is important that one listen to the older and wiser men.

**To succeed you must also have a SERVANT heart.** Jesus said in Luke 22:27 that the one who serves is greater than the one who is served. Every great leader and worker in the

ministry of our Lord is a servant. They are willing to do whatever needs to be done and not do it to be recognized. There are no Big Shots in the work of God.

**One must also have a STEADFAST heart.** The steadfast heart does not waver. It knows what is right and wrong based upon the Word of God and He is unwavering. In compassion and love he

preaches, teaches, and stands with the Word of God. The man/woman of God does not change with the wind or when cultures change.

Yes, prepare your head. Study hard. Do your best with what you have. You may not be able to make the grades others can make, but you can prepare your heart as well as anyone else.

### THE STANDARD

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"...lift up a standard for the people." (Isaiah 62:10)

## Chapel Series

CD recordings of many of our chapel services are available at \$5.00 each including:

### **Burning Bush Experience**

Dr. Lorenza Stox, President & Pastor of Parkers Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

### **The Greatest Sin In America**

Nate Ange, Homiletics Professor & Pastor of Landmark Free Will Baptist Church

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Jeff Jones, Homiletics Professor & Pastor of Hilltop Free Will Baptist Church

And Many More!



## “Word Choice . . .”

*Continued from page 1*

tone he creates with the words he chooses. Simply, if the writer “turns them off” because of tone, he has little chance to help them see the error of their ways and the strength of his position.

Tone is no less important for those who communicate orally. Some speakers have the right position on the truth, but they have such an abrasive disposition that they repel listeners from the truth.

**3. Finally, we should consider the potential for consequences from the words we choose.**

There is an old saying that compares our speech to an arrow that has been shot from a bow. Once the words have been spoken, they cannot be recalled and the harm they do cannot be stopped.

Word choice cannot be both indiscriminate and inconsequential (cf Prov 6:2; 12:25; 15:1). A cavalier attitude toward our choice of words can unnecessarily offend young impressionable minds, hurt our own personal credibility, and do disservice to the cause of Christ.

Proverbs says that “a fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards” (29:11). That certainly is an interesting choice of words to describe those who should be more interested in their choice of words. For the sake of our Lord, for the sake of our testimony, and for the sake of our students, may we determine to guard our words.

### About the Author

*Dr. Mike Paramore has served at the college since 1987, prior to which he served as a Christian School principal in Kinston, NC.*

*He received is Doctorate in Education from Bob Jones University in 1987. Dr. Paramore teaches in our Christian Education department and is a vital asset to the ministry of Southeastern FWB College. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball with the students.*

## Graduation Speaker Announced



President Stox has announced Pastor Henry Horne will be addressing the graduating class of 2006 on May 5th.

Henry Horne, and his wife Laurie, have two children, Lauren and Joshua. They have been serving at the Union Chapel FWB Church in Chocowinity, North Carolina for 19 years. Before coming to Union Chapel in August of 1987, Pastor Horne served as Associate Pastor at Cramerton FWB Church starting in June of 1980.

This year, Pastor Horne's daughter, Lauren will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in Christian Education. She will be married to graduating senior, Stephen Kimbrell of Millport, Alabama in May and will soon after be serving as associate missionaries in York, Pennsylvania.

This year's commencement exercises will be held in the college Activities Center on Friday morning, May 5, at 10:00am. A cordial invitation is extended to all of Southeastern's friends and families.

## Calendar of Events

### April

Camp Meeting - 10th-12th

### May

Board Meeting - 1st-2nd

Graduation - 5th

### June

Youth Aflame '06 - 19th-23rd

### August

Classes Begin - 30th

### October

Golf Tournament - 3rd

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**BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**

OCTOBER 3, 2006

# “Return to the Old Paths”

## Camp Meeting Schedule April 10-12, 2006

### Monday

- 9:00 a.m. ——— Special Singing
- 9:30 a.m. ——— Ronald Davis
- 11:00 a.m. ——— Tim Rabon
- 2:30 p.m. ——— Board of Directors Meeting



- 6:45 p.m. ——— Sounds of Victory Choir
- 8:00 p.m. ——— Dann Patrick

### Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. ——— Josh Baer
- 10:20 a.m. ——— James Kelly Caudill
- 11:20 a.m. ——— Dann Patrick
- 2:30 p.m. ——— Cooperative Board Meeting

- 6:45 p.m. ——— Greater Vision *in* Concert
- 8:00 p.m. ——— Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.



Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.



Dann Patrick

AN ALUMNI  
DINNER WILL BE HELD  
AT 5:00 P.M.  
ON TUESDAY EVENING  
IN THE COLLEGE CAFETERIA.  
PLAN TO ATTEND!

### Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. ——— Preacher Boys
- 10:20 a.m. ——— Curtis Linton
- 11:20 a.m. ——— Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.



## Greater Vision

If you cannot attend, call the college office to order a set of CD or DVD recordings of the entire conference or of any service (music not included).



President-Christian Powell; Vice President-Josh Baer; Secretary-Jason Little; Treasurer-Tim Riggs;  
Members at Large- Steve Berry, Scott Coghill, Gene Williams; On Campus Liason-Rodney Holloman

## A Challenge from a Southeastern Graduate

by Steve Berry

Some of us early Southeastern graduates have the distinction of being called ancient and relics. At 38 years of age, I am watching my children grow and very soon, I too will have children in college. My middle son is in a "growth spurt." Cindy and I can't keep clothes and shoes on him, much less sufficient food before him to devour.

His growth spurt makes me think about my own spiritual growth. Most of us, if we look back, can see spiritual growth spurts in our lives. It is these short intervals of time that seem to shape and change our direction. I can look back to being a nine year old boy riding a bus to church and being saved the second Sunday I attended. That bus ride changed my whole life. The youth camp I attended the summer before my eighth grade year was life changing. In time, I began attending Christian school and then surrendered my life to preach the gospel at age 15. The decision to attend Southeastern was a four year growth spurt for me.

As much as I grew at college, I remember one opportunity for growth I turned down and regret it today. My dad was going to Mexico

on a short term mission trip with Bob King, Roy Thomas and others. I had not given this trip much consideration when Dr. Haas met me in the hallway and asked me if I was going to Mexico with my dad. I told him no. His response astounded me. With disbelief and amazement he said, "Why would you not take an opportunity like that for growth?" I told him that I had tests in my Hebrews and Literature class. He said, "Those tests will be there when you return. This could change your life." His disappointment in me made more of an impression than his words. In spite of that, I did not make the trip.

After arriving in Tulsa for my first ministry position at Cornerstone FWB Church, I began to come to grips with my heart for missions. With all the mission conferences I attended at Southeastern, it was that conversation in the hallway with a veteran missionary that moved me. His disappointment challenged me then and still. I signed up for a short term men's mission trip to Mexico and decided to open my heart and let God change it. The following year I returned with 12 teenagers from my youth group. Two of the older teens made a decision to move to Mexico for one year and learn the language. Upon returning, they began a Hispanic

bus route in Tulsa. That was ten years ago and today there is an almost self-supporting Hispanic church as a result. The church averages 100 in attendance and has a Bible institute that is sending out ministers.

God is continuing His work in me. My heart has been blessed to be involved in short-term mission trips to Cuba where I am continuing to learn Spanish. Where God is ultimately leading me with my mission heart is a mystery. But I never want to turn down a spiritual growth spurt opportunity again. If the Lord would open the door for you to take a short-term mission trip, I would challenge you to walk through it.

I would like to give a special invite to all Southeastern alumni to attend this year's alumni dinner at the Camp Meeting in April. Last year's banquet was worthwhile and enjoyable. In my opinion, there is a real need for the alumni to stay connected. Either way, please take the time to go the Alumni side of the Southeastern website and register your family information. See you in April.



### CHRIS & SERA (DEANS) HUFF

Chris Huff and his wife Sera are faithfully serving the Lord at Hilltop Free Will Baptist Church in Fuquay Varina, NC. Those that were around in the early years can remember Chris singing tenor in the first Southeastern Free Will Baptist College quartet. His humor and warm smile were contagious to all the students and staff. Chris is involved in a variety of ministries in his local church. He drives a bus and sings in the choir and several small groups. It has been said that "you can set the church clock by his faithfulness." Sera completed two years at Southeastern before marrying Chris. They have three children: Jonathan (freshman and singing in the college quartet at Southeastern), Jason (Junior at Hilltop Christian School), Jeremy (fifth grade at Hilltop Christian School). After many years Sera returned to Southeastern and completed her degree in 2003. She has been teaching at Hilltop for 18 years and currently teaches high school history and junior high math and pre-algebra at Hilltop Christian School as well as playing the clavinova in the church music ministry. Chris now has his own business as a handyman. Pastor Jeff Jones says, "You can build a church on folks like these."



## “SOUTHEASTERN SAYS GOODBYE TO STAFF”

In May, Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will say goodbye to Mr. Howard Gwartney and his wife Patsy. The Gwartneys left Mesa, Arizona in 2003, where they founded and pastored the East Valley FWB Church for thirteen years, to come to Southeastern and direct our Pastoral Department. Over the past three years Mr. Gwartney has instilled a desire for more church planting in the hearts of our pastoral majors as well as instructed them on practical ministries in the local church. Mr. Gwartney said of his years at Southeastern, *“Some of the finest young people in the entire world attend Southeastern. I’m excited to see what God is going to do in their lives as they seek to do His will. It has been a great joy to have a small part in their Bible college training.”*

We are grateful for his love and dedication to our students over these past three years and we pray that God will greatly use him in His future service.



Mrs. Pat Thomas has announced that this will be her last semester as the Dean of Women. In 2003, after the passing away of her faithful husband and servant of the Lord, Dr. Roy Thomas, Mrs. Thomas felt God leading her to Southeastern to assist in the training of young people for the work of the ministry. In 2004, she became the Dean of Women and has served in this capacity for the past two years. Mrs. Thomas said, *“During the past two years I have fallen in love with the wonderful students here on campus. These are some of the most enthusiastic, dedicated and committed young people I have ever met. I know God is going to greatly use them wherever He may lead.”*

Please pray for Mrs. Thomas as she begins to enter her second “retirement”. Her prayer is that at the age of 70 God would allow her to help in the starting of a new church.



This summer, Southeastern Free Will Baptist College promotional groups will be traveling across the country to churches, state meetings, youth conferences, and youth camps in many states.

As always, Southeastern would love to come and be a blessing to your church family.

If you would be interested in having one of our promotional groups bring a day of encouragement and uplifting of our Lord then please contact the promotional office or send in a request online at [www.sfwbc.edu](http://www.sfwbc.edu).

**Groups Available: Sounds of Praise Ensemble,  
Redeemed Quartet, Adoration Trio, and Majesty Trio.**

**Travel Dates: May 19<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>**

## PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE 2006

The Teacher Education department of Southeastern FWB College hosted their annual **Principal's Recruiting Conference** February 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a time provided for the participating Christian schools to present their ministries to the student body and particularly the students in the Teacher Education department. It is also a good opportunity for the school representatives to talk to future graduates about filling ministry positions at their schools. The chapel message for the conference was delivered by Robert Spruill, Principal of Bethel Christian Academy. The Teacher Education department is pleased to be able to provide this service for the Christian schools and the students. We appreciate all of the schools that participated in this year's conference. We were especially pleased to have Pleasant View Christian School from Pleasant View, Tennessee attending the conference for the first time.

Following is a list of all the schools that were on campus this year and the representatives of those schools.



**Bethel Christian Academy, Kinston, NC**

Robert Spruill, Principal

**Faith Christian Academy, Goldsboro, NC**

Walter Sloan, Principal

**Hilltop Christian School, Fuquay-Varina, NC**

Travis Moots, Principal

**Maranatha Christian School, Florence, SC**

Chad Reel, Assistant Pastor

**Mt. Calvary Christian Academy, Hookerton, NC**

Michael Fulcher, Principal,

David Osborne, Youth Pastor

**Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN**

Stephen Parks, Assistant Administrator

**Raleigh Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC**

Dwight Ausley, School Administrator

Timothy Williams, Elementary Principal

Paul Minor, High School Principal

Rhonda Castleberry, Supervisor

**Ruth's Chapel Christian School New Bern, NC**

David Thompson, Principal



## Summer Missions Trips

This summer many of our students will have a great opportunity to attend several missions trips to assist national pastors and church planters in their local churches. It is our prayer as a college that through these trips that God will burden the hearts of our students even more for world-wide missions. There is a dying need for missionaries and church planters in the great cities of America and on foreign soil, and it is our prayer that these laborers will be sent to the harvest from the halls of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College.

Our students will be going to the countries of Cuba (*May 26 – June 5*) and Moldova (*May 19 – June 2*) as well as helping alumnus and church planter, Greg Floars in Gwinn, Michigan (*June 8 – 15*).

They need your financial help. If your church, Sunday school class, or youth group would like to help sponsor one these students on a mission's trip this summer, please send your support to Summer Missions Trips PO Box 1960 Wendell, NC 27591. Thank you for your investment in eternity.



# Choir Tour 2006



On March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, the Sounds of Victory Choir traveled over 3,500 miles as they visited churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina. President Stox along with the promotional department traveled with 43 students as they ministered in churches and Christian schools across these states.

Dr. Stox said, "I love coming on choir tour because it allows me to get to know our students on a personal level and see their heart for God. We have the best young people in the world." In addition to traveling to so many churches we were able to see our supporting pastors, alumni, and many who have been friends of Southeastern for years.

The theme of the choir tour this year was "Through the Fire." Mr. Harris and Mrs. Siebert did an exceptional job in selecting the songs and formatting the program to be used of God to speak to hearts. The altars were full each night as

Dr. Stox and Mr. Blankenship delivered messages from the Word of God. We were excited to see 5 souls saved and many lives dedicated to Christ.



A special thanks to H.K. Martin and his wife Nette for accompanying us on our trip. Mr. Martin has been driving on choir tour for 18 years and we are very grateful for his friendship to Southeastern. Check out our website at [www.sfwbc.edu](http://www.sfwbc.edu) for more pictures.

