

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Last Words

Colossians 3:18—4:18

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Colossians 3:18–24.

1. Having reminded the Colossians throughout this letter who Jesus is and what he has done to enable us to live holy lives, Paul now addresses particular situations before signing off.
 - A. How is the idea of “submitting to” others (vs. 18), “loving” others (vs. 19), and “obeying” others (vss. 20, 22) easier to take when viewed in the light of Col. 3:17?
 - B. What are the specific instructions to each group? Do you think that, in practice, there is some blurring or overlapping of duties among the groups? (see Ephesians 5:21)
 - C. What is the thought we must constantly keep in mind to help us submit to, love, obey, and serve one another? (vs. 24)
2. How does 1 Peter 3:1–6 expand on vs. 18, and Ephesians 5:25–33 expand on vs. 19?
3. If the husband is doing what he should (vs. 19), and the wife is doing what she should (vs. 18), do you think it will be hard to tell by looking at them which one is “submitting” and which one is “loving”?
4. How might you help make your children more enthusiastic about verse 20? (Multiple choice)
 - By showing them Ephesians 6:1–3.
 - By modeling verses 18, 19, and 21–23 before them.
 - Both of the above.

Day 2: Read Colossians 3:22—4:1.

5. Why might an unbeliever be tempted to do a good job for his bosses (“masters”) “only when their eye is on (him) and to earn their favor” (vs. 22)? How does being a Christian make a difference? (vs. 24; 1 Peter 2:18–23; 3:14)

6. What should you keep foremost in your mind every day, whatever your job is—whether butcher, baker, candlestick maker, or housewife? (vs. 23, 24)

7. What does verse 25 mean by saying that God shows “no favoritism”?

8. How does the earthly relationship of slave/master tend to level out when viewed in the light of the fact that both have a Master in heaven (vs. 4:1)?

Day 3: Read Colossians 4:2–4, 12.

9. How is the exhortation to “devote” yourself to prayer (vs. 2) even stronger, somehow, than an exhortation to pray “often”?

10. Other translations of “being watchful” (NIV) in verse 2 are “keeping alert” and “remaining fully awake”. Think of some reasons why this would be important in your prayerlife. (See 1 Peter 5:8; Galatians 6:1; Acts 20:30, 31)

11. Prayer is, of course, conversing with God, and a way to “cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) What else is it? (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Day 4: Read Colossians 4:4–6.

12. What is the prayer here for those who proclaim the gospel, whether they do it in Africa or in New Braunfels, Texas? (vs. 3)

13. Are you able to proclaim your own faith “clearly” (vs. 4) if the opportunity arises? How might you take steps to “be prepared” (1 Peter 3:15)?

14. How should you live in your family and neighborhood and at work in order to ensure that when you do share the gospel, it will not be hindered in any way? (vss. 5, 6; 1 Peter 3:15, 16)

15. What do you think it means to make your conversation always “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt”(vs. 6)? (See also James 3:9–12)

Day 5: Read Colossians 4:7–18.

16. Skim verses 7–15. What feeling do you get about Paul’s relationship and attitude toward Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, and Epaphras? Do you feel this way about your brothers and sisters here at Christ Presbyterian Church?

17. According to verse 11c, what do loving Christians do for other Christians?