

LIVE OUT GOD'S BEST FOR YOUR LIFE PART 2

JUNE 30, 2024

WORSHIP

Let The Praises Ring, Lord Of All Creation, Lead Me To The Cross, Take My Life, Unbroken Praise

WELCOME

What helps you make the best decision or choice for everyday living? How about for unusual circumstances in life?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 3:16-25 (READ THE ENTIRE CHAPTER 4 ALSO)

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. ¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. ²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Most of us don't realize that God wants the best for our lives. God is much smarter than you, He knows you much more than you do, and what will make you "bloom"! The "200% Christians" principle is 100% by God's grace, He chose you, forgave and paid for all your sins. But Christians also must do 100% of our part! God gives you the power to choose to live out God's best for your life. To do that, we must:

1. CHOOSE GOD'S WORD

To choose God's word to govern our lives is to let the word of Christ "richly dwell" in us (**Colossians 3:16**). This conveys the idea of "home" --- is God's Word at home in your life? Is it central in our lives? God's word will teach and guide us in the choices we make. What governs your life? How do you make decisions about who to marry, what work to pursue, etc.? If you are not filled with the word of God, how can He guide you? We are to meditate on God's word (**Joshua 1:8**) so we may obey all that is written in it. Our motivation is God's blessings to those who make His Word central in their lives. Material prosperity may not necessarily be part of a blessed life, riches do not result in a happy family life, etc. But we are to treasure God's word in our hearts that we may live out God's best for our lives (**Psalms 119:9-11**). To treasure God's word in our hearts, we have to memorize Scriptures!

The word of God and the Spirit of God have the same impact on a believer's life (**Colossians 3:16-4:1, Ephesians 5:18-20-6:9**). The test of spirituality is Christlikeness; how you impact your intimate, personal relationships. If Christianity does not work at home, no love or forgiveness in your family, how can we "export" Christianity to the world?

2. CHOOSE GOD'S WAYS

Many of us live lives based on our own choices, but we are not free to choose the consequences of those choices (**Proverbs 14:12**). God without man is still God, man without God cannot live. Like fish choosing to live out of the water; this is the myth of "freedom". It takes humility to listen to the word of God. You represent Jesus so make sure that you please Him in whatever you do (**Colossians 3:17**). Always evaluate if your decisions in life will bring glory to God. Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands (**Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:1-2**). This does not mean that you may not appeal your husband's decision and respectfully offer your opinion. But it's God's design that the best way for a family to function best is for this order (functional roles) to exist between family members. God has chosen husbands to be the leaders in the home, so wives, we need to commit to submit! Submission is not a question of superiority or inferiority; it's following God's order and design for His best for our lives. Husbands are commanded to love their wives (**Colossians 3:19**); the Greek word for "love" used here is "agape", (unconditional, sacrificial love); the standard is Christ's love for the church (**Ephesians 5:25**). Be willing to sacrifice and choose what is best for her, not what's best for you!

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Children are to obey and honor their parents (**Colossians 3:20-21**). The only exception is if they ask you to do something clearly against God's will.

There is a blessing attached to this command (**Ephesians 6:1-3**). Children who still live with their parents are to "obey". Adult children who are married or living on their own are to continually "honor" their parents. When we submit to authority, we remain under the umbrella of God's protection! If you stay under God's guidance, you will be protected. God can override those mistakes our parents make, and He will use their decisions to guide us. In Paul's time, fathers had absolute authority over their children's lives under Roman law. But God changed this system, parents are commanded not to "exasperate" their children, but to teach them God's ways (**Colossians 3:21**, **Ephesians 6:4**). When you are not consistent at home in living out God's ways, your children will be exasperated and provoked to anger.

Slaves were commanded to obey their masters (**Colossians 3:22-23**). Almost one-third of the Roman world were slaves; today by God's grace, we no longer work as slaves, but we apply this command as employees. Don't work because someone (your boss) is watching you! Our motivation is the reward from the Lord. Some of our bosses are not always fair but work with your heart. God will take care of you, so make sure you do your best because you are serving the Lord (**Colossians 3:24-25**). Managers and business owners, you are commanded to be fair and just to your employees (**Colossians 4:1**).

3. CHOOSE GOD'S WEAPON

We are commanded to devote ourselves to prayer (to keep on praying) (**Colossians 4:2-4**). Remember, the Christian life is not just hard... it's impossible apart from the Lord. Pray for whatever is outside of your control. Like the apostle Paul, he asked the Colossians to pray for his imprisonment (out of his control). What's surprising though is how he did not ask them to pray for his release, but for the opportunity to share the gospel while in prison! When we pray, we are to do our part...we are to take every opportunity to share the gospel—our main task (**Colossians 4:5-6**). Your effectiveness can only be realized if you devote yourself to prayer. "Prayer is the Christian's greatest weapon" (Billy Graham); We are in a spiritual warfare, what you can't do, God can! God's way is the prayers of His people—He has chosen to partner with us! Let us "buy back the time" by sharing the gospel and pray always that we will know the best approach to do so for different kinds of people we encounter each day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What does it mean to "let the word of Christ richly dwell within you?" What does that look like in practice?

2. Setting It Right.

Why does Paul emphasize the importance of a harmonious family relationship? Why is it significant?

3. Living It Out.

Why does Paul consider a vibrant prayer life important? How can you apply this during the prayer and fasting week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for your family, friends, co-workers that they may come to know God's ways. Be an example---be the first one to choose God's ways by choosing God's Word. Share God's word, beginning with the gospel to those you know don't know Jesus, the Word of God, as Savior and Lord yet.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort, salvation for Israel, wisdom for their leaders in government, military and their soldiers as they defend themselves against terrorists' attacks. PRAISE GOD for the release of hostages so far! Continue to pray for the release of the remaining ones.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, dleaders, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends..

MEMORY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:16

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