Living with Each Other

Lesson 12, 1st Quarter, March 14–March 20, 2026

Sabbath Afternoon March 14

Memory Text:

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." KJV — Colossians 4:6

"There are enough profitable subjects upon which to meditate and converse. The conversation of the Christian should be in heaven, where we look for the Saviour. Meditation upon heavenly things is profitable, and will ever be accompanied with the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Our calling is high; our prospects are bright; our hopes are glorious. We should be continually doing the work of our Lord. We are to shine as a reflector and perfuser of silver. When the dross and tin are removed, then his image will be perfectly reflected in us. Then the prayer of Christ for his disciples will be answered in us: "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." When the truth has a sanctifying influence upon our hearts and lives, we can render to God acceptable service and can glorify him upon the earth, being partakers of the divine nature and having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2T 372.2

You are aware of the fact that we are given a great work and that the time in which to do it is very short; that we should therefore, learn how to turn wasted time into good use. Someone has said that on the average, more than half of mens' life and energy are wasted on useless talking and in policing others. One of our greatest needs therefore, is that we learn to control our tongues and to guard our noses out of other people's business in order to conserve time and energy, peace and integrity.

It is well to remember too, that our tongues are given to us for the purpose of speaking God's Truth and His praise, and our energies to proclaim His Truth and to bless His people. Let us be talking of and working for these heaven born principles. If you accidently happen to see or to hear that someone is doing something that according to your best judgment is not proper for a Christian to do, and if you think you can help him, then do not make of yourself a tale-bearer by telling it to anyone but rather plead with the guilty one.

Sunday March 15

Husbands and Wives

Read Colossians 3:18, 19. What balance do you see? What additional counsels does Paul give in Ephesians 5:22–25, 33?

"The question is often asked, "Shall a wife have no will of her own?" The Bible plainly states that the husband is the head of the family. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands." If the injunction ended here, we might say that the position of the wife is not an enviable one; it is a very subordinate position in very many cases, and it would be better were there fewer marriages. Many husbands stop at the words, "Wives, submit yourselves," but we will read the conclusion of the same injunction, which is, "As it is fit in the Lord." AH 115.3

"God requires that the wife shall keep the fear and glory of God ever before her. Entire submission is to be made only to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has purchased her as His own child by the infinite price of His life. God has given her a conscience, which she cannot violate with impunity. Her individuality cannot be merged into that of her husband, for she is the purchase of Christ, it is her duty to think and act for herself in the fear of God, and she will be held to account for her deeds, which she knows that in so doing, injury would be worked for her body and her spirit, which have been ransomed from the slavery of Satan. There is One who stands higher than the husband to the wife; it is her Redeemer, and her submission to her husband is to be rendered as God has directed —"as it is fit in the Lord." AH 116.1

"When husbands require the complete subjection of their wives, declaring that women have no voice or will in the family, but must render entire submission, they place their wives in a position contrary to the Scripture. In interpreting the Scripture in this way, they do violence to the design of the marriage institution. This interpretation is made simply that they may exercise arbitrary rule, which is not their prerogative. But we read on, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Should not the husband be bitter against his wife if the husband has found her erring and full of faults, bitterness of spirit will not remedy the evil." AH 116.2

Monday March 16

Parents and Children

Read the following passages. What principles are given for raising children?

Prov 22:6; 15 – "To parents is committed the great work of educating and training their children for the future, immortal life. Many fathers and mothers seem to think that if they feed and clothe their children, they have done all that is required of them. But there are little souls that have done their day. They are too much accustomed with business or pleasure to make the education of their children the work of their life. They have not time to train them so that they will employ their talents for the honor of their Redeemer. Solomon did not say, "Tell a child the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." CG 282.2

"In the strength of God, parents must arise and command their households after them. They must learn to govern themselves, that they may govern their families aright. Parents, you should not leave the children to guess at what is right, but should point out the way in unmistakable terms and teach them to walk therein." 5T 81.3

Matt. 19:14 – "This is an encouraging lesson to mothers for all time. After they have done the best they can do for the good of their children, they may bring them to Jesus. Even the babes in the mother's arms may be brought to Christ by her faith and prayers. Christ says, "Let the little children come, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Mothers, you may take your little ones and place them in the arms of Christ, and they will receive the blessing. Christ will take them in his arms, and bless them, and they will be his children." Review and Herald, March 5, 1895

"Children are to be an encouraging lesson to mothers for all time. After they have done the best they can do for the good of their children, they may bring them to Jesus. Even the babes in the mother's arms may be brought to Christ by her faith and prayers. Christ says, "Let the little children come, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Mothers, you may take your little ones and place them in the arms of Christ, and they will receive the blessing. Christ will take them in his arms, and bless them, and they will be his children." Review and Herald, March 5, 1895

"Parents are to be the guardians of young souls, to do as much as possible" is it not rather the prevalent fashion to slide through the work as quickly, as easily, as possible, and obtain the wages of the work? Many are discouraged as they see? The object is not to be as thorough as possible, but to get the remuneration. Those who profess to be the servants of Christ should not forget the injunction of the apostle Paul, "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." RH September 22, 1891, par. 11

"Those who enter the work as "eye-servants," will find that their work cannot bear the inspection of men or of angels. The thing essential for successful work is a knowledge of Christ; for this knowledge will give sound principles of right, impart a noble, unselfish spirit, like that of our Saviour whom we profess to serve. Faithfulness, economy, care-taking, thoroughness, should characterize all our work, whenever we may be, whether in the kitchen, in the workshop, in the office of publication, in the Sanitarium, in the College, or wherever we are stationed in the vineyard of the Lord. Ye that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." RH September 22, 1891, par. 12

Tuesday March 17

Work Relations

"Those who are unfaithful to the work of God, are lacking in principle; their motives are not of a character to enable them to choose the right under all circumstances. The servants of God are to feel at all times that they are under the eye of their employer. He who watched the sacrilegious feast of Belshazzar is present in all our transactions. In the counting room of the merchant, in the private workshop, and the bloodless hand is as surely recording your neglect, as it recorded the awful judgment of the blasphemous king. Belshazzar's condemnation was written in words of fire, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" and if you fail to fulfill your God-given obligations, your condemnation will be the same. RH September 22, 1891, par. 9

"There are many who profess to be Christians who are not united with Christ. Their daily life, their spirit, testifies that Christ is not formed within, the hope of glory. They cannot be depended upon, they are carried hither and thither by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and by the craftiness of those who lie in wait to deceive. The same "servant" applies to every man; for we are all employed by our Lord to do his work. We are all under vows that we are taking us to the mind of unfaithfulness, or of fidelity? RH September 22, 1891, par. 10

"Our responsibilities are greater than we generally seem to do as much as possible? Is it not rather the prevalent fashion to slide through the work as quickly, as easily, as possible, and obtain the wages of the work? Many are discouraged as they see? The object is not to be as thorough as possible, but to get the remuneration. Those who profess to be the servants of Christ should not forget the injunction of the apostle Paul, "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." RH September 22, 1891, par. 11

Wednesday March 18

Praying for One Another

Read Colossians 4:2–4. What principles for prayer do you find in these verses? What prayer requests does Paul make?

"There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your souls. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven. Pr 284.1

"We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer; for this is the life of the soul, and it is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. In solitude let the soul be laid open to the inspecting eye of God. Secret prayer is to be heard only by the prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions. In secret prayer the soul is free from surrounding influences, free from worldly influence, and free from worldly ties. All is between God and the soul. Sweet and abiding will be the influence emanating from Him who seeks in secret, whose ear is open to hear the prayer arising from the secret place. Family, simple faith the soul holds communion with God and gathering of hard rays of divine light to strengthen and sustain it in the conflict with Satan. God is our tower of strength." Pr 284.2

Read Colossians 4:3. What "door for the word" (NKJV) might God open for you to share your faith?

"We need not only to read the Word of life, but prayerfully to study the Word, that we may present the truth in the right manner to unbelievers. The light we receive from the Word of God we are to impart to others, that they may become interested in the study of the Scriptures. "Search the Scriptures," said Christ, "for in them ye think ye have eternal life." [John 5:39.]" 1BLMs, Ms 85, 1903, par. 24

"Let us pray for the success of the efforts of the Lord's missionaries. Let us ask the Lord to open to us a door of utterance, that we may speak the mysteries of Christ. In the place of speaking words of criticism, to the discouragement of souls already weak, let us speak of the love and goodness of God, "Walk in wisdom toward them which are without, redeeming the time." Consecrate the talent of speech to God. Let your faith lay hold of His promises, and break forth in praise and thanksgiving to Him." PUK December 15, 1904, par. 13

Thursday March 19

Walking in Wisdom

Read Colossians 4:5, 6. In what situations does Paul indicate we especially need to "walk in wisdom"? Why might that be?

"Christ, the great Teacher, was accused of eating with publicans and sinners. He did eat with them, but it was for the purpose of letting the truth shine forth. His example, always high and noble and pure, was in marked contrast with the example of the Pharisees, the priests, and the rulers of His day. They disregarded the law of God and had commandment with men. 6Bibl 86.3

"Christ met the people where they were—at the guest table, in the street, by the lakeside, in the synagogues and the temple, and on the crowded thoroughfares of travel. In these places were found the multitudes who were willing to admit that they were sinners. In their hearts Christ could sow the seeds of truth, and after His resurrection and ascension these seeds, scattered in almost every place by the hands of the twelve and the fourteen, and in one day 3,000 believers were converted. 6Bibl 86.4

"Wherever His ascension, Jesus had sent His disciples, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" [Matthew 28:18-20]. 16MR 7.2

"This commission is ours. Not all have the same work to do, but every man is given his work. To no one man is committed the whole work. No man is to exalt himself or any other man; for whatever man's position may be, he is not free from defects, and he should guard against self-exaltation, envy, jealousy, selfishness, covetousness. 16MR 7.3

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons with God [Colossians 3:23-25]." 16MR 7.4

Friday March 20

Further Thought

"We must have the Spirit of God, or we can never have harmony in the home. The wife, if she has not very great self-control, will be continually provoked to anger, and her husband, she will be submissive, and yet will not feel that she is a bondslave, but a companion to her husband. If the husband is a servant of God, he will lord it over his wife; he will not be arbitrary and tyrannical. He cannot think home affection with too much care; for the home, if the Spirit of the Lord dwells there, is a type of Heaven.... If one errs, the other will exercise Christlike forbearance and not draw coldly away." AH 118.1

"Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Be kind, patient, and forbearing, considerate, and courteous. By the grace of God you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage vow you promised to do." AH 118.2

"In the married life men and women sometimes act like undisciplined, perverse children. The husband wants his way, and the wife wants her way, and neither is willing to yield. Such a condition of things can bring only the greatest unhappiness. Both husband and wife should be willing to yield his or her way or opinion. There is no possibility of happiness while they both persists in doing as they please. 9T 76.3

"Unless men and women have learned of Christ, His meekness and lowliness, they will reveal the impulsive, unreasonable spirit so often revealed by children. The strong, undisciplined will will seek to rule. Such ones need to study the lesson of Christ. When I was a little, spoken as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." AH 118.4