

The Epistle to the Colossians

STUDIES 1 - 10

STUDENT MANUAL

Stephen Nemeth Lectures

The Epistle To The Colossians

Studies 1 - 10

Student Manual

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Stephen Nemeth Lectures

THE APOSTLE AND THE EPISTLE

STUDY 1

Scripture Portion: Colossians 1:1-8

Paul's letter to the Colossians was written about A.D. 62 to the Church at Colosse, a city in Asia Minor situated on the Aegean Sea. It is generally supposed that Epaphras founded, and afterwards ministered to this church and that Paul never visited the city, as seemingly indicated by -

Colossians 1:4 -

Colossians 1:9 -

Colossians 2:1 -

Paul's object in writing was to send help and guidance in connection with serious heresy which had come into the Colossian church, a false doctrine which was a mixture of speculative oriental mysticism and Judaistic legalism.

The former does despite to the Person and Work of Christ. The latter propagates the false notion that salvation is obtainable by works. How up-to-day Colossians is! You can trace these heresies in practically every modern false system.

In Colossians 1:1-8 -

The apostle gives us a fivefold description.

1. PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE LORD.

The false teaching which had come into the church at Colosse was derogatory to the Person of Christ, so Paul speaks of Him in a threefold way.

Paul gives Him, His full title.

Colossians 1:2b-3 -

Let us give our Lord Jesus His full title and acknowledge His lordship.

1 Corinthians 12:3 -

Paul emphasizes His deity.

In Colossians 1:3 -

we read, “God.....the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Compare with -

Colossians 1:2 -

“.....God our Father.....”. God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in a unique sense.

c. Paul designates Him as the God.

Three things are mentioned in these few verses -

(1) The Father -

Colossians 1:2-3 -

(2) The Son -

Colossians 1:1-4 -

Colossians 1:7 -

(3) The Spirit -

Colossians 1:8 -

2. PAUL’S DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF.

He is -

Colossians 1:1 -

Again the description is threefold.

1. “An apostle”.

The word means “a sent one”.

Compare with -

Luke 6:13 -

An apostle was one who had seen the Lord and had been a witness of His resurrection.

Acts 1:21-22 -

Acts 9:3-6 -

2. “An apostle of Jesus Christ”.

How wonderful to be the special messenger of the King of kings! We are to be just that!

2 Corinthians 5:20 -

3. “By the will of God”.

Paul’s call and authority were derived from God Himself. Compare -

Galatians 1:1 -

John 15:16 -

3. PAUL’S DESCRIPTION OF TIMOTHY.

This is also in -

Colossians 1:1 -

“Paul, an apostle.....and Timothy our brother.....”.

Notice -

1. The apostle’s affection.

He describes young Timothy as his brother. Timothy was, of course, his “own son in the faith” -

1 Timothy 1:2 -

2 Timothy 1:2 -

and fellow-labourer in the gospel.

Acts 16:1-3 -

b. The apostle's humility.

Paul was the great apostle and Timothy the young assistant. The one man was much older than the other, so it is a mark of Paul's humility that he mentions Timothy.

3. The apostle's diplomacy.

This is very beautiful. Timothy was a native of the region where these Christians lived. Many would be thrilled to hear his name mentioned. Paul was always very tactful when it came to the matter of bettering human relationships.

4. PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE COLOSSIANS.

This sevenfold description is contained in -

Colossians 1:2 -

Colossians 1:4-6 -

1. He addresses them as "saints".

Colossians 1:2 -

Every Christian is a saint. God places us "in Christ". Immediately we become saints.

1 Corinthians 16:1 -

Philippians 4:21 -

b. He speaks of their steadfastness.

That is the meaning of the word "faithful".

There were some in the church who were not faithful, but read -

1 Corinthians 15:58 -

3. He refers to their new relationship in Christ.

In **Colossians 1:2**, he describes them as “brethren”. This is the true brotherhood.

Romans 8:29 -

Hebrews 2:11 -

d. He speaks of them as believers.

Colossians 1:4 -

He refers to their “faith in Christ Jesus”. Faith must not only be initial, trusting Christ for salvation, but it must be comprehensive.

Romans 1:17b -

d. He especially mentions their love.

In **Colossians 1:4** -

he speaks of their love “to all the saints”.

In -

Colossians 1:8 -

he tells us that this love was “in the Spirit”.

Galatians 5:6 -

If we have faith we shall love!

Compare with -

Galatians 6:10 -

1 Thessalonians 3:12 -

2 Peter 1:7 -

6. He says these Christians were filled with hope.

Colossians 1:5 -

To rejoice in our inheritance in Christ will fill us with hope and banish doubt and fear.

1 Peter 1:4 -

g. He describes them as fruitful Christians.

Colossians 1:6 -

This is God's will for each one of us.

John 15:4-5 -

John 15:8 -

5. PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF EPAPHRAS.

This threefold description is in -

Colossians 1:7-8 -

1. He was Paul's dear fellowservant.

Paul looked upon every other true servant of the Lord as a partner, a co-labourer.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 -

2. He was a faithful minister of Christ.

This, above all, is what God requires of us.

Matthew 25:21 -

1 Corinthians 4:2 -

c. He was a declarer of love.

Let us speak well of others. Let us declare their "love in the Spirit".

NOTES

NOTES

PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS

STUDY 2

Scripture Portion: Colossians 1:9-14

Paul was a man of prayer.

He was a great Christian, an outstanding scholar, a model missionary, a giant among men, spiritually, morally and intellectually. But, above all, he was a man of prayer.

His Christian life began in prayer -

Acts 9:10-11 -

He prayed for himself -

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 -

He asked others to pray for him -

Ephesians 6:18-20 -

He practised the holy art of intercession, praying for others, like his Lord.

John 17:9 -

It is significant to notice that Paul's prayers were full of praises.

In this study, we are to notice his praises in -

Colossians 1:3 -

Colossians 1:12 -

Then we are told for what he prayed in -

Colossians 1:9-14 -

1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PAUL'S PRAYER.

Colossians 1:9 -

It was marked by PERSISTENCY.

“We also.....do not cease to pray for you.....”. Paul knew something about unceasing prayer.

Compare -

1 Thessalonians 5:17 -

Luke 18:1 -

Prayer is a warfare.

Ephesians 6:12 -

If we give up when we are praying, the battle goes to the enemy.

Acts 2:42 -

Acts 2:46 -

It was marked by INTENSITY.

Notice the word “desire” in this verse. It indicates that Paul was passionate in his praying. His prayers were filled with a deep longing. There was an intensity about them.
Compare -

Matthew 17:21 -

c. It was marked by UNITY.

Paul says, “We.....pray for you.” We may pray alone -

Matthew 6:6 -

James 5:17 -

But there is special power in united, corporate prayer.

Compare -

Acts 16:25 -

Matthew 18:19 -

2. THE CONTENT OF PAUL'S PRAYER.

In **Colossians 1:9-14** we are told that Paul prayed for seven things.

1. That they might be given PERCEPTION.

He prayed that these Colossians -

Colossians 1:9b -

We need spiritual enlightenment in order that we might know the will of God and do it.
By nature we cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God.

Compare -

1 Corinthians 2:14 -

John 3:2-7 -

2. That they might lead lives PLEASING to the Lord.

Colossians 1:10 -

Compare -

Romans 15:3 -

Galatians 1:10 -

- c. That they might engage in PROFITABLE service.*

Colossians 1:10 -

Until we become Christians, our lives are unprofitable. It is only when we are converted that they are made profitable.

Philemon 10-11 -

The will of God is that our lives should manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 -

Compare with -

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 -

2 Peter 1:5-7 -

In **John 15** we find that there are three stages:

fruit -

John 15:2 -

more fruit -

John 15:2 -

and much fruit -

John 15:5 -

John 15:8 -

Compare -

2 Timothy 4:11 -

Acts 13:13 -

4. That they might PROGRESS in the Christian life.

Colossians 1:10 continues *.....and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

The operative word is the word “increasing”. Paul longed that these Christians should grow. See the beautiful picture in -

Hosea 14:5-7 -

The Christian life is in three stages: “little children”, “young men” and “fathers”.

1 John 2:12-14 -

e. That they might be endued with POWER.

Colossians 1:11 goes on*strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,.....*

Paul is praying that they might have the experience of Pentecost -

Acts 2:4 -

For none of the things of which we have been thinking are possible in our own strength.

Compare -

Ephesians 3:16 -

Philippians 2:13 -

Potentially, the power of the Holy Spirit has been given to us - but what about experimentally?

Compare -

Acts 1:8 -

Luke 11:13 -

6. That they might have PATIENCE.

Notice these three vital words in -

Colossians 1:11 -

“Patience” here means “endurance in the face of trial”.

Compare -

James 5:11 -

“Longsuffering” indicates “gentleness” and “lovingkindness”.

1 Corinthians 13:4 -

The apostle prays that these Christians might endure in the face of fierce testing; that they might do so with a gentle and loving spirit; and that they might be filled with joy, even though called upon to suffer for their Lord.

Acts 5:41 -

Compare -

1 Peter 4:13 -

g. That they might be filled with PRAISE.

It is important to notice the difference between praise and prayer. There are some things for which we are to pray. But there are blessings for which we are to thank God because He has already given them to us. Notice the word “hath” mentioned three times in -

Colossians 1:12-13 -

and the word “have” in -

Colossians 1:14 -

We do not need to pray, nor should we pray for these things which we have. What are they?

(1) His PROVISION.

Colossians 1:12 -

He has given us an “inheritance”.

Read and compare with -

Romans 8:16-17 -

Thank God!

(2) His POWER.

Colossians 1:13 -

See what He has delivered us from and translated us to!

Read **Ex. 14:13-31.**

Thank God!

(3) His PARDON.

Colossians 1:14 -

How we should thank God that all our sins have been -

removed from us -

Psalm 103:12 -

blotted out -

Isaiah 44:22 -

cast into the depths of the sea -

Micah 7:19 -

and that God will remember them against us no more -

Hebrews 10:17 -

Thank God!

*Oh, how great Thy loving kindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea;
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness,
Lavished all on me!*

*Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise,
And have made it mine.*

NOTES

NOTES

THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST

STUDY 3

Scripture Portion: Colossians 1:15-29

There is coming a day in which the Lord Jesus Christ will have the pre-eminence, a day when He will be Lord, and when -

Philippians 2:10 -

What a glorious prospect this is for Him - and for us!

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
'Till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

But important as is the prophetic application of these words, there is an equally important present, personal application. That is our theme here.

The word "pre-eminent" means "occupying the foremost place". We are not thinking of the pre-eminence of one doctrine over another, one creed over another or one denomination over another, but of one personality over another.

The one personality is the Lord Jesus Christ - and the other is you and me. So, when we speak of the pre-eminence of Christ, we mean Christ occupying the foremost place in our life. Is He first in our life, home, business, friendships, pleasure.....? Compare -

Ecclesiastes 3:19 -

3 John 9 -

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ALONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE PRE-EMINENT IN OUR LIVES.

Only one person in the whole of God's universe has the absolute right to occupy the first place in your life and mine.

Others may seek to have the first place, but it is not their right to seek or to obtain it. The devil seeks the pre-eminence in your life and mine, but it is not his right to have it.

There are three reasons why the Lord Jesus Christ alone has the right of being first in our life.

Because He made us.

Colossians 1:16 -

Particularly notice that we were not only created “by Him” but “for Him” . Compare -

Proverbs 16:4 -

Isaiah 43:7 -

He made us in order that He might be first in our hearts and lives.

b. Because He has redeemed us.

Colossians 1:13-14 -

We belong to Him by legal right for He has purchased us with His own life’s blood.

Compare -

1 Corinthians 6:20 -

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

Through His infinite sacrifice upon Calvary’s cross, and by the mighty power of His resurrection, God has -

Colossians 1:13 -

A kingdom must have a king. Once we were in Satan’s kingdom and he was our king. Now we are in Christ’s kingdom and it is His right to reign over us. Is He King of your life?

3. Because God has given Him the pre-eminence.

Colossians 1:18 -

Compare with -

John 5:23 -

then notice in -

Colossians 1:15-20 -

that God has given Him the pre-eminence -

(1) in likeness -

Colossians 1:15 -

(2) in power -

Colossians 1:15 -

(3) in creation -

Colossians 1:16 -

(4) in eternity -

Colossians 1:17 -

(5) in authority -

Colossians 1:17 -

(6) in the church -

Colossians 1:18 -

(7) in the new creation -

Colossians 1:18 -

(8) in riches -

Colossians 1:19 -

(9) in final victory -

Colossians 1:20 -

Now read **Matthew 12** and see that our Lord declares His pre-eminence by saying that He is greater than -

the temple -

Matthew 12:6 -

the Sabbath -

Matthew 12:8 -

the devil -

Matthew 12:29 -

Jonah -

Matthew 12:41 -

and Solomon -

Matthew 12:42 -

He is greater than them all!

THOUGH IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO OCCUPY FIRST PLACE IN OUR LIVES, HE DOES NOT ALWAYS DO SO.

He is not always free to exercise His right, for, in your life and in mine, very often self is first.

Luke 9:59 -

Luke 9:61 -

Notice the words “.....me first” and compare with -

3 John 9 -

Sometimes other things come first -

a. another life -

Matthew 10:37 -

2. personal ambition, pleasure or possessions -

Luke 18:23 -

THE LORD JESUS MAY BE PRESENT IN OUR LIFE, YET NOT PRE-EMINENT.

If you are a Christian, He is truly present - but is He pre-eminent? It is true to say today that, in measure, He is present in our national life, our political life, our commercial life and our religious life, but He is not, by any means, pre-eminent! The same may be true of us. He may be in our life, but not king; resident, but not president.

4. HE MAY BE PROMINENT BUT NOT PRE-EMINENT.

He may hold an important place in our life and yet not hold the first place. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if He is truly pre-eminent or only prominent.

5. WHEN THE LORD JESUS IS PRE-EMINENT IN OUR LIVES, THE FOLLOWING THREE THINGS ARE TRUE.

1. There is supreme love to His Person.

We love Him more than any other person or thing, more than His service, more than ourselves - “.....more than these”.

John 21:15 -

2. There in unquestioning obedience to His commands.

Read -

John 14:15 -

and compare -

John 2:5 -

Acts 9:6 -

c. There is complete submission to His will.

When the Lord Jesus occupies the foremost place in my life, I shall be willing to serve Him in the sphere of His choice, to suffer should He will it, and, if necessary, to die for Him. Indeed, my attitude will be -

Matthew 11:26 -

NOTES

THE PASTOR'S CONFLICT

STUDY 4

Scripture Portions: Acts 11:19-26; Colossians 2:1-5

Paul had never seen the Christians at Laodicea or Colosse face to face, yet he writes to them of his deep concern for their spiritual welfare and of the burden upon his heart for their spiritual and eternal well-being.

Colossians 2:1 -

What an unveiling of the apostle's heart! He is a model for every minister, pastor, leader and worker in the Lord's vineyard; an example we can never hope to equal but should seek grace to follow.

Colossians 2:1-5 -

We are told seven things about the conflict of which Paul speaks in **verse 1**.

THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT.

It was not primarily physical. It was spiritual, mental and emotional. His great heart yearned over the Christians at Laodicea and Colosse. This issued in a volume of intercessory prayer on their behalf.

Paul's conflict was a burden of spiritual desire for the blessing of the Lord to rest upon those who had been converted through his ministry or who had been entrusted to his spiritual care. Such conflict, of course, does affect the body.

Doubtless the guards in Paul's "hired house" -

Acts 28:30 -

not only heard the apostle pray - they saw him pray, and, as he lifted his arms towards Heaven, his whole being seemed to tremble as he poured forth his petitions.

Do we know anything of such a conflict in our prayers for others?

THE INTENSITY OF THE CONFLICT.

Paul calls it a “great conflict.....”, **verse 1**. This suggests the idea of intensity. The prayer which filled his heart and mind was an intensely heavy burden. Indeed, the Greek word suggest that it was an agony. Read and compare -

1 Corinthians 9:24-26 -

1 Timothy 6:12 -

Hebrews 12:1 -

How intense is the effort put forth by the sprinter or the wrestler.

And how intense must be the conflict in which Christians engage if they are to win through in prayer for blessing upon those for whom they have a spiritual concern!

The word “conflict” suggests that there are obstacles in the way, as there are.

Read, meditate on and compare -

Ephesians 6:12 -

Colossians 1:29 -

3. THE SUBJECTS OF THE CONFLICT.

Look again at **verse 1**. It is important to notice that Paul is not speaking here of a concern for the unsaved, but for the saved, for the babes in Christ who needed to grow to maturity.

Colossians 1:28 -

Paul undoubtedly had a passion for the salvation of sinners.

Romans 10:2 -

But his concern here was for the sanctification of the saints and the spiritual welfare of those who had been converted and needed to go on.

Ephesians 4:14 -

Are we concerned for the welfare of the babes in Christ?

4. THE NECESSITY OF THE CONFLICT.

Colossians 2:4 -

The apostle tells us why he felt it such an urgent matter to wage a prayer warfare for his fellow-believers. It was that they were in danger of being turned aside by false doctrine. Indeed, some of them had already been turned aside. Paul was burdened that this undermining work of the enemy should be arrested.

Colossians 2:8 -

Do such dangers exist today? They certainly do! Christians all over the world are faced with the subtle dangers of humanistic philosophies which discount the power and the wisdom of God.

Often such philosophies are put out in the name of so-called "scholarship". But, in addition to the unbelief of many professing Christian teachers and leaders, there is the presence on every hand of false cults.

Paul felt that, in view of this situation which existed in his day, if someone did not engage in a conflict for the deliverance and protection of these babes in Christ, they would be beguiled and moved away from their firm standing in Christ.

5. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFLICT.

Paul's concern found expression in the prayer of intercession.

Colossians 2:1 -

Colossians 2:3 -

He prayed that they might be blessed in five ways.

That they might be ENCOURAGED.

The word "comforted" means "encouraged". Discouragement is the first enemy which attacks the new convert.

b. That they might be ENAMOURED.

“*Knit together in love.....*”. There is safety for us in loving and in being loved.

3. That they might be ENRICHED.

Paul prayed that they might be “*knit together in love and unto all riches.....*”.

Ephesians 1:3 -

Colossians 2:9-10 -

2 Peter 1:3 -

d. That they might be ESTABLISHED.

Paul prayed that they might have “*the full assurance of understanding.....*”.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 -

Hebrews 6:11 -

Hebrews 10:22 -

4. That they might be ENLIGHTENED.

Paul prayed that they might understand “*the mystery of God.....and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.....*”.

Compare -

Ephesians 1:17-18 -

6. THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CONFLICT.

Colossians 2:5 -

The apostle tells us that, though geographically he was separated from these Christians by a long distance, he was actually with them in spirit. As one translator renders it: “I am by your side, watching you like a proud father.

What a joy it brought to Paul to see his prayers answered in the lives of those for whom he prayed!

7. THE SECRET OF THE CONFLICT.

We may well ask: "Who is sufficient for these things?"

How can we be faithful in exercising this ministry of intercession and of loving concern for others?

The answer is in -

Colossians 1:29 -

2 Corinthians 3:5 -

NOTES

RECEIVING AND WALKING IN CHRIST

STUDY 5

Scripture Portions: Psalm 1; Colossians 2:6-10

The apostle Paul appeals to Christians to go on in the same way as they started.

Colossians 2:6-10 -

Just as we receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, so we must go on living and labouring - walking by faith. This passage of scripture, the key verse of which is -

Colossians 2:6 -

contains three vital truths about the Christian life.

1. WE ARE TOLD WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

What is a Christian? Some people believe that to be born in a “Christian” country, to have received a Christian education, or to accept and apply Christian principles constitutes a person a Christian. Or, they believe that, being christened, baptized or becoming a member of a church, makes anyone a Christian. No!

It is possible to do all these things and still not be a Christian, according to -

Colossians 2:6 -

In other scriptures to which we shall refer, a Christian is one who has “received Christ Jesus the Lord”. He is not simply one who believes about “Christ Jesus the Lord”, or who receives the doctrines of Christ, but he is one who receives Him, the Lord Jesus Himself.

Read these four illustrations of this simple and glorious truth.

John 1:11-12 -

Christians are those who have received the Lord Jesus. To believe on Him means to receive Him.

2 Corinthians 13:5 -

The proof that we are Christians is that the Lord Jesus Christ is dwelling in our hearts.

Galatians 2:20 -

A Christian is one in whom Christ dwells.

Colossians 1:27 -

The experience of the indwelling Christ is a “mystery” to the uninitiated, but it is a glorious reality to those who receive Him as Saviour and Lord.

2. WE ARE TOLD WHO IT IS THAT THE CHRISTIAN HAS RECEIVED.

The Christian has received “Christ Jesus the Lord”.

Colossians 2:6 -

1. Take the first of these names: JESUS.

This is His human name given to Him by God at His birth.

Matthew 1:21 -

It refers to the historical man Jesus. But, it has a much deeper significance, for it means “Saviour”. This was the great purpose for which our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world.

1 Timothy 1:15 -

2. Take the second of these names: CHRIST.

This is His official title.

He is the divinely appointed and anointed Messiah, the commissioned One.

It is as “Christ” that He dwells within us.

Colossians 1:27 -

It is in “Christ” that we are hid.

Colossians 3:3 -

It is “Christ” who is our life.

Colossians 3:4 -

c. Take the third of these names: LORD.

This indicates His sovereignty. The One whom we have received is the Master who is upon the throne in Heaven and who is to be enthroned in our hearts.

Every Christian has therefore received:

(1) **JESUS** - the Saviour who died for him.

Isaiah 53:5-6 -

Compare -

2 Corinthians 5:21 -

1 Peter 2:24 -

(2) **CHRIST** - the living One who dwells within him.

Look again at -

Colossians 1:27 -

Galatians 2:20 -

(3) **the LORD** - the Sovereign and Master who rules over him.

Compare -

Philippians 2:11 -

1 Peter 3:15 -

All this is very wonderful, for see what it actually means for the Christian.

#1 - All his sins are forgiven.

The same Jesus who has been received is the One who bore his sins away on Calvary's cross.

#2 - He has received a new life.

The Christ whom he has received now lives within him as his life.

#3 - He recognizes a new sovereignty.

The One whom he has received is not only "Jesus" and "the Christ" but He is "the Lord", his Master and King.

3. WE ARE TOLD HOW WE ARE TO CONTINUE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Notice the words "as" and "so" in -

Colossians 2:6 -

We become Christians in a moment by receiving "Christ Jesus the Lord", but to live the Christian life takes a lifetime.

As we began, so we must go on -

Colossians 2:6-7 -

Verse 7 contains four instructive metaphors describing four characteristics of a Christian who is going on with the Lord.

#1 - The first characteristic is SECURITY.

We are "rooted" - rooted in "Christ Jesus the Lord". If this is so, then we are secure, for our roots go right down into His glorious Person and into the fulness of His purpose in grace concerning us.

#2 - The second characteristic is MATURITY.

We are being "built up in Him".

We are not only secure, but our great need is to grow.

2 Peter 3:18 -

and to be built up in the faith -

Jude 20 -

When we receive the Lord, we are only spiritual babes -

1 Peter 2:2 -

but we must not remain in a state of spiritual infancy.

#3 - The third characteristic is STABILITY.

We must become “stablished in the faith”. Paul warns about the danger of being turned aside from the faith.

Colossians 2:8 -

We may be turned aside by worldliness -

1 John 2:15-17 -

or error -

Ephesians 4:14-15 -

#4 - The fourth characteristic is PROSPERITY.

This is indicated by the word “abounding”. Our lives are to be fruitful and a blessing to others.

Read and compare -

Psalms 1:3 -

John 7:38-39 -

1 Corinthians 15:58 -

Thus we see the four directions of the Christian life -

Downward - “rooted”

Upward - “built up”

Inward - “stablished”

Outward - “abounding”

In conclusion, read -

Colossians 2:9-10 -

where the apostle reminds us that in Christ is all fulness, and that in Him we are “complete”!

NOTES

A CHAPTER ON HOLY LIVING

STUDY 6

Scripture Portion: Colossians 3:1-25

The whole thrust of Paul's argument and appeal in this chapter may be summed up thus: "Christian, because of your union with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and exaltation, your life must be different!"

The first two chapters of this letter are doctrinal, but now, with chapter three, we move into the practical and experimental teaching of the epistle. Our belief must behave. Our creed must be translated into conduct. What we are "in Christ", (our standing), must be influenced by and must affect what we are, (our state), wherever we are.

The doctrine is vitally important, but we must adorn it.

Titus 2:10 -

Because of all that we are, by virtue of our union with Christ, our whole life must be different.

1. WHAT ARE WE BY VIRTUE OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST?

The expression "with Christ", which occurs three times -

Colossians 3:1 -

Colossians 3:3-4 -

gives us the answer.

The first speaks of our POSITION with (or in) Christ.

"Risen with Christ....." -

Colossians 3:1 -

and "dead.....with Christ....." -

Colossians 3:3 -

Through faith in Him, we have died and have risen again.

Colossians 2:12 -

Galatians 2:20 -

In God's reckoning, every Christian has been crucified with Christ and raised with Him.

The second speaks of our PROTECTION with (or in) Christ.

"Hid with Christ....." -

Colossians 3:3 -

And, where is He? We are as safe as the Lord Jesus is. Could we be safer? This is true now and it will be true through all eternity.

c. The third speaks of our PROSPECT with (or in) Christ.

We are to be glorified.

Colossians 3:4 -

In the purpose of God, this glorification of the saints is already an accomplished fact.

Romans 8:30 -

Thus we see that by faith in Christ, through our union with Him, we have a new position, a new protection and a new prospect. Because of this, our lives are to be different. Our standing must influence our state. What we are "in Christ" must be seen in what we are in the world.

2. IN WHAT WAYS ARE OUR LIVES TO BE DIFFERENT?

1. We must PUT OFF certain things.

Colossians 3:5-9 - Weymouth - *Therefore put to death your earthward inclinations - fornication, impurity, sensual passion, unholy desire, and all greed, for that is a form of idolatry.*

6 It is on account of these very sins that God's wrath is coming.

7 You also were once addicted to them, while you were living under their power.

8 *But, now you must rid yourselves of every kind of sin - angry and passionate outbreaks, ill-will, evil speaking, foul-mouthed abuse - so that these may never again soil your lips.*
9 *Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old self with its doings.....*
All these vices we are to put off. We are to put off, to reckon as dead -

Colossians 3:5 -

all those things which pertain to the old life -

Colossians 3:9 -

2. We must PUT ON certain things.

Colossians 3:10-14 - Weymouth - *And you have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being remoulded into full knowledge so as to become like Him who created it.*
11 *In that new creation there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision, nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free man, but Christ is all and in all.*
12 *Clothe yourselves therefore, as saints holy and dearly love, with tender-heartedness, kindness, lowliness of mind, meekness and long-suffering;*
13 *bearing with one another, and readily forgiving each other, if any one has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also must forgive.*
14 *And over all these put on love, which is the perfect bond of union.*

Like the Prodigal, we came back to the Father in rags and tatters, but we do not stay like that - we “put on”.

Luke 15:22-24 -

c. *We must LET IN certain things.*

Colossians 3:15-16 -

(1) *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.....”*

We have peace with God -

Romans 5:1 -

So now we must let the peace of God fill and flood our being -

Philippians 4:7 -

This means a state of perfect harmony within, even though there is discord and distraction without.

Isaiah 26:3 -

How we need this peace, this freedom from fear and anxiety, this inner poise and power!
We may have it - how?

(2) *“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you.....”*

If our minds are filled with His Word, our hearts will be filled with His peace!

Psalm 119:165 -

Compare -

Colossians 3:16 -

Ephesians 3:16-17 -

3. We must LET OUT certain things.

The word “do” occurs four times in -

Colossians 3:17 -

Colossians 3:23 -

(1) *Everything we do is to be done as service for the Lord.*

Note “whatsoever” in -

Colossians 3:23 -

This refers to preaching, praying, playing, working, our secular job, etc.

(2) *We are to serve thankfully.*

Not groaningly, grudgingly and complainingly.

Philippians 4:6 -

(3) *We are to serve heartily.*

How can we serve in any other way when we serve such a glorious Master?

e. We must LOOK UP all the time.

Colossians 3:24 -

Here is the secret of the first four! Our faith is in and our eyes are upon “the Lord!” - to whom one day every one of us must give account.

2 Corinthians 5:10 -

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow’r controlling
All I do and say.*

NOTES

JOHN MARK: HE TURNED BACK!

STUDY 7

Scripture Portions: Acts 13:1-13; Acts 15:36-41

We all need the solemn warning of -

Luke 9:62 -

This particular study is specially designed to warn us from taking any course which will bring dishonour upon the Name of the Lord and unhappiness into our lives.

John Mark stands out on the pages of the New Testament as a great character - but he did “turn back”. He was a most useful servant of the Lord and one whose ministry the apostle Paul valued tremendously.

2 Timothy 4:11 -

In addition, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he wrote the Gospel which bears his name.

2 Timothy 3:16 -

Let us gather up the scripture allusions to this man, whose Hebrew name was John and whose Roman name was Mark (or Marcus).

1. JOHN MARK WAS GREATLY FAVORED IN HIS YOUTH.

His mother was a Christian.

We read in -

Acts 12:12 -

that the saints met for prayer in her home. He must have had constant contact with many of God's servants.

Picture that prayer meeting and those who would have attended it - Peter, in particular, and later on, Paul.

He was brought up in a godly home.

He had been brought up according to -

Ephesians 6:4 -

2 Timothy 3:15 -

was true of him.

Read -

Proverbs 22:6 -

There was evidently a measure of affluence in his home.

We know that this must have been so, for -

Acts 12:12 -

tells us that “many” were gathered together in Mrs. Mark’s home.

Therefore it must have been a fairly large house, a house where servants were kept and guests were entertained.

It is not always a blessing for young people to have been “born with a silver spoon in their mouths”, but, it can be so!

d. Mark had consecrated relatives.

We have already commented upon his mother. Notice also that, evidently, Barnabas was his uncle or cousin.

Colossians 4:10 -

What a blessing a Barnabas-like relative can be!

5. Above all, John Mark was converted when he was quite young.

1 Peter 5:13 -

suggests that he was converted through Peter’s ministry - perhaps at the very prayer meeting recorded in -

Acts 12:12 -

How great to come to Christ when one is young, before the ravages of the world, the flesh and the devil have had time to spoil that life and while that one has a whole life to

lay at the feet of the Lord!

2. JOHN MARK ACCOMPANIED BARNABAS AND PAUL ON THEIR FIRST MISSION TO THE GENTILES - BUT, ALAS, HE TURNED BACK!

When we remember his background, his home, the influence of his mother, of Peter and of the many saints he must have known, it is small wonder that John Mark had a burning desire to serve the Lord in some special way and enter what we call “full time service”. So it was that the opportunity came to accompany Barnabas and Paul.

Acts 13:1-5 -

But read also -

Acts 13:13 -

where we find that he suffered a spiritual lapse.

To any young people who are contemplating entering “full time service” for the Lord, we would say: -

1. Count the cost.

Mark may have failed just here. Perhaps he felt the great “thrill” of being a missionary but did not sufficiently face up to the hardships, problems and testings of a missionary’s life.

Luke 14:27-33 -

2. Do not be in too much of a hurry.

1 Corinthians 7:29 -

is true, and so is -

John 9:4 -

and so is -

Isaiah 28:16 -

God never hurries when He is making and preparing His workmen.

Deuteronomy 8:2 -

Discipline is necessary.

The lessons of humility, obedience and trust have to be well learned.

3. Be absolutely sure that your motive is pure.

Why do you want to be a preacher, an evangelist, a missionary?

Oswald Chambers once said, "It may be harder to face God with your motive than to face congregations with your message."

Psalm 139:23 -

- d. Remember that you will have no greater success "on the field" than you are having here and now.*

"As now, so then."

Have you begun at home?

Mark 5:19 -

Have you begun at Jerusalem first?

Acts 1:8 -

5. If you become a missionary or a preacher, you will have to begin by serving an apprenticeship, by being an "assistant".

Acts 13:5 -

Paul and Barnabas had Mark as their "minister", but "assistant" is the word.

Are you willing for that? Just to carry the "big" preachers' equipment?

- f. Be absolutely sure of your call.*

Acts 13:2 -

Acts 13:4 -

We read that the Holy Ghost called two men - but three went.

Was this third man (Mark) of man's appointing and not of God's?

The desire, the opportunity, the need, the ability and even the invitation - these are not God's call (though they may be present in the call).

The call of God is indicated in **Acts 13:2 and 4.**

6. How solemn and sad it is to get out of the will of God!

It brings trouble to ourselves, trouble to others.

It lets the Lord down.

Acts 15:36-40 -

3. THE LAST THING WE ARE TOLD ABOUT JOHN MARK INDICATES A COMPLETE RESTORATION AND REINSTATEMENT AND A FULL DEDICATION TO THE LORD AND TO HIS SERVICE.

Compare -

Colossians 4:10 -

2 Timothy 4:11 -

If you have got away from the Lord, confess it to Him -

1 John 1:9 -

and come back to Him quickly!

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EPAPHRAS: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

STUDY 8

Scripture Portion: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Colossians 4:12 -

The apostle Paul describes Epaphras as “a servant of Christ”.

He is mentioned only three times in the New Testament -

Colossians 1:7-8 -

Colossians 4:12-13 -

Philemon 23 -

He was a native of Colosse and a zealous worker for the Lord.

Through his ministry many of his fellow-countrymen had been converted. Thus the church at Colosse had been founded.

In this church, as well as in the assemblies at Laodicea and Hierapolis, Epaphras exercised a pastoral and a teaching ministry.

Colossians 4:12 -13 -

1. EPAPHRAS WAS A BELOVED FELLOW-WORKER.

Colossians 1:7 -

The apostle describes Epaphras as his “dear fellow servant”. There was a special reason for referring to him in this way.

At the time this epistle was written, Epaphras was with Paul in prison. He had visited Paul to seek his advice and counsel concerning errors which were creeping into the church at Colosse.

But he did not only seek help, for, without doubt, he gave much help to Paul, comforting him and ministering to him in a number of different ways.

What a great privilege it was for Epaphras to minister to God's honoured, suffering apostle. How natural that Paul should feel a deep affection for Epaphras!

EPAPHRAS WAS A FAITHFUL MINISTER OF CHRIST.

He was undoubtedly a successful servant of the Lord. But Paul emphasizes that he was "a faithful minister of Christ".

Colossians 1:7 -

Can there be a greater commendation than this! Epaphras was the minister of the church at Colosse, but, more important than that, he was a minister of Christ. He was directly responsible to the Lord Himself. It was from the One who sat upon the throne that he received his orders, and to Him he was faithful.

Look up the following references in the order given and check up on this important question of being faithful to the Lord.

Matthew 25:21 -

Luke 16:10-12 -

Luke 19:17 -

1 Corinthians 4:2 -

1 Timothy 1:12 -

2 Timothy 2:2 -

Revelation 2:10 -

3. EPAPHRAS WAS A BEARER OF GOOD TIDINGS.

Colossians 1:8 -

Nobody knew the church members at Colosse better than Epaphras, yet he said all the good things he could about them.

He extolled their virtues and kept silent about their shortcomings.

Be careful that you are never guilty of criticizing your church or assembly. Your careless

criticism may breed disaffection among the members and bring dishonor upon the Name of the Lord.

Notice that Epaphras was not only “of” the church at Colosse; he was “for” the church at Colosse.

If you are “of” a church (belong to one), be sure you are always “for” it as well, for the Lord’s sake and for the sake of your fellow-believers.

James 1:27 -

In his book, “The Sins of the Saints”, Dr. Herbert Lockyer has this searching paragraph under the heading, “*The Bitterness of Criticism*” -

“Bitter, unworthy and unChristlike criticism is the dead fly causing the ointment of many a good life to send forth a stinking savor.

“Whether in church or assembly, believe in it and serve it with your utmost loyalty. Yes, and shield the faulty ones in the flock, exposing no one’s dirty linen to the gaze of the public.

“If you do not altogether agree with a preacher, be silent about him before the godless. Do not tear him, or any of your fellow church members, to pieces before children.

“To be guilty of dragging the failure of a church, preacher or Christian before the world is to act as a traitor in the camp. This is a sin of which we are all, more or less, guilty.”

4. EPAPHRAS WAS A MAN OF PRAYER.

Colossians 4:12 -

We should all be men and women of prayer, though some may be specially called to a ministry of prayer, as Epaphras evidently was.

Notice the three characteristics of Epaphras’ praying.

7. It was PERSISTENT prayer.

“always.....”.

Is not this where we so frequently fail? We give up, instead of holding on.

Genesis 32:26 -

Compare -

Luke 18:1 -

1 Thessalonians 5:17 -

8. It was AGONIZING PRAYER.

“laboring fervently.....” or, quite literally, “striving in an agony.....”. Here is the idea of intensity in prayer.

Psalm 66:18 -

Acts 20:31 -

c. It was INTELLIGENT prayer.

“that ye may stand (be firm), perfect (be mature, fully grown) and complete in all the will of God.”

What need there is for such Spirit-taught praying.

Romans 8:26 -

5. EPAPHRAS WAS A TRUE MISSIONARY.

This is clear from -

Colossians 4:13 -

This man had a deep concern, not only for the Christians at Colosse, but also for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Have we any concern for the millions who have never heard the gospel? Do we pray for their salvation? Do we give of our own substance for missionary work? Could we go to the foreign field?

May God give us all a true missionary vision!

*Father of Love, canst Thou forgive the blindness
That lets Thy child sit selfish and at ease
By the full table of Thy loving kindness,
And take no thought for these?*

*As Thou has loved, so let me love - returning
To these dark souls the grace Thou gavest me,
And, on to me impart Thy deathless yearning
To draw the lost to Thee!*

NOTES

DEMAS: THE SNARE OF WORLDLINESS

STUDY 9

Scripture Portion: 1 John 2:15-29

Almost every character of whom we read in the Word of God is known for something. Each is associated with some deed of glory and honour, or of shame and dishonour.

The subject of this study is Demas, who is mentioned in -

Colossians 4:14 -

Here was a man who lived and worked with the apostle Paul but who afterwards, like John Mark, deserted him.

Luke 9:62 -

When Paul wrote this Colossian letter, all was well.

Colossians 4:14 -

But things had tragically changed when, some four years later, he wrote to Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:10 -

Demas had been a man of great privilege. He had been converted at Thessalonica, most likely through the ministry of Paul. Added to this, he actually worked with the great apostle. But, though he was so privileged, he suffered a serious spiritual breakdown.

We must remember that his backsliding started in his heart before it became manifest in his life.

Compare -

Proverbs 14:14 -

2 Timothy 4:10 -

What was the cause of his going back?

In Demas' case, the cause was worldliness. But there are other scriptural reasons why people go back.

A LOVE FOR THE WORLD.

2 Timothy 4:10 -

This verse warns us of the snare of worldliness. This does not necessarily mean that he attended places of worldliness.

It is possible to be a worldly Christian without ever participating in the world's pleasures. Worldliness is everything around us which excludes the Lord Jesus Christ.

Demas probably began to adopt the world's standards. Possibly he began to view missionary endeavour from the world's standpoint and found himself asking, "Is it worth it?"

Consequently, he lost the heavenly vision.

Acts 26:19 -

It is sad when the world's icy grip begins to affect a Christian.

Consider the serious words in -

1 John 2:15-17 -

2. SEVERE PERSECUTION AND TESTING.

Compare -

Matthew 24:9-10 -

Matthew 5:10-12 -

1 Peter 4:12-19 -

Then, look up -

Luke 8:13 -

Is this a commentary upon the experience of Demas?

It frequently happens that those who have trusted Christ and have confessed their faith in Him “falter” when the fires of persecution begin to burn.

Many young believers who have been nurtured in a Christian home and church, discover when they leave home to go to college or to work out “in the world”, that their faith is very severely tested. Some, like Demas, turn back!

All such tested ones need our prayers, (not our criticisms), and all the encouragement we can give them.

3. FALSE TEACHERS.

It is improbable that this was true in the case of Demas, though there were many in his day, as in ours, who were sidetracked by false teachers.

Matthew 24:11 -

Compare with -

2 Timothy 4:3-4 -

Be on your guard lest the subtle endeavour of some Jehovah’s Witness, Christadelphian, Christian Scientist, Seventh Day Adventist or Spiritualist turn you from your hope and from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3 -

Acts 20:29-30 -

1 Timothy 4:1 -

2 Peter 2:1-3 -

4. FORSAKING THE HOUSE OF GOD.

When those who have at one time loved the Lord begin to “cool off” in their love and zeal, it is usually detected by their less frequent attendance at the services of their church.

Hebrews 10:24-25 -

How many folk used to go to church, be at the prayer meeting, attend the Bible study, or used to be a keen worker for the Lord!

Their spiritual experience is now all in the past tense. Like Demas, they have gone back.

Compare -

Acts 2:42 -

Colossians 1:9-11 -

5. INDULGING IN SOME SIN.

There is a solemn warning about this in -

1 Timothy 1:19-20 -

One “little” sin, harboured and indulged in -

Psalm 66:18 -

is enough to precipitate a headlong spiritual downfall. Give no ground to the enemy!

Ephesians 4:27 -

“Keep short accounts with God.” Confess all sin to Him immediately!

Compare -

1 John 1:9 -

Proverbs 28:13 -

6. FAILURE TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD.

John 6:66 -

It was when the Lord Jesus began to reveal some of the deeper truths concerning Himself and His mission, that many turned back.

The only way to go on in the Christian life is to receive the Word of truth as the Holy Spirit reveals it to us. Not to do so, is to go back, for there is no standing still.

To live in disobedience is to do what Demas did - to experience a spiritual lapse.

1 John 2:5 -

Compare -

Hebrews 4:2 -

James 1:22 -

7. DEFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.

1 John 2:19 -

suggests that some who turn back like Demas do so because they have never been truly born again. They have only professed to be Christians.

2 Timothy 3:5 -

They have never possessed Christ.

John 1:12 -

Galatians 2:20 -

What about doing a little of -

2 Corinthians 13:5 -

What are the safeguards against spiritual relapse?

We must give heed to the injunction in -

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 -

Turn to -

2 Timothy 4:6-10 -

2 Timothy 4:17-18 -

and see how Paul himself stood firm against any kind of relapse.

Paul was fully yielded to the will of God.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 -

Are we fully yielded to His will?

b. Paul lived in the light of the Second Advent.

2 Timothy 4:8 -

Compare with -

1 John 2:28 -

1 John 3:1-3 -

Do we live in the light of His near return?

3. Paul had absolute confidence in the Lord to deliver and to preserve him.

2 Timothy 4:17-18 -

This can and should be our confidence also.

By God's grace, let us press on - until Jesus comes!

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ARCHIPPUS: FULFILLING OUR MINISTRY

STUDY 10

Scripture Portion: 2 Timothy 2:1-15

This concluding study in our series is based upon one of Paul's requests at the end of his **Epistle to the Colossians**.

Colossians 4:17 -

It almost seems as if this personal note was added as a postscript at the end of his letter. Let us look at the four very important thoughts contained in this one verse.

1. THE REQUEST THAT PAUL MAKES.

It is very simple indeed: "Say something to Archippus"! Who was he? He is only mentioned here and in Paul's letter to Philemon.

It is very likely that he was the son of Philemon, in which case he lived in a fine Christian home in Colosse.

He was a minister, a leader, a pastor having the charge of an assembly of believers. Was he the pastor of the church at nearby Laodicea?

Colossians 4:16 -

In Philemon 2 -

he is spoken of as Paul's "fellow soldier". Thus we see that Archippus was a man of special privilege: son of Christian parents, member of a Christian household, in special service for the Lord. It was to this man that Paul felt compelled to send a special message, indeed, a word of warning, "Say something to....." this man of special privilege.

Has the Lord something to say to those of us who are pastors, evangelists, teachers, Christian workers?

2. THE PRIVILEGE THAT PAUL HIGHLIGHTS.

Archippus was privileged for each of the reasons mentioned above.

But there was one special reason. Paul focused on this when he exhorted Archippus to “take heed to the ministry which (he had) received in the Lord”.

What a solemn and wonderful thing it was for Archippus, for he had received a ministry in the Lord!

But every Christian has received a special ministry in the Lord.

Compare -

1 Corinthians 12:7 -

Ephesians 4:7 -

The Lord has given a special task to every child of His.

What is the ministry you have received in the Lord? - not the ministry that you have assumed or undertaken just because it appeals to you, but the ministry you have received in the Lord, your God-appointed, God-given task? Name it - or perhaps you have not discovered what it is?

Maybe yours is the task of bringing up your own children -

Ephesians 6:4b -

What a privileged ministry yours is!

Maybe yours is the task of bringing up or caring for someone else’s children.
This indeed is an honour which offers great scope for really fruitful service.

- c. Maybe yours is the task of serving your local church as an office-bearer: deacon, treasurer, secretary, teacher, steward, organist. You are a privileged person.
- 4. Maybe yours is the task of engaging in all kinds of loving ministries behind the scenes. You may be far too timid to appear in public, but what a privilege you have to “do your bit” behind the scenes!
- e. *Maybe yours is the task of bringing encouragement to those who are in the forefront of the battle. Mr. Encourager - is that your name?*
- f. *Maybe yours is the task of exercising a ministry of correction. Yes, you*

are a privileged person, but what grace, tenderness, wisdom and care you need.

7. Maybe yours is the task of praying for the Lord's work and workers. "There's not much I can do - only pray!" Is that all?

You see, as members of His Body, we all have a function to fulfill, a job to do.

Read carefully and thankfully -

1 Corinthians 12:14-17 -

Romans 12:3-8 -

3. THE FAITHFULNESS THAT PAUL DEMANDS.

"Archippus.....the ministry which thou has received in the Lord.....fulfil it!" The word "fulfil" means literally "fill-full". There is a beautiful illustration of its meaning in -

John 2:7 -

So Paul exhorted Archippus to fill his service for the Lord up to the brim - fully. This is what God requires of all His servants - unhesitating, unquestioning and unconditional obedience, plus diligence and wholeheartedness.

See what the Lord Jesus was able to say -

John 17:4 -

Compare with Paul's own words -

2 Timothy 4:7 -

Towards the end of his life, Paul could say that he had fulfilled the purpose that God had for his life. He urged Archippus to see to it that he could say the same.

Had Archippus been unfaithful? Dr. Ironside says that it seems likely that he "had a tendency, not uncommon among some young preachers, to settle down comfortably and take things easily". Was this Archippus' failing?

Is it ours? Are we lazy, careless, undisciplined? Perhaps the word we should use is lukewarm. Are we lukewarm? Why use this word? Because it would most aptly fit the case if it is true that Archippus was pastor of the church at Laodicea.

Revelation 3:14-22 -

There is no doubt about the fact that every Archippus, every preacher, pastor and leader is beset by special temptations.

For this reason Paul gives a warning to Archippus.

4. THE WARNING THAT PAUL GIVES.

“Take heed.....!” Be watchful, on the alert! In this connection, we might well close our study with a prayerful consideration of the following “Take heeds” -

1. to yourself.

Deuteronomy 4:9 -

2. to your spirit.

Malachi 2:15 -

- c. that you regard not iniquity.*

Job 36:21 -

4. that no man deceive you.

Matthew 24:4 -

- e. what you hear.*

Mark 4:24 -

5. how you hear.

Luke 8:18 -

6. how you build.

1 Corinthians 3:10 -

*Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,*

And still stir up Thy gift in me.

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