

"FINISHING YOUR HOME WORK"

Teacher: Where is your Home Work This ^{Eph. 4:16-29}

Student: you'll never believe this; but on the way to school I made a paper airplane out of it & someone hijacked it to Cuba.

Home work is important. It develops, achieves, and is a principle of

education and religion. Wise Teacher - Note - Parents "If you promise NOT to believe

Everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise NOT to believe anything he says happens at home!

V. 20 - Ye have not so learned Christ - that isn't the way Christ taught

you - you need to learn Christ's way.

Lessons and home work are very well. There are plenty of teaching.

Trouble is not that we are uninstructed, but we do not take the lessons of

Christ. Bernard Baruch - "To me old age is always 15 yrs older than I am".
Joe Fort Newton - "one may be a young old man, or an old young man".

"He began both to do and to teach." Before he was taken up. "Abide in me and I in you."

There are conditions of learning of Christ - hearing and practicing.

College Student - Coin in hand - off its heads: I go to bed.
" " Tails: I stay up.
" " Stand on edge: I study.

If you never think of him, how can you learn? If you wander away into all manner of regions - V. 14. "Tossed too and fro".

What does a student do in school? In a school of design and art, he puts his feeble copy beside some great picture, the original, and compares it - touch for touch, line for line, and so corrects his errors.

Take your life -- is this like Jesus Christ? Is that what he would have done? In Him correct and learn our lesson by listening to our teacher.

The text - V. (20) says "Ye have not so learned the lesson of Christ, your homework is still unfinished."

Three things about your home work.

1. Harmonious Attitude - V. 16.
2. Haphazard Alternate - V. 17-19.
3. Hindering Actions - V. 22-29.

I. HARMONIOUS ATTITUDE

V. (16) - The church in relation to Christ is like a body.

Every part of the body realizing its strength is in Christ, the teacher.

Compactly joined - each joint receives and passes on the supply from Christ the head. All are tied together. Each contributes in its place.

*Jacob's Corn - Foot B - I - Paul's
Foot B - Right Hand - I - Paul's
Head - Head - Head - The Word of God*

What is a joint? That question might be answered several ways. Paul is thinking of two or more bones working together.

Sometimes are joints, vital necessity, are in danger of not working together.

The church is something like that - a (Christian) may create friction and fail

in the positive contact.

We learn - develop - grow - the contralto needs the soprano - the Committee needs the chairman - we need one another - the health of the church depends upon our harmoniously working together.

Where the bones come together is a joint. The joint can be a source of diseases, disfigurements, or it can work together.

The church is like that - finish the home work of harmony.

One ship drives East, another west with the self same wind that blows. It's the set of the sails, not the gales, which determines the way we go.

II. HAPHAZARD ALTERNATE - V. 17-19.

Some fail to do their home work - take an alternate course. Do not pay attention to instructions. I remember a game once. Everyone given a sheet of paper with a long list of things to do. The first instruction was to read all the instructions first!

People read the next line and I do that before reading on. Then the next requirement. However, when you reached the last line, it said disregard the above instructions. Just sign your name that you have read the above. All was needed to complete the page was your signature.

*Girl said to Boy "Too Bad you flunked the Test. How far were you from the right answer?"
Boy replied - "Two seats"*

Those who took the haphazard alternate of not following the teacher met futility.

V. 17 Do not take the alternate way of Gentiles.

Vanity - purposelessness - uselessness.

Walk worthy of your vocation.

"Other Gentiles" - unregenerate people. Vanity of mind - egotism, strutting around.

A College Education seldom hurts a man if he is willing to learn a little something after he graduates.

Natural man - he is guided by his mind rather than his relation to God or the Word.

No unrenewed man can teach you one thing about God. I Cor. 2:14. "He receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."

Any going to college need to know what God has said about the natural man. I Cor. 2:14.

They cannot know spiritual things - understanding of spiritual matters. They are ignorant when they speculate about who God is. They talk with authority in the material world.

Why?

V. 18 Understanding darkened - without light!

Blindness - hopeless.

V. 19 Past feelings - meant a stone-harder than marble. No power to feel. Heathen life is like that.

Abandoned themselves to every kind of uncleanness.

Lust and desire - sin gets a grip on a person and he has lost decency and shame. Beast.

Drug taker - 1st in secret - openly whines for it.

Liquor - secret - not care who sees him drunk.

Past feeling - not care whom he hurts. Conscience seared with a hot iron.

I Tim. 4:2.

Sheep and cattle branded - weeks later the branded place is not painful - nerves are paralyzed, past feeling.

Reach a point - reason people act the way they do, they are past feeling.

Louis Talbot told about a man in the service of his church, tears rolled down his face, as he heard the unsearchable riches of Christ. His answer to the invitation was "not tonight".

Wife invited Mr. Talbot to come by their home that night and spend the night. Tonight is his night. He went and put the need of Christ and again tears rolled down the blacksmiths face. The woman retired. He arose walking to his room, here is your room to sleep but as for me accepting Christ, not tonight.

Later, Talbot was leaving for Australia. I thought I'd invite you to Christ

before I left.

This time he laughed and said "that's a fairy tale. I'm stronger than I was."

Later ill with blood poisoning, caused by a boil on his neck. Soon unconscious, died without Christ. (Past feeling.)

Are there times in your life when you cry out for something better - yearn for purity - you are not past feeling.

Never complete your homework with the haphazard alternate of the "other Gentiles".

If Paul were writing today would it be a rosier picture?

III. HINDERING ACTIONS - V. 22-29

In order to finish your homework, you must follow a natural progression - laying aside - put away garments.

V. 22 - "Put off - former conversation" - your former way of life! Col. 3:10.

Old man - old nature.

Corrupt - literally is decaying, sinking towards death.

V. 23 - (Be) renewed - not renew yourself - (God) continually renews the Christian.

V. 24 - Put on - positive act as renewal.

V. 25 - Putting away.

1. No more falsehoods - lying - every kind of falsehood.

Dr. Johnson interesting bit of advice in bringing up children: "Accustom your children constantly to this -- telling the truth -- if a thing happened at one window and they, when relating it, say that it happened at another, do not let it pass, but (instantly check them); you (do not know) where deviation from truth will end. It is more from carelessness about truth than from intentional lying, that there is so much falsehood in the world."

It is easy to make up some sort of story when we are making an excuse for not doing, or not having done, something.

There is a lots of unconscious falsehood.

What is Paul's reason for getting your homework about telling the truth?

Because we are members of the same body. It will only function when we speak the truth.

2. ~~No more anger - V. 26~~

Angry and sin not - responsible for actions.

Let not it corrupt us.

Hate sin - yes. Fear God - yes.

Disciplined life in service of Christ.

3. ~~No more delay in reconciliation - V. 26~~

Let not the sun - (immeasurable value of a day!) ✓

A philosopher had a rule - during the day anger had made them speak insultingly to each other - shook hands - kissed - reconciled before sun set.

A Jewish Rabbi had a prayer - never go to sleep at night with any bitterness, against a brother. (End the day in peace.)

If you have trouble with anyone in the church - the only way to deal with it is, deal with it at once - (longer it is left) to flourish the more bitter it will grow.

Prayer is a good first step.

Don't give the Devil a chance.

Unreconciled quarrel is opportunity for the Devil to sow dissension and destroy peace.

Relationships deteriorate if Devil gets a chance - V. 27.

4. No more dishonesty as a workman - V. 28.

Thieving was rampant. It was common. Stealing clothes of brothers at public baths.

Idea become honest workman.

Happens in Christian work - not do your share - share in general welfare.

5. No more foul speaking - V. 29.

Let no corrupt - rotten - unfit to use - unprofitable speech. Worthless.

Speak that every word will do other people good. Job 4:4 Eliphaz said of Job "Your words have kept men on their feet." Moffatt.

Get your home work and build up with your speech.

No more falsehoods.

No more ~~anger.~~

No more ~~delay~~ reconciliation.

No more ~~dishonesty.~~

No more ~~foul~~ speaking.