

COLOSSIANS 3:17-4:6

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1. The Surrounding “bracket” verses (3:17 & 4:5-6)

- 3¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
and
- 4⁵Conduct yourselves (“walk”) wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

THE “BRACKET” VERSES (3:17 & 4:5-6)

For all Christians . . . wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, masters

1. Do all in the name of/in reference to Jesus
2. Be Grateful
3. Pray
4. Be Witnesses to outsiders
5. Use Time wisely--sense of urgency
6. Watch your speech – make it gracious

1. DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS:

3¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

= **in reference to**

- Jesus’ person,
- Jesus’ power
- . . . especially to Jesus’ teaching

Where does Jesus teach about this?

Matthew 18.5

Whoever welcomes one such child **in my name** welcomes me.

Matthew 18.20

For where two or three are gathered **in my name**, I am there among them.”

Matthew 24.5

For many will come **in my name**, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray.

Mark 9.39

no one who does a deed of power **in my name** will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

John 14.26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send **in my name**, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

John 14.13,14

I will do whatever you ask **in my name**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If **in my name** you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 15.16

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him **in my name**.

John 16.23, 24, 26

On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father **in my name**, he will give it to you.

Until now you have not asked for anything **in my name**.

Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

²⁶On that day you will ask **in my name**. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;

2. BE GRATEFUL

3:17b. giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Where does Jesus teach about this?

Matthew 15.36:

Jesus took the seven loaves and the fish; and **after giving thanks** he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 26.27:

Then he took a cup, and **after giving thanks** he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you;

And in Paul, in Colossians:

Colossians 1.12:

giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 2.7:

rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, **abounding in thanksgiving**.

3. PRAY

²**Devote yourselves to prayer**, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.

³At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison,

⁴so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

Where does Jesus teach about this?

See above . . . Prayer in Jesus' Name; Jesus Giving Thanks

Jesus Teaches about Prayer

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Luke 11:1

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Luke 18:1, 10

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. . . "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Matthew 6:5,6,9

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret . . . Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Matthew 24:20

Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath.

Jesus' Example

Matthew 14:23

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

Luke 5:16

But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

Luke 9:28

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

Matthew 19:13

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray.

Matthew 26:36, 41

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." . . . Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial

4. BE WITNESSES

4. ⁵Conduct yourselves (plural -- "walk") wisely toward outsiders,

= Being Jesus' witnesses . . . Remember: we bear his name! A privilege & a responsibility. An Ambassador bears the name of their nation . . .

Where does Jesus teach about this?

John 13:35

35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Acts 1:8

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Matthew 28:19-20

19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

5. USE TIME WISELY -- URGENCY

- Think: Race against time for the Vaccine;
- Think: Playing against the clock in Sports

Where does Jesus teach about this?

Mark 13:32-37

32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, . . . 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

29I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 30and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, 31and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

6. WATCH YOUR SPEECH

Colossians 3:8

8But now you must ***get rid of*** all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and ***abusive language*** from your mouth.

Ephesians 4:29

29Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, ***so that your words may give grace to those who hear.***

Where does Jesus teach about this?

Luke 6:45

45The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is ***out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks***

Matthew 5:13,18, 22

13“You are the ***salt*** of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

18But ***what comes out of the mouth*** proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

22 . . . ***if you say, ‘You fool,’*** you will be liable to the hell of fire.

Jesus’ Example

1 Peter 2:22

22“***He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.***”

2. THE MIDDLE SECTION:

“A HOUSEHOLD CODE” (3:18-4:4)

3 categories of specific relationships + 6 differing roles

- Marriage -- Wives & Husbands;
- Parenting -- Children & Fathers;
- Economics -- Slaves & Masters.
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THE IMMEDIATE CONTROVERSY . .

1. Role of women
2. No condemnation of slavery (but see the whole story of the Exodus, about God’s passion to free his people from literal slavery)

1. Slavery

²²Slaves,

obey in everything, your earthly masters
not only while being watched and in order to please them,
but wholeheartedly, ***fearing the Lord.***

²³Whatever your task, put yourselves into it,
as done for the Lord and not as to people

²⁴since you know that ***from the Lord***
you will receive the inheritance as your reward;

you serve the Lord Christ.

²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back (Note: *by the Lord*)
for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality.

⁴¹ Masters,

treat your slaves justly and fairly,
for you know that ***you also have a Master in heaven.***

Primary economic relationship in the empire. No way to conceive of the world without it. But Paul not in favor of slavery . . wants to change it where he can:

1 Corinthians 7:21-24

21Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it.

But -- if you can gain your freedom, take it.

- 22For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a freed person belonging to the Lord,
- just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ.

23You were bought with a price; **do not become slaves of human masters.** 24In whatever condition you were called, brothers and sisters, there remain with God.

So what do we see in Colossians?

Paul sows the Seeds of destruction for slavery

- The only owner, true master is God
- Both Masters & Slaves are under God
- on the same level
Much given, much expected (Luke 12:48)
- Most Important: ***Slaves addressed directly*** (in no other literature of the time)

2. Women

¹⁸Wives,

be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands,

love your wives and never treat them harshly.

- Addressed directly – first, in their own right (no small matter)

→ What about the verb: “be subject” ? (Greek: “HUPOTASSO”)

- Does it always mean “be subject?”
- Translations: “submit” or “be subdued”
- Is it always used in a negative or oppressive sense?

The same word is used in Ephesians 5:21 . .

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ

. . . i.e., *SO: this word applies equally to husbands. Christian men are “to be subject” too!*

AND Paul uses it for Jesus too:

1 Corinthians 15:27-28

27 For “God has put in subjection under his (Jesus’) feet all things.”
But when (the scripture) says, “All things are put in subjection,”
it is plain that this does not include the one who put in subjection under him all things

28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

What uses/translations of “hupotasso” can we find in other passages?

e.g., in the Old Testament (Greek version)?

Psalms 37:7

Be still before the Lord, wait patiently for him, do not fret

Psalms 62:2

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is in him

Daniel 6:13

Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king

Let’s try it out on . . . 1 Corinthians 15

27 For “God has brought calm/peace to all things under his feet.”

But when (the scripture) says, “All things have been made calm,”

it is plain that this does not include the one who made all things calm

28 When all things are made calm before him, then the Son himself will also become calm/at peace before the one who made all things calm for/by him, so that God may be all in all.

Or on . . . Colossians 4:18-19

¹⁸Wives, be calm/patient/at peace before your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Or on . . . Ephesians 5:2

Wives & Husbands: pay attention/listen to/be calm/at peace with each other?

Fits well in the light of Galatians 3:28 . . .

28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

A Possible Context?

. . . women having no experience at all of a culture of “gathering” or being included as participants in a larger group . .

See . . . Elisabeth Elliott in Shadow of The Almighty, p. 223-224

In the United States there is usually respect for the Word of God – that is, outward respect, even where there is no thought of obedience to it. In the Ecuadorian jungle the Indian has not reached that “level of culture”—he has neither respect manifested by apparent attention when it is being read, nor reverence, manifested in obedience to it. The women are the most difficult element in the meetings—they search their children’s heads for lice, stand up in a body when anything passes outside, rush to the window if it promises to be interesting, thrust a foot up on the bench for the nearest person to examine for thorns, hustle in and out with children, and have discussions in a conversational tone of voice. The men will occasionally remonstrate with them from the back of the room, rise to rearrange the benches during the sermon, or stand up to talk with a passer-by through the window—but in general they pay much closer attention than the women. Pets are taken for granted, dogs going about through the rows, birds or monkeys perched atop the women’s heads, puppies wrapped in carrying cloths on backs.