

Caring for Others Spiritually

Acts 18:18b-28

Main Point:

You are needed for the spiritual well-being of others; therefore, care for those around you out of thankfulness for Jesus.

1. We should all care for the spiritual well-being of others.
2. This involves submissive planning.
3. This involves investing in people.
4. This involves using your gifts to help.
5. This involves grateful devotion to Jesus Christ.

Dennis Johnson “As restless as Paul was to reach regions where Jesus’ name had not been heard ... he had equal concern to fortify his spiritual children in the faith. Their immaturity was his deepest parental ... anguish ... and their progress was among his highest joys ...”

Philippians 2:4 ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (NKJV)

Dennis Johnson “[Paul’s] ready submission of his plan to God’s will ... shows us how heartfelt trust in God’s sovereignty works out in practice.”

James 4:13-15 ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” (NKJV)

Dennis Johnson, “With the humble wisdom of Christ’s true servants they neither ignored Apollos’ error nor embarrassed him in public. Rather, they took him aside into their home, and there supplied his lack.”

2 Timothy 2:2 ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

Titus 2:3-4 ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “It was a way of saying to the world, ‘I belong to God, and I do not care who knows it.’”

Acts 18:9-10 ⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ “for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” (NKJV)

Colossians 3:22-24 ²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (NKJV)