

SHORTS

WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

SEPARATING FROM LIVING FRIENDS AND THE DEAD

Warm greetings!

Life in this world is one long journey from childhood, of both meeting new friends, meeting perhaps again later and then separating and possibly never seeing them again! It is also a journey about our loved ones and relatives dying and so we never see them again in this life.

Let's have a good look at some verses that confirm this and encourage us about this huge life-long process. I am sure you will find it a great blessing!

As I thought about this the other day, a verse came in my mind which is in the passage of scripture here below: (Verse 38) The apostle Paul is speaking:

Acts 20:31

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

³² And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

³³ I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

³⁴ Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

³⁵ I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

³⁶ **And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.**

³⁷ **And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,**



³⁸ **Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.**

Here we see the farewell by Paul, I think from Ephesus, to the local brethren. He exhorted them and commended them to Someone greater than him, and they all prayed together at the harbour, before he departed by ship. **The church all wept deeply for him and for themselves, and for the fact that they were actually never going to see his face again! He had been with them three years, and now the time had come to go.** There is a time for everything, Ecclesiastes chapter three says.

So this passage of scripture above is a really good example of believers separating really for the glory and service of God.

'Saying goodbye' is sometimes easy, but more often very difficult. We own nothing in this world, and that includes even our friendships. We often greatly miss the people we have lived and worked with, and there is sometimes real pain. The good part is that as long as we are separating for Jesus Christ, then we are going on to the light of a brighter day, and so may the other person/people also be doing.

I presently miss several living people who have recently passed out of my life. They were here with me in our town, and we 'broke bread' together, but the Lord called them onwards. I had to stay behind. Sometimes the roles were reversed in my life and we left brethren and relatives and said that goodbye, gave those hugs and often never saw them again. Praise the Lord.

'ALL THINGS CHANGE BUT JESUS NEVER!' and perhaps that is one major lesson that the Lord is trying to teach us: 'Nothing is permanent' in this life, however much we want it to be. It seems the Lord does not want us ALWAYS to be in relationships or in cosy situations, he requires us to love Him first, put Him first, and focus on Him.

Of course much of the time we

have, or have had our children with us, a wife, husband, or other close person, but there will be times when all this goes and we are left seemingly 'alone'.

When our children 'leave the nest' this is often painful for the parents. When our father or mother dies, this can be rough for many people also.

We are separating from the living and the 'newly dead'.

SOMETIMES WE EVEN BECOME ESTRANGED FROM THE CHILDREN WHO WE RAISED; FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER THEY found some fault or weakness in us their father or mother and moved off into life and we never or rarely saw them again. They raised a new family and sometimes we never saw that family, our own grandchildren. I know a few people who have 'suffered' this and I am one myself

with one of my children.

Let us pray that God gives us the grace for earthly 'separations', many of which are the natural course of life.

In all these cases, I believe the Lord wants us to have a soft heart, and a tough spirit. Continue to have a kind heart, because it often feels like breaking, and it is hurt, yet have that 'mental toughness' from God that enables you to carry on until the end. I believe this is called 'Finishing Well'.

I exhort you, dear friend, today to take some personal time with the Lord and lay all your relationships on the altar of God. Give them up to Him, and tell Him, that you will always put Him first. Ask HIM TO HELP YOU EITHER BEAR THE PAIN OR ENDURE ANY PAIN OR RISE ABOVE ANY PAIN WHATSOEVER, AND THEN GO ON

SERVING JESUS.

Consider this famous refrain from a song: Is you all on the altar of sacrifice laid, see the links below also

[Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?](#)

Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

https://hymnary.org/text/you_have_longed_for_sweet_peace_E._A._Hoffman_Hymnary.org

Elisha Hoffman wrote this song and nearly 2,000 more!

[is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid lyrics - Google Search](#) You can hear a version of this hauntingly beautiful song on this link.

Until next time, Jerry and the WCF team

JESUS CHRIST THE
SAME YESTERDAY,
AND TO DAY, AND
FOR EVER.

HEBREWS 13:8

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