

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

Volume 8 Number 3

Trailblazer Alliance Church

Living His Life Day by Day

1 Peter 2: 13-25; 3:8-22

How easy it is to have our own ideas as to the conduct of Christians, singly and as a group. We often base these on our tradition, like the Pharisees, or our concept of right and wrong. This means your thought is as good as mine and both may be very comfortable and very wrong. Much of the Word of God is very specific about heart attitudes and actions. As we look in the book we find our ideas fleeing in disgrace and our hearts asking for mercy and the power of Christ to live as we ought. This is one of those portions.

What a change the Lord had made in the life of Peter and now nearing the end of his earthly journey he has been addressing the Christians scattered throughout the region. He desires that the church be all the Lord has died and risen again to make it. His instructions are clear, practical and soul searching.

As I go through these verses I find myself challenged. I have not been in the situation many of these people were. The suffering he speaks of I know nothing of. But in the midst of all that they were to show forth Christ.

As you study this portion I pray you will desire above all else to "set apart Christ as Lord" of every aspect of your life. You will find Peter, by the inspiration of the Spirit, gives ample detail for you to work on.

Peter

Memory Verse:

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. I Peter 2:24-25*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

Honor & Submission to Authority

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

When Peter told his readers to submit to the civil authorities, he was speaking of the Roman Empire under Nero, a notoriously cruel tyrant. Obviously he was not telling believers to compromise their consciences, as Peter had told the high priest years before, " We must obey God rather than human authority". (Acts 5:9) But in most aspects of daily life, it was possible and desirable for Christians to live according to the law of the land. Today, some Christians live in freedom while others live under repressive governments. All are commanded to cooperate with the rulers as far as conscience will allow. We are to do this for the Lord's sake - so that His Good News and His people will be respected. (*Life Application Bible* - page 2000)

1. How do you see submission to those in authority as being "for the Lord's sake"?
2. What laws are a challenge to you at times?

Does knowing it is for the Lord's sake make submission easier?

Christ says, "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work; I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self but to kill it I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: My own will shall become yours" (*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, p. 167)

3. What does it mean to you to live as a "servant of God"? Give examples from recent weeks?

4. How does loving and "fearing" (reverencing) God help you in:
 - a) Respecting everyone?

 - b) Loving the family of God?

 - c) Honoring authorities?

(Are we quicker to pray for them than to criticize them?)

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the freedom we enjoy under the government we have. Make me more faithful in praying for those in authority in our country and in the world. Help me realize the power of prayer to change rulers and authorities. Help me to desire change for your glory and not for my comfort. You know my rebellious heart and when I struggle to be in submission. Cleanse me and help me to live as your servant should. In the Name of Jesus who knew servanthood, Amen.

Tuesday

Christ - The Servant's Example

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

"Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1. a) What does "suffering because he is conscious of God" mean to you?

b) Have you willingly ignored your "rights" for the sake of your testimony?

2. Jesus suffered greatly that we might have salvation. How did He conduct Himself at that time? (verses 21 - 23)

3. Has God presently or in the past placed you with a difficult business partner, employer or _____, where your acting like Christ might open the opportunity to point them to the Saviour?

4. What does it mean to you today to "die to sin and live to righteousness"?

It was because this humility was not merely temporary sentiment that woke up and was made active when He (Jesus) thought of God, but was the very spirit of His whole life, that Jesus was as humble in His association with people as with God. He felt that He was the servant of God for the people whom God made and loved. So He considered Himself the servant of the people so that through Him God might do His work of love. He never for a moment thought of seeking personal honor, or asserting His power to vindicate Himself. His whole spirit was that of a life yielded to God to work in. (*Humility* by Andrew Murray, p. 21)

"I never met a man I could not learn something from." Dr. A. Pointer, World Health.

5. How will having Christ as the "Shepherd and Overseer of your soul" affect your life today?

Prayer

Lord, help me to see things as You see them. The souls of men and my testimony as Your child are so much more important than so many things that seem important to me. May I not do anything today that would bring dishonor to Your Name. Come be the Shepherd and Guardian of every part of me that Your name might be glorified. In the Shepherd's Name, Amen.

Wednesday

Blessing Others

Read 1 Peter 3:8 - 12

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.¹⁰ For,

*"Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from deceitful speech.*

*¹¹ He must turn from evil and do good;
he must seek peace and pursue it.*

*¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

1. Consider the statement "live in harmony". (Remember harmony means each of the voices and/or instruments are in tune and played correctly)

a) Describe a fellowship where this is true.

b) Is your life in tune with the above?

May God's grace give you the necessary humility. Try not to think - much less, speak - of their sins. One's own are a much more profitable theme! And if on consideration, one can find no faults on one's own side, then cry out for mercy: for this must be a most dangerous delusion. (*Letters to an American Lady* by C.S. Lewis, p.9)

Very simply, you must learn not to be upset over an injury because it is an offense to you. Rather, out of your love for God, train your thoughts on the harm that your enemy is doing to his own soul with each sin or offense he commits. Then it will be easier for you to show love by responding in godly kindness. Nothing should upset the child of God except sin. No matter how heinously another person may sin, if you allow yourself to become upset by the action and not because, in love, you see how he is damaging his own soul then you are just as guilty. Beware of storing up this kind of judgment against yourself. (Rom. 2:5) (*A Day in Your Presence* by Francis of Assisi, Arranged by David Hazard, p 53)

Responding to you here and now in a manner reflective of how I would expect to show you my love if we were both suddenly standing together in glory, in the final hour, in full view of the Saviour on His throne. One day that is precisely what will happen to both of us. Should I not determine therefore, how God would expect me to love you there (in that day) and strive to show you no less of a love now (even though I fall short of that goal many times)? Among other things, I have found that this perspective provides whole new incentives for seeking and giving forgiveness.....Will I be able to close my heart to them once we all surround Him in His everlasting triumphs? If not in that moment, then how can I justify holding unresolved grudges toward any of them in this moment. (*Christ is All* by David Bryant, p. 377, 378)

2. Notice the heart that reaches out. Describe the heart and actions of the one who:

a) is sympathetic

b) who loves as a brother

c) is compassionate and humble

3. a) Has praying a blessing on those who insult you become a way of life for you?

b) What has been the result?

4. a) Put verses 10 - 12 in your own words.

b) What does "keep his tongue from evil" include? (James 3:2 - 12)

Prayer

Lord, help me today to be a blessing to those with whom I come in contact. Help me to see each one a someone for whom You died and love them with Your love. Guard my tongue that I might speak the words You would have me speak, and help me today to be sympathetic, loving, compassionate and humble. In the Name of Him who blesses me with all spiritual blessings, Amen.

Thursday

The Lord of the Heart

Read 1 Peter 3:13 - 17

"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

He cannot bless us unless He has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own, we try to keep an area of death. Therefore, in love, He claims all. There's no bargaining with Him. (*Screwtape Proposes a Toast and Other Pieces* by C.S.Lewis, p. 12)

I know that there are no limits to what God can do in your life, what He can do through your life, and what He can grow around and within a life when it's lived - in front of Jesus. That's the place where integrity of heart will always be sustained for our consciousness will be on Him, not on things. And with Jesus in view, all life, fruitfulness, and fulfillment are certain to be realized with time - however tempting or trying the path. (*The Power and the Blessing* by Jack Hayford, p. 120)

1. a) Does anticipating God's reward motivate you to suffer for what is right if need be? (verse 14)

b) How is our fear to be different than that of the world?

c) What message does our worry give to those around us?

2. a) What is meant by "in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"?

b) Is this a one time thing? Why or why not?

- c) Is it true of you today? (Allow the Spirit to search you heart)
3. a) What might cause someone to ask a reason for the hope we have?
- b) What is that hope?
- c) Why reply with gentleness and respect?
4. How does one keep a clear conscience?

Prayer

Lord, You know my heart. It is my desire that You be Lord of every part. Search me and show me where I have withheld from You. Thank You for Your mercy and long-suffering with me but help me to set You apart as Lord. In my Saviour's Name, Amen.

Friday

The Power of the Resurrection

Read 1 Peter 3:18 - 22

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the

Ephesians 1:17 -19

The power of which Paul speaks is not just power in the message. It is not just power through the messenger. It is power in and upon those who believe, opening their formerly shuttered hearts wider so that they understand gospel truth better and better, thereby making their life utterly different from what it was before. It is resurrection power - a matter of God raising with Christ those who have become willing to die with Christ. Clearly Paul is expecting tremendous changes in the lives of those who now belong to Christ. (*Rediscovering Holiness* by J.I. Packer, p. 209)

The cross is a pathway of surrender and of refusal to be dominated by selfishness or carnality. But beyond it all, at the bottom line, the cross is a pathway of triumph! (*The Power and Blessing* by Jack Hayford, p.4)

pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1. Put verse 18 in your own words as you have experienced it.

2. How is Noah's ark an illustration of salvation?

of baptism?

3. How is baptism a "pledge of a good conscience before God"? (see Romans 6: 3 - 5; Colossians 2:12)

4. The resurrected Christ is at God's right hand. What does it mean to you that angels, authorities and powers are in submission to Him?

Prayer

Eternal and resurrected Lord, what power and what love are in those words! I worship You for Your Love is as great as Your power and holiness. Jesus, You suffered so much that You might bring me home to God. I will never thank You enough. I praise You with all my heart. In that all powerful Name, Amen.

This Week's Writer:



Ruby Wotherspoon

Dear TELOS Subscriber: Are you currently part of a LIFE Group at Trailview? A LIFE Group is a good place to spend time with friends and to discuss what you have been learning through TELOS. Most LIFE Groups meet weekly in homes.

Please contact the Church Office (773-4433) if you are not currently involved in a group.

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday .

⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a “community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society

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