



Sunday, July 14, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The **WEALTH** of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

II. The **WALK** of the Believer (4:1-6:9)

- A. Walk **WORTHY** (4:1)
- B. Walk in **UNITY** (4:2-6)
- C. Walk in **DIVERSITY** (4:7-10)
- D. Walk in **MATURITY** (4:11-16)

God has provided **GIFTED MINISTERS** in order to help train His people for **GOSPEL MINISTRY** through a **GROWING SPIRITUAL MATURITY**.

1. God's **PROVISION—GIFTED MINISTERS** (11)

The *“pastor/ teacher”* is called upon to **HEED, LEAD, and FEED** the flock that has been entrusted to their care ([Acts 20:28](#)).

2. God's **PURPOSE—GOSPEL MINISTRY** (12)

God has *given gifted men* to help the local church be what it is supposed to be. He has given these men to both **EQUIP and EDIFY** His church through the **FAITHFUL MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD** to their hearts.

3. God's **PARTICULARS—GROWING MATURITY** (4:13-16)

God's desire is for His saints to **GROW IN MATURITY**. Here in verses 13-16, Paul lays out particular marks of this maturity. He describes what it should look like. Paul explains that this spiritual maturity should be seen through the impact of the **MINISTRY OF THE WORD** upon their lives.

Spiritual growth is **SEEN**, not primarily **HEARD**. It isn't how much **BIBLE** someone **KNOWS** but how much **LOVE** someone **SHOWS**.

a. MATURITY marked by DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS (4:13)

This process takes place as our minds are **RENEWED** with the truths of God's Word. The **Spirit of God** takes the **Word of God** and **TRANSFORMS** us into the likeness of the **Son of God**.

b. MATURITY marked by DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY (4:14)

This **DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY** speaks of the quality of enduring or unchanging. Think of something stable and secure.

i. Paul's PROCLAMATION (Ephesians 4:14)

a) He warns against SPIRITUAL INSTABILITY

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children [*immature*] in understanding: howbeit in malice [*matters of evil*] be ye children, but in understanding be men [*mature*].

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **7** For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the **Lord**. **8** A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

b) He warns of SUBTLE METHODOLOGY

"...whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" (Eph 4:14) – Here we see the wicked intentions those who teach anti-Biblical lies.

These are strong warnings against false teachers (2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

ii. Paul's **PATTERN** (Acts 20:17-35)

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

His pattern of **serving**—his example. Paul was motivated as a “*servant of Jesus Christ*,”—as a *doulos* who was responsive to the will of his Master, Jesus.

iii. Paul's **PRESCRIPTION** (Ephesians 6:10-13)

The mature Christian recognizes these false doctrines because they have **ROOTED** themselves in **BIBLICAL TRUTH**. They have “*meditated upon these [doctrinal] things*” of the Bible and given themselves “*wholly to them*” so that their “*profiting*” of developing Christlikeness “*may appear to all*” in the form of doctrinal stability ([1 Timothy 4:15](#)).

Christ's followers are to be **MARKED BY OBEDIENCE**. Jesus is saying, “I don't want you to simply **SAY** that I am your Lord! I want to **SEE** that I am your Lord!” (see [Luke 6:46-49](#)).

Proverbs 13:13 Whoso despiseth the Word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of **God**: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.



Our **WORTHY WALK** is explained by **WALKING IN MATURITY**. Our spiritual maturity is also marked by **DOCTRINAL CONSTANCY**. Through the **MINISTRY OF THE WORD** the believer is **STABILIZED**. He is able to “*stand against the wiles of the devil*” in **MINISTRY WORK**.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!