

May 12, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston
At Peace with All Men

Rom 12:18 — If possible (as far as it depends upon you), be at peace with all men — this means your wife, husband, children, brothers and sisters, the neighbor next door — everyone. Be at peace with all men. What does that mean? If we live a righteous life and do what is good and right and we are persecuted, then there is nothing we can do about it. Keep your behavior excellent among the gentiles 1 Peter 2:12-18. IF POSSIBLE — Never take your own revenge — never, never, never (on wives, husbands, children or people on the outside who do you wrong). A lot of times people take their revenge out on their children. And sometimes when someone does us wrong from the outside we want to take justice into our own hands. What does it say in the word? Rom 12:19 — Leave room for the wrath of God. We've got to leave it to Him to pay back people who mistreat us 2 Thes 1:6-8. He'll pour out wrath and indignation on those who have wronged us so wait ... wait ... Vengeance is His and He will repay every man for their actions. How do we know that He will repay? Because it's the character of our God and because it is written in the word — Rom 12:19; 2 Thes 1:6-8.

Rom 12:19-20 — If your enemy is hungry you feed him. What does that mean? vs. 21 — We overcome evil by doing good. Do you think you'll ever need this verse? You have to obey it. If you obey His word, you'll never see death. The word is not our enemy, it is our friend. Jn 8:51 teaches us how not to see death. If we continue in His word, then we are truly His disciples Jn 8:31-32. And If we don't obey His word we are not His disciples. If you're a disciple you'll do these three things — continue, remain, and abide in His word. "If you make My word your home, then you will indeed be My disciples." We are not disciples unless we dwell in His word. You can say that you are doing this, but if you don't abide in His word you're a liar — 1 Jn 2:3-6 — and the truth is not in you; you're a false witness. So many people on the day of judgment will say, "Lord, Lord", but He will say, "Depart, I don't know you!"

So what does it mean to stay in His word? How can I stay in His word while I'm working during the day? By talking to my brothers and sisters. We need to talk to one another while we work.

Have we been doing this since we were exhorted to do it? Have we?

Let's continue on in His word. How did the Israelites remain and dwell in His word? Back then they didn't have Bibles to read. They had to speak to one another what was spoken to them in their hearts. They passed it on.

This is the place where we can upgrade ourselves in every way. We all have intelligence and potential in us, but it has to be developed.

2 Peter 3:9 — When we repent, we have to reach full repentance before we can receive full grace. Every time we sin or do something wrong, we are to confess and renounce it and then we'll receive mercy and progress. But we have to receive the fullest potential we know how. If we whole-heartedly repent or hide or conceal our sin we won't prosper Prov 28:13. We'll be just like a bush or tree that won't put out any buds or leaves. Our Father wants all of us to prosper and reach our fullest potential. POTENTIAL — What we are capable of doing. What are your capabilities? What is your highest level of achievement? We can only reach our fullest potential in Messiah — by his grace. We have all fallen short of the glory (worth) of God. God is the highest, the ultimate example of good, and we've fallen from that. We were made in His image, but were fallen man. Now we're continually upgrading ourselves and going back up to where we were before the fall.

You could be doing really well in your work at the shop, but you might not be socially upgraded. If you're always working by yourself, your social development will suffer. We all have great potential in explaining the word, but our progress is retarded if we don't exercise our ability, and don't practice reading and sharing what we've read.

The Body of Messiah is designed so each person will reach his fullest potential (development) in every area of his life. But if you hibernate in your room all the time how are you going to develop socially? When our Master returns He will say, "How can you rule My kingdom with Me when you didn't let me come in to your life and let me help you develop to your fullest

potential?" "How can you teach anyone how I am?" "The only way people can see how I am is through you because I will be ruling from Jerusalem and how will the people in Tennessee see me except through you?" "But how are you going to represent Me if you haven't been doing that before now?" "You didn't develop because you just didn't want to." Your attitude wasn't good, but you had a bad attitude like our children when they come to aerobics. We don't discipline our children because they are not doing the exercises the right way if they are trying to do them the best way they know how. But if they have a bad attitude and they won't try or give themselves, of course we discipline them for being obstinate. Our attitude makes the difference. Some of us never arrive at our highest potential, and just learn to refine the flesh, but when a brother gets too close we react. It exposes our true condition — our true attitude. We need to learn to respond just like our Master would. He's the One we're striving to attain to.
ha-emeq — He's the light of life.

So does anyone want to reach their fullest potential? That's what we're here for. That's what we're saved for. If not, everything we do is a waste of time. We have to develop in 5 ways — spiritually, mentally, socially, physically and emotionally. When will we be fully developed? On the day when our Master returns! When our Master rose from the dead He received an immortal body. He became flesh and Spirit. Our bodies won't be like Him until we receive our new bodies, in the other areas we will reach our fullest potential. Before He returns we must be made socially compatible to Him. How will we do this? By speaking to one another in love. We develop socially by conversing to one another while we are on the job throughout the day, and we develop mentally by putting our whole mind on our work and using our hands for our Master. We have to ASCERTAIN (find out or come to know) one another's emotions. Are we speaking to one another with anger or gentleness? Anger is not necessarily bad, if it's controlled anger — like when I was young, my daddy would get mad and everything would get done around the house. Anger is a secondary emotion. It is stimulated by something else, but it never has to get out of hand.

