

Colossians 1:28-29
(ESV)

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Under a Tree
BY RICHARD WILBUR

We know those tales of gods in hot pursuit
Who frightened would-nymphs into taking
root

And changing then into a branchy shape
Fair, but perplexing to the thought of rape:

But this, we say, is more how love is made—
Ply and reply of libs in fireshot shade,

Where overhead we hear tossed leaves
consent
To take the wind in free dishevelment

And, answering with supple blade and stem,
Caress the gusts that are caressing them.

1 Timothy 3:8-13
(ESV)

Qualifications for Deacons

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let

deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:1-13
(ESV)

Qualifications for Overseers

3 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

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1 Corinthians 3:1-2
(ESV)

Divisions in the Church

3 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

Ephesians 1:17
(ESV)

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

Ephesians 2:2
(ESV)

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 3:16
(ESV)

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Ephesians 4:23
(ESV)

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

Goblin Mode

the idea of rejecting societal expectations put upon us, in favor of doing whatever one wants to.”

“unapologetically lazy, slovenly, greedy and self-indulgent, typically in a way that rejects social norms.” (Oxford Languages)

The World Is Too Much With Us
BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our
powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid
boon!

This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping
flowers;

For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less
forlorn;

Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;

Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

Psalm 19:1

(ESV)

The Law of the Lord Is Perfect

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

19

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork.*

The poet appeals to God that he might see
God in Creation rather than neglect God as
Creator.

Love Calls Us to the Things of This World
BY RICHARD WILBUR

The eyes open to a cry of pulleys,
And spirited from sleep, the astounded soul
Hangs for a moment bodiless and simple
As false dawn.

Outside the open window
The morning air is all awash with angels.

Some are in bed-sheets, some are in
blouses,
Some are in smocks: but truly there they
are.
Now they are rising together in calm swells
Of halcyon feeling, filling whatever they
wear
With the deep joy of their impersonal
breathing;

Now they are flying in place, conveying
The terrible speed of their omnipresence,
moving
And staying like white water; and now of a
sudden
They swoon down into so rapt a quiet
That nobody seems to be there.

The soul shrinks

From all that it is about to remember,
From the punctual rape of every blessed day,
And cries,

“Oh, let there be nothing on earth
but laundry,
Nothing but rosy hands in the rising steam
And clear dances done in the sight of
heaven.”

Yet, as the sun acknowledges
With a warm look the world's hunks and
colors,
The soul descends once more in bitter love
To accept the waking body, saying now
In a changed voice as the man yawns and
rises,

“Bring them down from their ruddy
gallows;
Let there be clean linen for the backs of
thieves;
Let lovers go fresh and sweet to be undone,
And the heaviest nuns walk in a pure
floating
Of dark habits,
keeping their difficult balance.”

Isaiah 6:1-7

(ESV)

Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

*1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the
Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up;
and the train of his robe filled the temple.*

*2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six
wings: with two he covered his face, and with
two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*

3 And one called to another and said:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”*

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

**Ezekiel 14:3-7
(ESV)**

3 “Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? 4 Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, 5 that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.

6 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. 7 For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me

through him, I the Lord will answer him myself.

From “Echo” by Maroon V:

[blackbear:]

Yeah, I got this heart-shaped hole inside of me

I try to fill with anything

Like taking trips and buying things

Burn bridges that once guided me

And I hate the way I watched you leave

My ego got the best of me

I gave you insecurities, these tears fall off my

Bentley sheets

And now all I feel is depressed, all that I taste is regret

I cannot tell what is real, only the pain that I feel

You give me nothing but stress and this echo

(Echo, echo, echo)

You left in my chest

Teleios - wholeness. A high level of competence. Powers and talents fully developed. Complete, finished.

**James 1:4
(ESV).**

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.