



## Into the Wilderness – Understanding & Embracing the Dark Times of Your Life

Words translated as “wilderness” occur nearly 300 times in the Bible. Wilderness seasons are brutal, but God is powerfully at work in the wilderness seasons of our lives. The only question is, do we have eyes to see it?

In order for God to give us the choice whether or not to trust him, He must present us with a moment of crisis, and, since he wants us to seek help from Him, he brings us through the wilderness to remove all other help first. When we’re in a wilderness season, it’s easy to lose sight of God’s protection, provision, and preparation. We might even wonder, “How can I trust God’s goodness when I’m in this desolate place?” But remember Jesus! He went through the ultimate wilderness—the desolation and humiliation of dying under the curse of God. If that is the measure of God’s love and commitment to us, we can trust him in our own wilderness seasons. Let’s journey together!

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable

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Wilderness: WALK WITH GOD – BECOME MATURE

August 20, 2020

*A Man Understands how God uses the wilderness to shape and train.*

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Deuteronomy 5:32,33; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Acts 17:1-3; Acts 18:1-4; I Timothy 4:13-16; II Timothy 3:14-17; II Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 1:28,29; Romans 8:29; John 15:1-11; Colossians 2:6,7  
**Music:** Mumford & Sons - Awake My Soul | 3FM Live  
**Videos:** Arkansas Trip

**Resources:** *Walking with God through Pain & Suffering* by Timothy Keller.  
*Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores* by Diane Langberg.  
*Restoring the Shattered Self – A Christian’s Counselor’s Guide to Complex Trauma* by Heather Davediuk Gingrich.

### Into the Wilderness: Moses Points Toward God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Moses called the people to walk with God: “You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess” (Deut. 5:33).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → “Walking with God” is not mere rule keeping and outward conformity. It is a matter of the heart also—“to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” But if it is more than just rule keeping, we must also remember that it is not without rule keeping. The words of the great *Shema* in Deuteronomy 6, call us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might (v. 4–5). In harmony with the teaching of the law, the prophets who came after Moses called Israel to walk with God in such obedience.

### Into the Wilderness: Become Mature Men – Colossians 1:28, 29.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → The apostle Paul writes in Colossians 1:28, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” This verse presents us with a summary statement of the Apostle Paul’s ministry, as it tells us of both the means he employed and the goal for which he toiled. Acts 17:2-3; 18:1-4; I Timothy 4:13-16; II Timothy 3:14-17, 4:1-5.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The goal of Paul’s comprehensive teaching of the Holy Scriptures was to present everyone “mature in Christ.” The word translated here as “mature” is the Greek word *teleios*. It is derived from *telos*, a word that means the goal, purpose, or end for which something exists or is performed. The one who is “*teleios* in Christ” is the one who, in union with Christ, has reached his or her *telos*, the end for which he or she has been made. It is God who determines our goal or purpose, for He is our creator. Romans 8:29; John 15:1-11; Col. 2:6,7.

### ACTION: Journal this!

1. What is your focus Today?
2. How are you becoming a mature man of God?
3. Who do you know that’s in the wilderness NOW?

### Bible Verses – The Message

**I Peter 4:1,2 - 1** Since Jesus went through everything you’re going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. **2** Then you’ll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.

**Deuteronomy 5:32,33 - 32** So be very careful to act exactly as God commands you. Don’t veer off to the right or the left. **33** Walk straight down the road God commands so that you’ll have a good life and live a long time in the land that you’re about to possess.

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - 1** This is the commandment, the rules and regulations, that God, your God, commanded me to teach you to live out in the land you’re about to cross into to possess. **2** This is so that you’ll live in deep reverence before God lifelong, observing all his rules and regulations that I’m commanding you, you and your children and your grandchildren, living good long lives. **3** Listen obediently, Israel. Do what you’re told so that you’ll have a good life, a life of abundance and bounty, just as God promised, in a land abounding in milk and honey. **4** Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! **5** Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that’s in you, love him with all you’ve got! **6** Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you **7** and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the

**II Timothy 4:1-5 - 1** I can’t impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open with his rule, **2** so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don’t ever quit. Just keep it simple. **3** You’re going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. **4** They’ll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. **5** But you - keep your eye on what you’re doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God’s servant.

**Colossians 1:28,29 - 28** We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. **29** That’s what I’m working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.

**Romans 8:29 - 29** God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

morning to when you fall into bed at night. **8** Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; **9** inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

**Acts 17:1-3 - 1** They took the road south through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica, where there was a community of Jews. **2** Paul went to their meeting place, as he usually did when he came to a town, and for three Sabbaths running he preached to them from the Scriptures. **3** He opened up the texts so they understood what they'd been reading all their lives: that the Messiah absolutely had to be put to death and raised from the dead - there were no other options - and that "this Jesus I'm introducing you to is that Messiah."

**Acts 18:1-4 - 1** After Athens, Paul went to Corinth. **2** That is where he discovered Aquila, a Jew born in Pontus, and his wife, Priscilla. They had just arrived from Italy, part of the general expulsion of Jews from Rome ordered by Claudius. **3** Paul moved in with them, and they worked together at their common trade of tentmaking. **4** But every Sabbath he was at the meeting place, doing his best to convince both Jews and Greeks about Jesus.

**I Timothy 4:13-16 - 13** Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. **14** And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed - keep that dusted off and in use. **15** Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! **16** Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.

**II Timothy 3:14-17 - 14** But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers - **15** why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another - showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. **17** Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

**John 15:1-11 - 1** "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. **2** He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. **3** You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. **4** "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. **5** "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. **6** Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. **7** But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. **8** This is how my Father shows who he is - when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. **9** "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. **11** "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature.

**Colossians 2:6,7 - 6** My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. **7** You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

#### "Awake My Soul" by Mumford & Sons

<p>How fickle my heart and how woozy my eyes I struggle to find any truth in your lies And now my heart stumbles on things I don't know My weakness I feel I must finally show</p> <p>Lend me your hand and we'll conquer them all But lend me your heart and I'll just let you fall Lend me your eyes I can change what you see But your soul you must keep, totally free Har har, har har, har har, har har</p> <p>Awake my soul Awake my soul</p>	<p>How fickle my heart and how woozy my eyes I struggle to find any truth in your lies And now my heart stumbles on things I don't know My weakness I feel I must finally show Har har, har har, har har, har har</p> <p>In these bodies we will live, in these bodies we will die And where you invest your love, you invest your life In these bodies we will live, in these bodies we will die</p>	<p>And where you invest your love, you invest your life</p> <p>Awake my soul Awake my soul Awake my soul</p> <p>For you were made to meet your maker</p> <p>Awake my soul Awake my soul Awake my soul</p> <p>For you were made to meet your maker You were made to meet your maker</p>
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