

How to Live Well-Even in the Midst of Difficult Circumstances

Colossians 3:22-4:1

“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your bondservants^[b] justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”

- I. We live with the tension of ‘already...but not yet’. The strong reality of Christ and our union with him brings substantial healing but not complete healing. We still wage war against the world, the flesh and the devil.

- II. We rejoice that Christ is the all-knowing King and that he uses trials and hardships to shape our character and keep us focused.

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

“Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.” Psalm 139:4-6

“The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men. His compulsion is my liberation.” C.S. Lewis. *Surprised by Joy*.

Everyday almost I meet with occasions of admiring the wisdom, character and faithfulness of our Great Shepherd intimating and adjusting his dispensations exactly to our need and state. When the enemy is spreading a snare for our feet, when our deceitful hearts are beginning to start aside, when we have perhaps actually taken some steps in that path, which if persisted in might terminate in apostasy. Oh! Then how gracious, how seasonable, how salutary are those tokens of love (called affliction in the language of mortals), which he sends to break the snare, to check our progress, and to recall our wandering feet into the path of duty and peace.”

John Newton, *Newton on the Christian Life*. Reinke. P.185

- III. Ultimate reverence/worship/awe/fear is to be directed to God and never to men. We do not live as man-pleasers. We do not live by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers.

IV. All of life is lived out before the benevolent gaze of Abba Father.

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men..” Colossians 3:23

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:31

“And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.” Titus 3:14

Palmetto Christian Academy, Lower School Paradigm:

- 1) See all people as _____.
- 2) Do more than is _____.
- 3) Have a good _____.

*(see answers below)

Rick Martin, PCA Lower School Principal

“The forgetting of who you are, forgetting how you were charged to live, forgetting who God is, and forgetting what is to come, you make yourself and those around you crazy. Your eternity amnesia makes you unrealistically expectant, vulnerable to temptation, all too driven, dependent on people and things that will only disappoint you, and sadly can begin to doubt the goodness of God. Recognizing the eternity that is to come allows you to be realistic without being hopeless, and hopeful when things around you don’t encourage much hope.”

Paul Tripp, New Morning Mercies.

Question: What does Christ’s resurrection mean for us?

Answer: Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.
The New City Catechism. Question 50.

*Answers to PCA Lower School Paradigm

- 1) special
- 2) expected
- 3) attitude