

# Daily Worship Booklet

18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law, day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy!

## **Bible Classes (Westminster Shorter Catechism)**

*Question 10:* How did God create man?

*Answer:* God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

*Comment:* God has told us that we were created in a very special way - 'after his likeness'. But what does that mean? Well, it means that unlike animals (and by the way, while we are creatures, we are not animals), we have a soul and the capacity to know good from evil, to think and to reason.

*Scripture Proofs:*

Genesis 1:27; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24; Genesis 1:28;  
Psalm 8

**Psalm of the Week:** Psalm 123A. The words are on page 8.

**Please pray for:**

Mon - Luke Mo

Tues - Angela, Asher, Myah, Charlotte, & Spencer Newman

Wed - Mike Omelon

Thur - Dan & Jaycee, & Elias Ortega

Frid - Herbert Ortega

Dr. Tim Donachie, a retired minister in the RPC of Ireland, has written the notes on Colossians. (They have been lightly edited.)

***Pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.***

## **Monday – Colossians 3:11-25 – Submission.**

The Bible is not just a book of doctrine or history or a manual for conducting church affairs; it is all that, but it is also a very practical book that tells us how to live our personal and family lives in a way that will please God.

The women's 'liberation' movement, that began in the middle of the twentieth century, has done precisely the opposite of what it was intended to do! A movement that was meant to liberate or free women has, in fact, enslaved them by seeking to reverse the order that God ordained in His wisdom for men and women. Feminists loathe the very idea that a woman should, in any circumstances, be submissive to a man. They changed the wedding vows to remove the idea of the wife's obedience to her husband. Yet this is precisely what the apostle Paul requires from Christian wives because 'this is fitting in the Lord'.

The Biblical submission of a wife to her husband should never be seen as oppressive, but is patterned on the submission of the believer to Christ (Ephesians 5:24). It recognizes that God has placed headship in the man (Ephesians 5:23) and, as he has the duty under God to rule, so she is to give loving submission to that authority. That does not mean that the woman is inferior to the man in any sense. Men and women are saved in the same way; they have the same access to the Word and prayer, they have equal value in the sight of God, and they have essential roles to play in the life of the church, albeit different ones from those committed to men. However, a husband's authority over his wife is not absolute. A husband who asks his wife to do that which is unbiblical or sinful can and must be disobeyed (Acts 5:29).

### **Questions**

Q1. Are women inferior in any way to men?

Q2. In what practical ways can the submission of a godly wife be seen?

### **Memory Verse**

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:6

## **Tuesday – Monday - Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 6:20-23 – Children.**

One of the great tragedies of the modern era is children's lack of respect for their parents. Many parents seem to have completely given up any idea that it is their responsibility to control or discipline their own children, and consequently, children grow up with no concept of obedience to any authority.

The apostle Paul reinforces the clear teaching of the rest of Scripture (Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 5:16; Proverbs 1:8; etc.) when he commands children to obey their parents 'in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord'. There is an obvious limitation to obedience if the parent's command requires something contrary to the will of God; but in all other circumstances children are to be obedient to their parents.

Such teaching is difficult in days when society teaches children to assert their rights and to take command of their own lives. When parental attitudes and values are seen to be outmoded and old-fashioned, any restriction on personal liberty is an affront. The choice for children growing up in a Christian home is very clear. Are they going to seek to go their way, which may well gain the approval of their friends, even if it goes against the wishes of their parents, or are they going to follow the teaching of Scripture and be obedient to their parents, even when they think their parents are being too restrictive?

For obedience to be 'well-pleasing in the Lord', it must not be unwilling or resentful, but rather joyful, acknowledging that faithfulness to God requires cheerful obedience to those whom God has given responsibility for their care and nurture.

### **Questions**

Q1. Are there any limits to what a parent can demand from their child?

Q2. How can we best encourage children - both at home and those in the congregation - to be more obedient to their parents?

### **Memory Verse**

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:6

## **Wednesday – Colossians 3:21; Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - Parents.**

One of the wonderful things about divine revelation is its absolute fairness. Paul did not simply exhort wives on how they should act towards their husbands; he also directed husbands regarding their role in the marriage relationship. They are to love their wives. If a man, no matter what, truly loves his wife, as Christ loved his unlovable Bride and gave himself for her, then that will address almost all the issues in the home.

Having urged children to be obedient, he then turns the spotlight onto the parents, especially the fathers. If parents are to have a realistic expectation of the joyful and willing obedience they would like from their children, they must be very careful that their behaviour and attitudes do not exasperate their children and cause them to lose heart.

Although this injunction is directed specifically at fathers, its teaching should apply equally to mothers. Fathers are responsible as the head of the home to create an atmosphere of love and confidence and take the lead in the children's discipline, teaching, and training. Interestingly, Paul does not focus here on harsh discipline, but on encouragement. A father who is inconsistent in his teaching, discipline, or life, will quickly discourage his children and make them resentful. The child must never be made to feel that he can never do anything right and that anything he does is inadequate. A child who is never appreciated or commended will very quickly lose heart.

William Hendriksen puts it very well when he highlights how a Christian father should behave towards his children: 'a good father spends time with his children, teaches, entertains, and encourages them, and by his example, as well as by outright, verbal instruction, points them to Christ'.

Parents' roles and responsibilities are indeed onerous and can only properly be fulfilled in dependence on God's strength and wisdom.

### **Questions**

- Q1. What is critical to having a happy home?
- Q2. What are the key elements of fatherhood?

### **Memory Verse**

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:6

## **Thursday – Colossians 3:18-4:1 - Slaves & Masters.**

Slavery was very common in the ancient world, and although the practice was allowed under Old Testament law (Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 25:44-46; Exodus 22:1-3), it was always strictly controlled, and its harshness mitigated (Exodus 21:7-11; Exodus 21:26-27). In the Roman world, it is estimated that at one time, about one-third of the inhabitants belonged to the slave class through debt, kidnapping, purchase, birth from slave parents, or as prisoners of war or convicts. The apostle Paul does not seek to overthrow the slave system nor encourage slaves to revolt against their masters; his message to both slaves and masters is designed to make the system as acceptable and pleasant as possible. He urged slaves to serve and obey their masters wholeheartedly and for the masters to be kind to their slaves.

Paul's instruction to the slave is very relevant for workers and students today! He tells them that they are to do their work for one purpose alone: to please the Lord. What a revolution in working practices there would be if even professing Christians were really to do their work 'as to the Lord'. Whatever work is done, says Paul, must not be done merely to gain advantage, whether promotion at work or good grades at school or university, but to gain the approval and the reward of the Lord. Masters, too, must recognize that they also have a master to whom they must answer.

Masters or employers are to be fair and just, not making unreasonable demands on their employees, and giving them fair compensation for work done. The same principle applies to the slave/employee: 'Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men'.

### **Questions**

- Q1. What is the purpose of our work?
- Q2. What must employers take care to remember?

### **Memory Verse**

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:6

## **Friday – Colossians 4:1-6 – Prayer.**

As Paul comes towards the end of his letter, he instructs the believers about their inner and outward lives. He begins by dealing with the most important aspect of the inner life of the child of God: prayer. Just as reading the Word of God is God speaking to His people, prayer is the child of God speaking to his heavenly Father. Both things are vital for true spiritual health. Paul urges perseverance, alertness and thanksgiving in prayer.

The Lord Jesus Christ reminded his disciples of the need for perseverance in prayer when He told them the parable of the widow who received justice from a wicked judge because she continued to ask (Luke 18:1-8). If even a wicked judge will respond to persevering requests, how much more will the believer obtain an answer from a heavenly Father who loves him?

The kind of alertness needed is not just the wakefulness urged upon the disciples in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:41); it has more to do with an awareness in his praying of his own needs, and those of his family, church, and society, as well as the dangers that ever threaten the believer and the church.

Prayer should never be separated from thanksgiving for all the mercies received from the hand of a sovereign God. No matter the circumstances of his life and the difficulties he faces, the believer always has abundant cause to thank God. He should always be aware of a full and free salvation, a promised home in heaven, and the constant presence and help of the triune God. If it is sometimes hard to be thankful because of unpleasant circumstances, remember that Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison in Rome.

### **Questions**

- Q1. How important is a prayer to our lives as Christians?
- Q2. Is there a relationship between prayer and thanksgiving?

### **Memory Verse**

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:6

## **Psalm 123A**

1. I lift my eyes to You  
Enthroned above the skies.  
As slaves look to their master's hand,  
To you I lift my eyes.

2. As to her lady's hand  
A slave girl turns her face,  
So we look to the LORD our God  
That He might show us grace.

3. Show us Your grace, O LORD,  
Let us Your favor know;  
For we are filled with their contempt,  
And all the scorn they show.

4. Our souls have had their fill  
Of scoffing and contempt,  
From those who live a life of ease,  
And from the arrogant.