

# BIG WORDS

*Let's glorify God, not ourself*

Glen C. Robertson

**O**FTEN A PREACHER will fall into the trap of unnecessarily using big words. This is natural when a young man has just left Bible College or seminary, where the religious language being used is like that, just as in any place of higher learning. Added to that, is the desire, perhaps, of the young man to establish himself as knowledgeable in his subject as he begins his career. Or perhaps he even does think he is quite knowledgeable and educated!

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.  
**I Timothy 3:6 The BIBLE**

Even more dangerous is the preacher who intentionally uses such language in order to impress. The exaltation of man or of what a man teaches is the last thing that God intends!

8 I Am the LORD: that is My Name: and My glory will I not give to another.  
**Isaiah 42:8 The BIBLE**

Can you imagine teaching your children...

**M**ARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB,  
Regarding whose cuticular,  
The fluff exterior was white,  
And kinked in each particular.  
On each occasion when the lass,  
Was seen perambulating,  
The little quadruped likewise,  
Was there a-galivating.  
One day it did accompany her,  
To the knowledge dispensary,  
Which to every rule and precedent,  
Was recklessly contrary.  
Immediately whereupon,  
The pedagogue superior,  
Exasperated, did eject,  
The lamb from the interior.  
And Mary, on beholding such,  
Performance arbitrary,  
Suffused her eyes with saline drops,  
From glands called lacrimary.  
And all the students grew thereat,  
Tumultuously hilarious,  
And speculated on the case,

With wild conjectures various.  
 What makes the lamb love Mary so?  
 The students asked the teacher.  
 He paused a moment then he tried,  
 To diagnose the creature.  
 O pecus amorem, Mary habit,  
 Omnia temporum.  
 "Thanks, teacher, dear,"  
 The students cried,  
 And awe crept darkly o'er 'em.

... it'd mean nothing to them! They'd get nothing out of it! Other than perhaps impressing them, what'd be the use?

You would certainly be alarmed if your child returned home one evening, only to sheepishly announce: "Despite my keen affiliation with Neutonian physics of motion pernicious forces beyond my control superintervened with the forward momentum of the internal combustion vehicle subscribed to my care, necessitating minor readjustments to some of the more maleable automotive protuberances." (**"I just wrecked the car."**)

Or how about relying on a doctor who terrified you with the words: "There is inspised mucous on the masses of lymphoid tissue between the anterior and posterior pillars of the fauces, characterized by hyperemia. Exudation inucliation is necessary." (**"Your tonsils have to come out."**)

Would you continue using a barber who described you as, "Lacking follicle appendages on the cutaneous apex of your cranial structure, anterior to the sagittal suture and posterior to the lamdoidal suture, where said follicle appendages habitually germinate?" (**"Bald."**)

And you'd probably be in big trouble if you told someone you wanted to give them, "An anatomical juxtaposition of two orbicularis oris muscles in a state of contraction." (**"A kiss!"**)

And imagine the response the disciples would have gotten in Mark 8, had they acted that way toward Jesus!

And Jesus said unto them, "Who do you say that I Am?" And they said unto Him, "You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma in which we find the ultimate meaning of our interpersonal relationships."

And Jesus said unto them, "What?"

For which reason Paul said,

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of GOD.

**I Cor. 2:4, 5 The BIBLE**

So, in conclusion:

When promulgating your esoteric cogitations, and articulating your superficial sentimentalities, and amicable, philosophical, and psychological observations, avoid platitudinous ponderosity. Let your extemporaneous verbal evaporations and expatiations have lucidity, intelligibility, and voracious vivacity, without rodomontade and thespian bombast. Sedulously avoid all poly-syllabic profundity, pompous propensity, psytacious vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and vaniloquent vapidty. Shun double-entendre, obnoxious jocosity, and pestiferous profanity, observable or apparent.

... in other words,

"Say what you mean, without using big words!"