

Affairs of this life... with Thanksgiving?

Colossians 4:2-6 KJV

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same **with thanksgiving**; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: 4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, *that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

1 Peter 3:12-17 KJV

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

2 Timothy 2:1-15 KJV

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. *2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. 7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

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Affairs of this life?

What does the Lord mean when he speaks of the affairs of this life? We can be positive that God is not encouraging that we have an unfaithful relationship with a strange woman because Proverbs is filled with wisdom on the "strange woman" (see Proverbs 2:16; 5:30, 20; 6:24; 7:5; 20:16; 23:27; 27:13).

The affairs of this life involve work. Work is how we earn money so that we may spend it on what we find important... i.e. the affairs of this life. What profession was our Lord? The Apostle Paul? What about you?

8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: 9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. 10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:5-8 KJV

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Consider what you are doing... especially in your profession. Are you so caught up in your work that you are not doing what the Lord called you to do? Look around you and determine what is important to you by looking at the time you dedicate to it.

We should be doing what the Lord called us to do... which is the work of an evangelist, helping those who are not saved to see they need a saviour. Furthermore, to those that are saved, help them see the calling of the mystery that Paul gave in Ephesians 3:9 and Colossians 1:25,26 so they may know they are complete in Christ. Not through or with Abraham but separately in the Body of Christ with their own calling and blessings.

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Leviticus 22:29

29 And when ye will offer a sacrifice of **thanksgiving** unto the Lord, offer it at your own will.

Psalms 26:7

7 That I may publish with the voice of **thanksgiving**, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Psalms 50:14

14 Offer unto God **thanksgiving**; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 69:30

30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him **with thanksgiving**.

Psalms 95:2

2 Let us come before his presence **with thanksgiving**, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalms 100:4-5

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: **be thankful** unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalms 107:21-22

21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of **thanksgiving**, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalms 116:16-17

16 O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of **thanksgiving**, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalms 147:7

7 Sing unto the LORD **with thanksgiving**; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

2 Corinthians 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the **thanksgiving** of many redound to the glory of God.

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2 Corinthians 9:11

- 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us **thanksgiving** to God.

Phil 4:6-7

- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.
7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6-7

- 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein **with thanksgiving**.

Colossians 4:2-3

- 2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same **with thanksgiving**;
3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

1 Timothy 4:1-5

- 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received **with thanksgiving**;
5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Revelation 7:11-12

- 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,
12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, **and thanksgiving**, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.