

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord my strength, and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)*

The words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts. These two functions of our being are so common and continuous that they are sometimes thought to be almost involuntary. Few people give careful thought to what they say, and fewer still to what they think.

But let us consider the first, the words of our mouths. And let us consider it in the best possible sense. We will pass over those babbling fools whose voices are known by a multitude of words, who never think of what they say and never say anything worth thinking about. Here is the man who thinks long and hard before he speaks, who is extremely careful that his words will be received and accepted in the best possible sense. Who is he trying to impress? Who is he careful to not offend? Who is it that he hopes to influence by his rhetoric? It is not God, but man. He rarely, if ever, considers that the most important person in his audience is God. And if he has succeeded in pleasing and impressing man yet has offended God, can those men help him? The psalmist rightly reasons that the Lord is “my strength and my redeemer.” If he offends, alienates and enrages all mankind his security is not one whit compromised and his power no less invulnerable if God is pleased with his words.

We all, regardless of how sincere, impartial and charitable we attempt to be, do not say the same things before all people. Our conversation is, to a great extent, governed by whoever is present. But let us remember that God is present at all times. If we ordered our speech with that in mind, would it not be more consistent, fair, just and truthful?

Let us consider the second, the meditations of our hearts. These are our own. No man intrudes where we secretly think. Many things we would not dare do or say, we feel safe in thinking of them. Tell me, would you be embarrassed to have your thoughts of one day printed in the newspaper? After having read them, would your fellow men admire you more or despise you more? Then let us consider that God knows these thoughts...all of them, all the time. You are horrified with the thought of your neighbor knowing them. Does it not bother you that God knows them? How improved would be our minds and general emotional state if we ordered our thinking to be acceptable in God’s sight!

-C.M.