

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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October 8 – Colossians 3:18-4:18

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

⁴ Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. ² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

⁷ Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. ¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. ¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." ¹⁸ This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

Developing your prayer life

Paul teaches that we should be continuing earnestly in prayer. This is much easier said than done as prayer is something that needs to be cultivated in our lives and requires our time and

undivided attention. There are many Christians that pray very short prayers while others learn to develop their prayer life and spend quality time with God in his presence praising, thanking, and worshiping him. The one piece of advice I would give to every Christian can be summed up in four words "learn to pray well". I have seen many answers to my prayers and have come to believe that God is both willing and able to answer my prayers but I cannot give up when there is resistance or a delay to the answer manifesting. Paul also talks about praying that God would open doors for his ministry. This is a great prayer to pray for yourself as well that God would open doors for you supernaturally to fulfill his call and purpose in your life.

In verse 12 Paul describes the prayers that Epaphras prayed lifting these new believers before God that they would "stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." The Greek word for perfect is Teleios and means: "complete, perfect," or "an end," having the sense "of full age" or "a full grown man". So, Epaphras was praying that these believers would fully develop in their faith and grow up spiritually in Christ. This is God's goal and purpose for all of His children and when we pray this kind of prayer for ourselves and others we are agreeing with God and his purposes. Based on many Scriptures, I believe that there are some aspects of our Christian life that can only be achieved through prayer. So don't give up but make a commitment to learn to pray for yourself and to pray for others and watch what God will do!

Reading Scripture in the Churches

From the earliest of times, it was a custom to read the Scriptures in the churches. This practice first originated in the Jewish Synagogue's. When Jesus began his public ministry he read from the Prophet Isaiah which we find recorded in the gospel of Luke chapter 4:16-21 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as **His custom was**, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and **stood up to read**. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**"

If messages are going to have an eternal impact and make true disciples of Christ, they need to be filled with the Word of God not modern philosophies. Notice that Jesus said, "***Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing***" Our churches have the God ordained responsibility of declaring the divinely inspired Word, promises and purposes of God. Scripture should always be read and expounded in our churches. Jesus said to the religious leaders of his day in John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." The teaching and preaching of the Word of God should have a central place in our worship services. Remember, Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. God and his word are one!

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Fulfilling your ministry

Verse 17 says; “And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

The meaning of the word heed in this verse means to give earnest contemplation. In another words to give serious thought and concentration about a matter. The matter the apostle Paul was writing about was a special ministry which Archippus had received in the Lord. Perhaps the apostle Paul had ordained him as a pastor or preacher of the Gospel. This was more of an encouragement not a rebuke It was a message that was to be given to him by the local church publicly when Paul’s letter was read at a service giving him both the recognition and affirmation that he was called to do the work of Christ.

Every Christian has been called to some kind of ministry and if we are going to fulfill it then we need to take it seriously and apply ourselves to pray specifically that the Lord help us to do all that he has called us to do. Paul said something similar to Timothy his spiritual son in the faith.

1 Timothy 1:18 “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.” Paul was encouraging Timothy to remember the prophecies that he had received at his ordination concerning the kind of ministry God was calling him to do. Have you received any personal prophecies about God calling you to ministry? What is it that God has shown you to do for him?

All of us are called to serve the Lord in different ways and it will take some serious thought and prayer along with an enduring commitment to pursue those things and see them realized while here on earth. I have had visions, dreams and prophetic words given to me concerning the ministry God has called me to and let me tell you it really does take a serious commitment to pursue the things of God because there are 1000 different things that will try to distract and discourage you but don’t give up, set your hand to the plow and don’t look back in Jesus name!

WHAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Earnestly pray and cultivate your personal relationship with God.
- 2) Pray for spiritual maturity to be realized in your own life and those around you.
- 3) If you are a leader in the church emphasize the public reading of the Scriptures and never allow other programs to substitute for the divinely inspired Word of God.
- 4) Take heed to the ministry God has called you to that you fulfill it in Jesus name!

PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES



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