TALKING POINTS

Uniting Heaven and Earth:
Christ in Philippians & Colossians
Q1L12: "Living With Each Other"

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MEMORY VERSE: "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Col. 4:6, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

"In our passage for this week, Paul provides some vital principles for how a Christian family functions best." Qtly, Sab, last par

1. Christianity begins in the home (Sun, Mon)

- Paul's practical counsel in this week's passage tell us how important personal religion is, especially in the home.
    - The submission enjoined upon the wife (Col. 3:18) was a necessary addition after the fall (see Gen. 3:16).

In the creation God had made her the equal of Adam. Had they remained obedient to God—in harmony with His great law of love—they would ever have been in harmony with each other; but sin had brought discord, and now their union could be maintained and harmony preserved only by submission on the part of the one or the other. PP 58.3

        - That said, "Nowhere does the New Testament teach that women are to submit to all men; nor that wives are subservient or subjugated…" Qtly, Sun, par 2
    - "Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter…" (v. 19)
        - "Many who are polite abroad, are rude and bitter at home because they are not afraid to be so there." JFB Comm. on Col. 3:19
    - "Children, obey your parents… Fathers, do not provoke you children…" (vs. 20, 21).
        - Parents are admonished to train and correct their children (Pr. 22:6, 15), lead them to Jesus (Mt. 19:14), teach them God's will and ways (Dt. 6:6, 7), and teach them to obey (Pr. 1:8, 9), but only "in the Lord" (Eph. 6:1).
        - Furthermore, they are not only to train by precept, but to lead by example (see Qtly, Mon, last par) and not discourage them.

Children and youth are benefited by being trusted…. Suspicion demoralizes, producing the very evils it seeks to prevent. Instead of watching continually, as if suspecting evil, teachers who are in touch with their pupils will discern the workings of the restless mind, and will set to work influences that will counteract evil. Lead the youth to feel that they are trusted, and there are few who will not seek to prove themselves worthy of the trust. Ed 289.3

2. We are all servants of the Most High God (Tue, Wed)

- Paul goes on to counsel servants (Gr. *doulos*) and masters. This has caused much controversy concerning the Christian religion, supposing that Paul was condoning slavery. There are at least a couple things to consider here:
    - (1) Not all "slavery" or servitude is the same.
    - (2) There were inevitably those who chose to follow Christ while still in bondage, and who needed counsel on how their newfound faith was to affect their conduct.
        - "In NT times, the church had to operate within the framework of Roman law, which provided for owning slaves…" Qtly, Tue, par 2
- Ironically, the NT writers all used this same Greek word (*doulos*) to describe their relation to Christ (see Rom. 1:1; 2 Tim. 2:24; 1 Pet. 2:16; 1 Co. 7:22).
    - We are all servants of Christ, who share the same lot, as well as the same mission. We are encouraged therefore to pray for one another, and to pray for the success of the mission.

3. The greatest sermon preached is the sermon lived (Thu)

- Just as God has revealed His truth to us through His written word, the Bible; and through His living Word, Christ; He desires to reveal His truth through His word made alive in us!
    - Furthermore, our speech must be "seasoned with salt." It's not only about *what* we say, but *how* we say it!
        - "A Christian home, a gathering of youth for prayer rather than for mischief; simple kindnesses; and a calm, patient spirit speak volumes to those who are watching to see whether our profession is genuine or not." Qtly, Thu, par 3

> The world will be convinced, not by what the pulpit teaches, but by what the church lives. 7T 16.3

CONCLUSION

> We must let Christ into our hearts and homes if we would walk in the light. Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth,… Our happiness depends upon this cultivation of love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another…. We should be self-forgetful, ever looking out for opportunities, even in little things, to show gratitude for the favors we have received of others, and watching for opportunities to cheer others and lighten and relieve their sorrows and burdens by acts of tender kindness and little deeds of love. These thoughtful courtesies, that, commencing in our families, extend outside the family circle, help make up the sum of life's happiness; and the neglect of these little things makes up the sum of life's bitterness and sorrow. 3T 539, 540 (Qtly, Fri, par 3)