

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:5

Store In My Heart Romans 12:18

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with everyone. NKJV&NIV

This verse is found in the middle of Paul's instructions on our attitudes towards others. This passage is very similar to parts of Jesus' sermon on the mount.

The overall message in both passages tells us that we must show genuine love and concern to all those we contact during our walk on Earth. Each person we interact with deserves our consideration, especially those we know as brethren.

This is especially hard with those who would cause us difficulty or harm. Our first reaction is to retaliate but God is the one who will punish the evil doer. It is not our place to take such action.

We need to store this verse in the front of our minds so it can help us in all our relationships and interactions each day.



An Island Lesson

Dan Henderson

Many of those who have known me for very long are aware of my fondness for good physical comedies. I am not talking about recent methods of trying to get a laugh out of filming people doing dangerous things badly. I am talking about comedy that might fall under the category of slapstick. You know, Three Stooges, Bugs Bunny, Wylie Coyote, etc. Grandchildren are a great excuse to break out some of those old cartoons and comedies I remember and love from my childhood. Every kid needs to at least be exposed to good quality cartoons. Besides, have you seen the junk they pawn off as cartoons now-a-days? But I diverge from my path. By the way, the parents are well aware of what we let their children watch.

One of the shows I enjoy watching is an old classic from the 'just as color was getting started' era, Gilligan's Island. You remember the plot. The tale of fateful ship. The Skipper and Gilligan, his fearless crew, take on five passengers for a three-hour tour from Hawaii. The rough weather caused them to be shipwrecked on an uncharted island. For three years, and decades of reruns, we watched as they tried vainly to get off that island with no success. About now some of you are thinking, "what does this have to do with God," aren't you?

I think the problem of those "seven stranded castaways" is very similar to one of our problems today.

The big difference is direction. They wanted to get off the island. We want others to join us on our island. What???? Bear with me a moment.

As Christians we are part of an island of calm in the midst of the stormy sea of this world. The Church that belongs to Christ is a place of stability and structure. We know that God is with us and that He will help us navigate the cares and struggles here on Earth as long as we submit ourselves to the plan He has provided. Through Christ we know peace.

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

Philippians 4:5-7 *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Our friends and neighbors are trying to find their place in this world. They thrash about trying to discover the secret to happiness and fulfillment. Some of them have a small measure of direction, but most are wandering around following blind leaders into utter desolation. The few who have begun to know a little about God find some measure of hope for peace but do not have the full release of no guilt that we have found in Christ.

They still struggle with the difficulties of the world around them. What did I do to deserve that negative outcome? Why did the blessing go to that liar instead of me? Their hope is for God to change what is happening to them right now. Because of this they will always be in turmoil.

Our hope in Christ is not for the here and now. It is for the hereafter. Because of this we have little need to be worried about such struggles. Our minds are on higher things **Colossians 3:1-3**. What happens here and now is of little consequence unless it changes our eternal abode.

Ok, do you understand what I meant by we want folks to join us on our island? Good, now we can get back to the problem and solution.

The problem for the castaways was always communication! They were never able to successfully communicate with anyone that could help their situation. Oh they tried, every episode had them trying to communicate with anyone who might could help.

We have the same problem today, except often ours is not so much a failure to reach someone as it is a failure to try. One thing was certain for those folks on Gilligan's Island, they would try anything to get their message out. Balloons, robots, ducks, fire, cosmonauts, even bottle messages.

Maybe we need to start thinking a little more like those 'castaways' and see the urgency of the situation. The people in our lives need what we have found. If we don't communicate with the folks in the world around us, most of them will never find their way to the peace that is found only in Christ.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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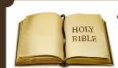
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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Paula Laubach is back home. Her surgery went very well and she should start physical therapy in about a month.

Vickie McNees is doing a little better following a med change for her migraines. Her doctor suggested she see a neurologist.

The Berryhill family is in Tennessee this weekend

Bill Venable's daughter-in-law, **Judy**, is under hospice care.

Barbara Atwood will have surgery this week for her cancer.

Jordan Wright has surgery this week also.

Sunday Evening - **Ezra 4:17** Wednesday - **Jude 1:17**

Meeting – Reuben Prevost – April 21 -25