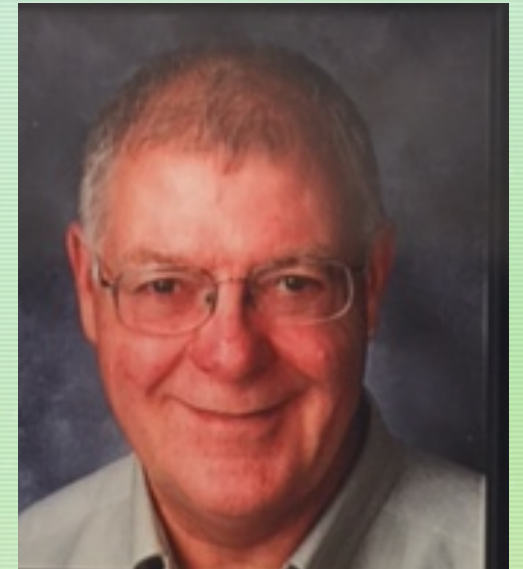


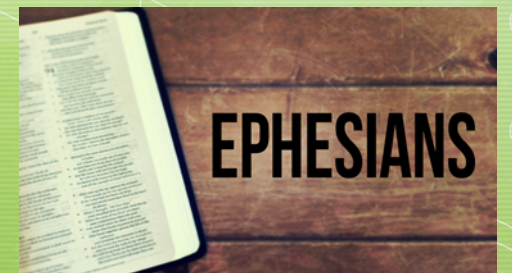
Adult Bible Study



**Led by
Dan
Schuch**

**Sunday, Oct 11
6:30 pm**

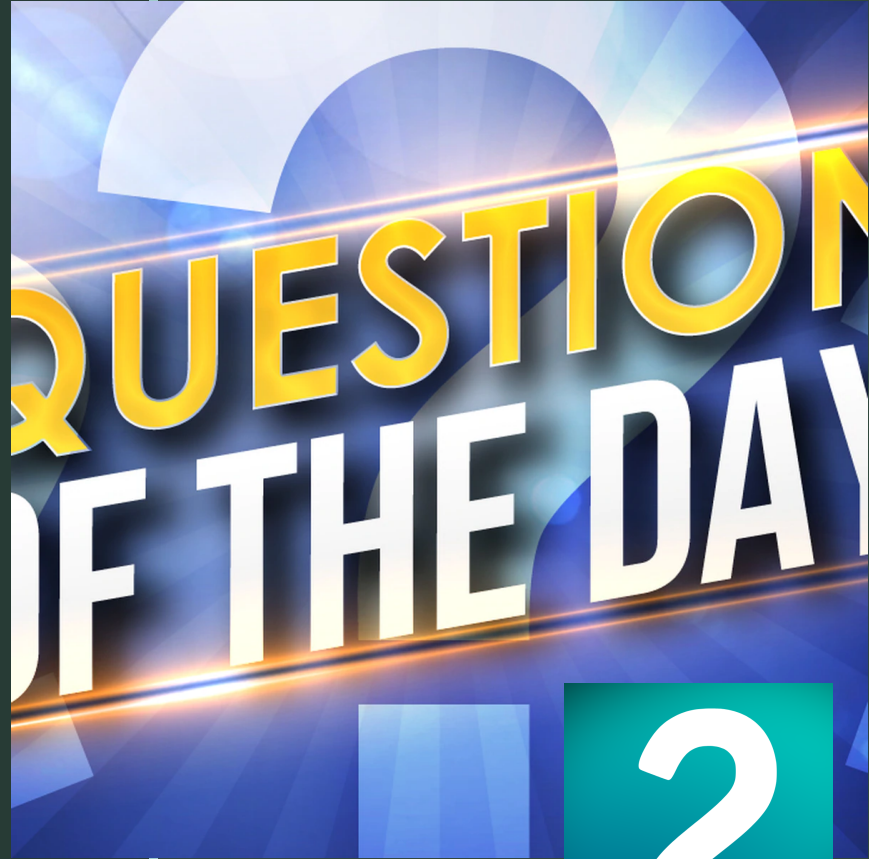
Prayer



QUESTION OF THE DAY

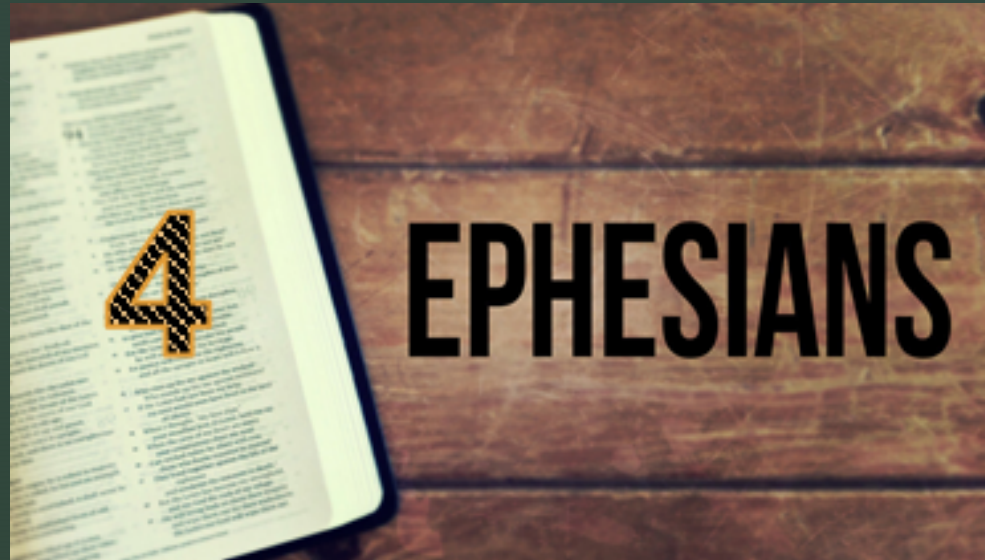
1

What does
it mean to
be mature
in Christ?



2

What is the difference between practical and theoretical?



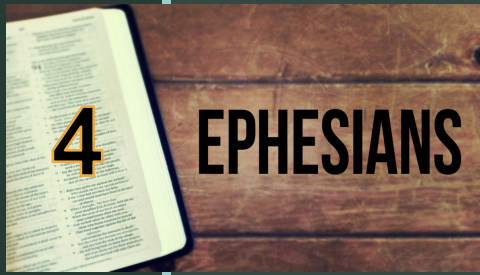


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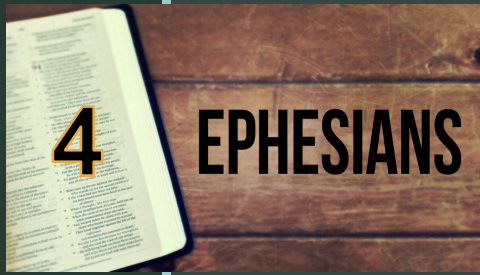
EPHESIANS

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.



⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

**“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”**



4

EPHESIANS

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,



4

EPHESIANS

¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



4

EPHESIANS

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.



4

EPHESIANS

¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



4

EPHESIANS

Instructions for Christian Living

¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.



4

EPHESIANS

¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.



4

EPHESIANS

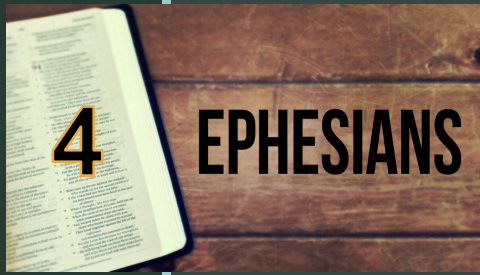
²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.



4

EPHESIANS

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.



2⁸Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.



4

EPHESIANS

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



4

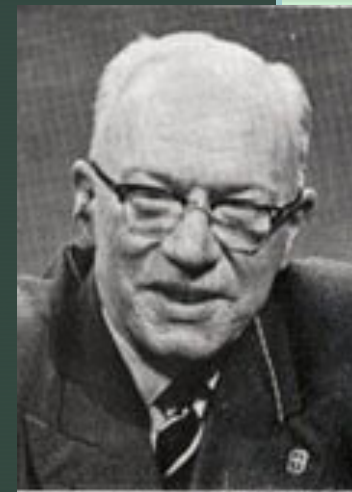
EPHESIANS

³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

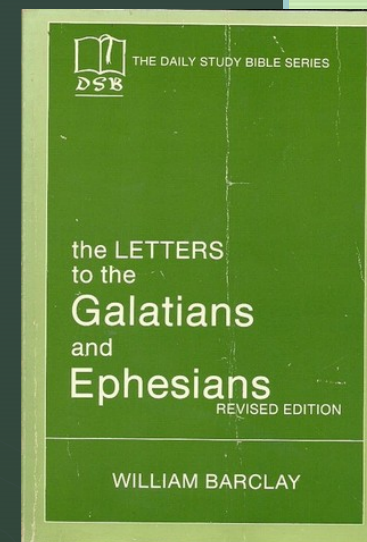


Let's dig in!

And now Paul turns to the character the Christian must have if the Church is to fulfil her great task of being Christ's instrument of universal reconciliation between man and man, and man and God within the world.



William Barclay



Chapter 4 is divided into two sections:

- **Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (*vs 1-16*)**
- **Instructions for Christian Living (*vs 17-32*)**

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (*vs 1-16*)

“You are called to be sons of God, you are called to be one with Christ, you are called to be kings and priests unto God; this is the highest possible vocation that anyone can have, so walk worthy of it.” O beloved, if we walk worthy of this vocation, what holy and noble lives we shall lead!



**Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)**

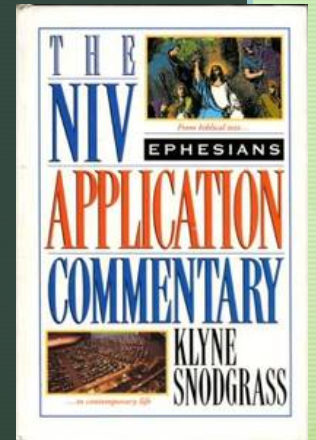
4.1



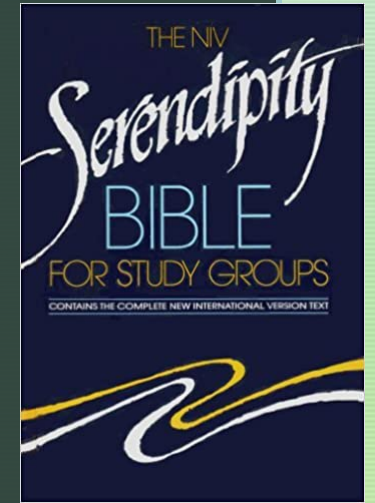
Verse one marks the transition from the prayerful description of God's grace and salvation in the first three chapters to an explanation of the consequences of grace in chapters 4 through 6.



Klyne
Snodgrass



Of the five qualities listed in verse two which one needs to be developed most in your life?



In order to have **humility**, we must renounce self-centeredness.

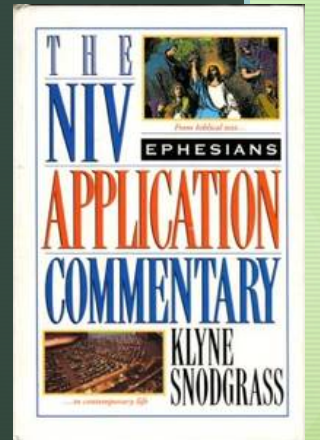
In order to have **gentleness** we must renounce harshness and violence.

In order to have **patience** we must renounce the tyranny of our own agendas.

In order to have **tolerant love** we must renounce our rights.



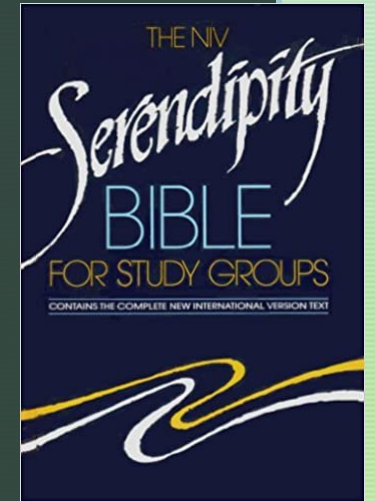
Klyne
Snodgrass



4.2



**How can your group help
you discover, develop, and
use your gifts?**



4:7

Then, whatever spiritual gifts we have, they are not our own to use as we please; they are only entrusted to us that we may employ them to help our fellow-Christians. Beloved brethren and sisters, we are one with Christ, and we are one with each other; and, therefore, we must not look every man upon his own things, but



Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

4.12-13



also upon the things of others; and it should be a question of the first importance to every Christian, “How can I best utilize myself for the benefit of the rest of the members of the Church?” Do not ask, “How can I benefit myself?” but let your enquiry be, “How can I be most profitable to my fellow-Christians?”

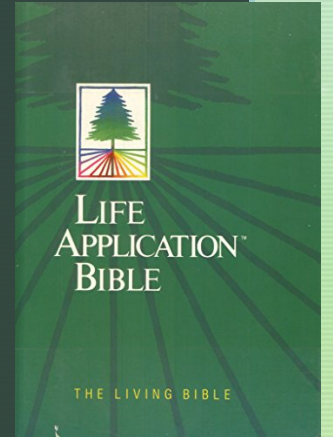


Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

4.12-13



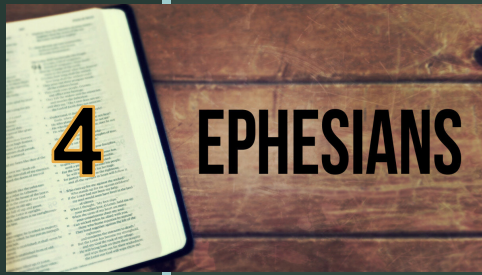
Some Christians fear that any mistake will destroy their witness for the Lord. They see their own weakness, and they know that many non-Christians seem to have stronger character than they do. How can they be new and different persons, holy and good?



4:15-16



Instructions for Christian Living (*vs 17-32*)

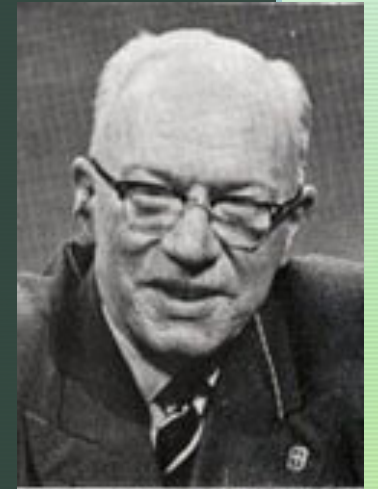


What does “ignorance” mean?

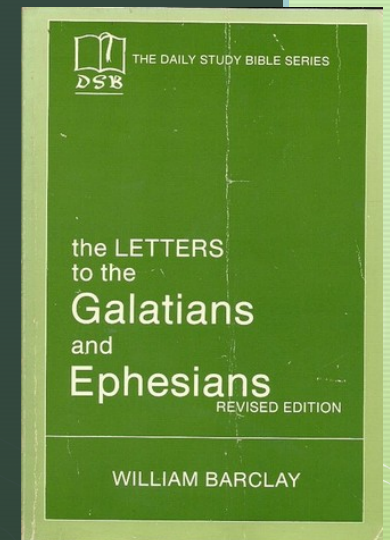
**What does “spiritual
ignorance” mean?**

**How do we get “spiritual
ignorance”?**

There must be anger in the Christian life, but it must be the right kind of anger. Bad temper and irritability are without defence; but there is an anger without which the world would be a poorer place. The world would have lost much without the blazing anger of Wilberforce against the slave trade or of Shaftesbury against the labour conditions of the nineteenth century.



William Barclay

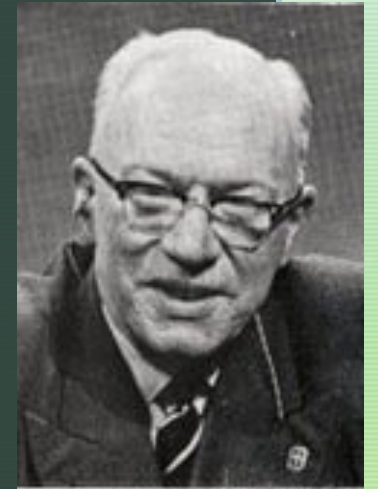


4.26

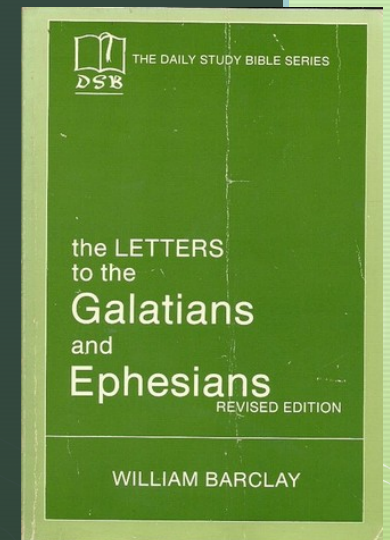


Paul's advice is sound, because the longer we postpone mending a quarrel, the less likely we are ever to mend it. If there is trouble between us and anyone else, if there is trouble in a Church or a fellowship or any society where men meet, the only way to deal with it is at once. The longer it is left to flourish, the more bitter it will grow.

4.26



William Barclay



DAN'S

FUN

ACTIVITIES



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
I APPROVE
THIS MESSAGE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

How to live (4:1-3, 25-31)

- Live & act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful things
- Be humble
- Be gentle
- Be patient
- Make allowance for each other's faults
- Try to be led by the Holy Spirit
- Be at peace with one another
- Stop lying to each other; tell the truth
- If we are angry don't sin by nursing grudges; don't let sun go down on your anger
- Stop stealing
- Don't use bad language
- Say only what is good and helpful
- Don't cause the Holy Spirit sorrow by the way you live
- Stop being mean, bad-tempered, and angry
- Be kind to each other
- Be tenderhearted
- Be forgiving of one another

Ephesians 4

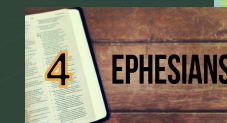
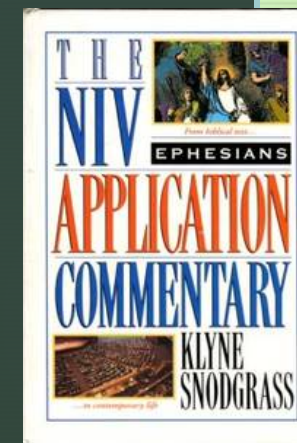
Take a look at the handout given in class.

Take a minute or two and identify 3 items you are really strong and 1 item you want to get better at.

Human responsibility is wedded to God's action but we are responsible we must expect something of ourselves. If God's salvation is so good, live like it. This requires an act of the will and a determination to follow through.



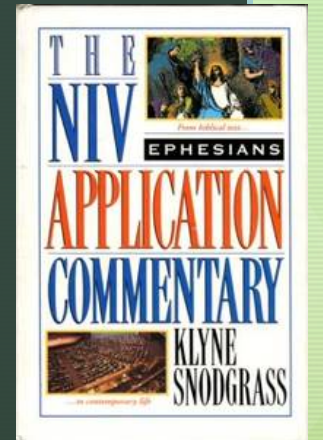
Klyne
Snodgrass



Our primary ethicists today are popular singers, actors, and talk show hosts, and they have led us to ruin. Surely Christians have something better to say - if they think through the significance of the gospel.



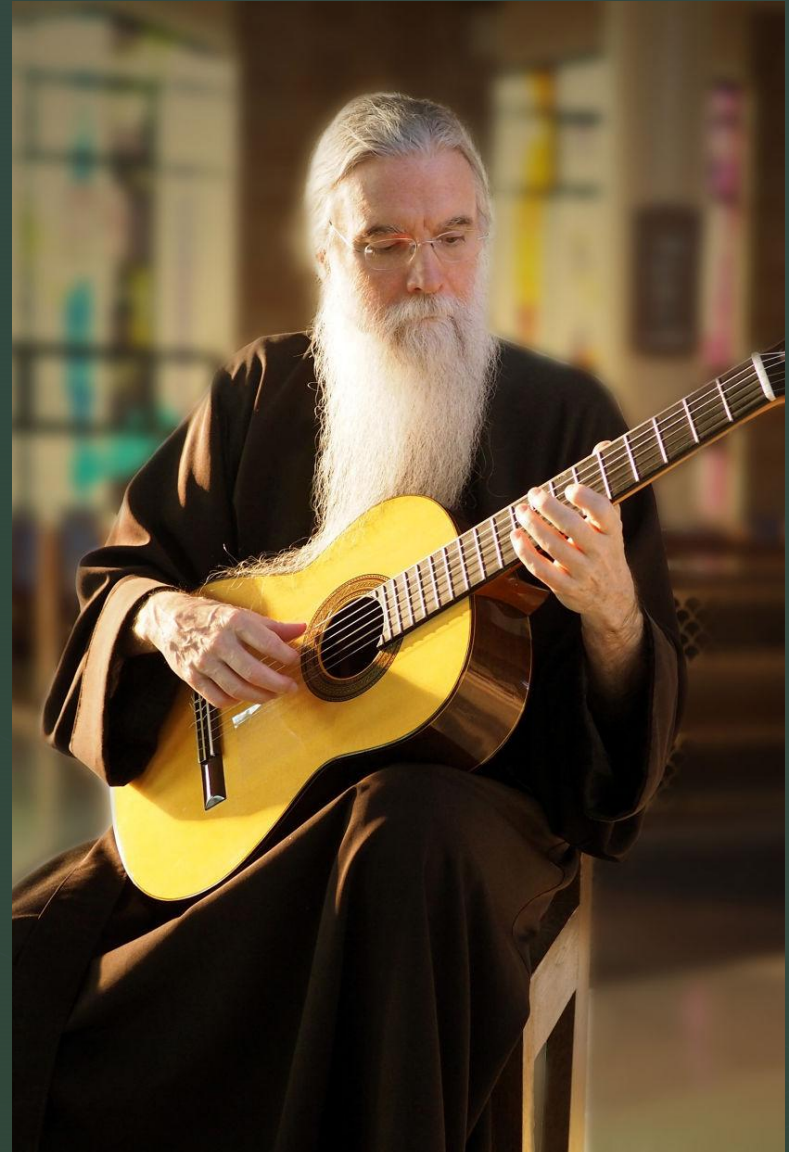
Klyne
Snodgrass







**The
story of
John
Michael
Talbot**



How to live (4:1-3, 25-31)

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- Be tenderhearted
- Be forgiving of one another

Live no longer as the Unsaved (4:17,18)

Why?

- Blinded confused
- Closed hearts
- Full of darkness
- Shut their minds against God
- Cannot understand His ways
- Don't care anymore about right and wrong
- Give themselves over to impure thoughts
- Driven by evil minds and reckless lusts

We are all parts of one body (4:4-13)

- We have one Spirit, Father, baptism, God
- Christ has given us special abilities
 - Psalmist proclaims
 - God returned from Heaven
 - Jesus who was here & rose and will come again
- We all have special gifts
- We can do better work for Him
 - Build up the church
 - Build up the body of Christ
- We will do this until all believe in Christ



That's all Folks!