

"When I'm Older"

Colossians 4: 12 - 18

September 5, 2010

In Christ We Are Taught How To Be Mature & Warned What Happens When We Aren't, (vs. 2: 28)

- **Maturity Modeled: Jesus was persistent in following through, (vs. 4: 2 - 18)**
 - Persistence is demonstrated in the tangible proof of connectedness, (vs. 12 - 18)
 1. Connectedness without compromise, (vs. 12a)
 - Familiarity can produce compromise, (vs. 12a.1); *"And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."" (Mark 6:4)*
 - Christ's Lordship overpowers compromise, (vs. 12a.2); *"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God," (Luke 12:8)*
 - Demonstrative testimony stands in opposition to compromise, (vs. 12a.3); *"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:26)*
 2. Connectedness always interceding for maturity, (vs. 12b)
 - Intercession is contending for maturity, (vs. 12b.1); *"Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it." (Hebrews 4:1)*
 - Intercession results in being placed into maturity, (vs. 12b.2); *"You therefore must **be** perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)*
 - Intercession results in being fully assured, (vs. 12b.3); *"fully **convinced** that God was able to do what he had PROMISED. That is why his faith was **counted** to him as righteousness."" (Romans 4:21-22)*
 3. Connectedness tangibly working, (vs. 13)
 - Good working will be witnessed by other, (vs. 13a); *"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord," (2 Corinthians 8:3)*
 - Good working is for the benefit of others, (vs. 13b)
 - Good working goes beyond the immediate need, (vs. 13c); *"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see." (Revelation 3:14-18)*
 4. Connectedness in separation, (vs. 14 - 15); *"For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." (2 Timothy 4:10-11)*
 5. Connectedness that genuinely cares, (vs. 16); *"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)*
 - *"Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:11-12)*
 6. Connectedness exhorting toward the goal, (vs. 17); *"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5)*
 7. Connectedness bound by God's sovereign grace, (vs. 18); *"he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:5-7)*