

Elder Vernon Johnson
Animals

Duties of the Ministry Part 2 Perfecting of the saints

An important duty of the gospel ministry is to preach and teach to the Lord's people in such a way that it promotes and encourages their maturity or perfection in the service of the Lord. The following verses teach this principle:

1. Eph. 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

2. Col. 1:28 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

3. Col. 4:12 "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

4. 1 Thes. 3:9 "For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; 10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

5. 2 Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 7 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

A gospel minister must be aware of the spiritual state and knowledge of each member of the congregation and pray that the Lord will direct him as to what is needed to help each member to become more mature in his worship and service to God.