

The Book of Ephesians (2019/2020 Study)

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Chapter 1

Ephesians 1:1-2

Quick Overview of the Book of Ephesians

Today we start another great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

So – Sit/Walk/Stand

So, doctrine and duty. Seated, walking, standing fast.

As I sit right now at this very moment I am at the "urgent care" doctors, waiting for the doctor to see me. Doctors are very very hard places for me to go, because they represent to me "down-time", inefficient time, zero productivity time. I am here because I have reached a point where I cannot walk, I literally today had to crawl to the tub so I could soak my foot. I had to get crutches so I could get from my car to the urgent care. I am now waiting for X-ray results, and blood work, for I cannot say what has caused my foot to swell. All I know is I am

struggling with not “producing”, not being on the move, not getting stuff done and accomplished. I have ministry to do, firewood to cut, leaves to rake, and the list goes on and on. I am way too busy to just be sitting around!

I think many of us, if not all of us, at some time, maybe even all the time, we have that mindset spiritually. We are so ready to get into the duty part, the moving part, of our spiritual life that we don't simply just “sit” and establish and solidify our position in Christ, that we run off into duty, before we have sat in the doctrine (our position in Christ). The resultant for many people then becomes a work-oriented Christian life, a legalistic ministry mentality, a requirement “to do”..... rather than “I get to do”. Duty becomes a demand, rather than a delight.

And yes I am talking more so than so-called ministry to the lost and dying world, or ministry inside the church walls, but I am talking about husbands loving their wives, and wives respecting their husbands, and children obeying their parents, and/or Christian workers serving their employer. Once we sit at His feet, fully bask in where we are seated, what our position “in Him” is, then walking the walk takes on a whole new power, a whole new peace, and a whole new joy.

Beloved..... The divine design of Ephesians is first to sit with Christ in the heavenlies (2:6), then to walk worthy of the vocation to which we're called (4:1), and finally to stand fast (6:13). All too often, we reverse the order. We think if we stand fast and hold our ground, then we can start walking, and maybe one day we'll sit in the heavenlies. In grace-oriented theology, the order is to first sit with Christ in the heavenlies, then to walk with Him responsively, and finally to stand fast in Him securely. That's why I'm looking forward to this study immensely....

Let's pray and see what the Lord has for us today.

Today's Study

Ephesians 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Title: Person, Position, and Promise

So as we study our passage today we will see three things, that will continually emerge throughout our study through all six chapters.... Person, Position, and Promise.

- Person – whether it is Paul or you, the epistle has a personal message to a person. This is not some lofty theological dissertations, but a personal letter written by God to the people He loves (that is you and that is me)
- Position – again, and throughout, our position in Christ. Again, not some lofty theological dissertation, but it is an epistle that reaches heights and depths of theology (study of God), but written real simple that we might all understand it (regardless how old in the Lord you may be), so that the ultimate and indisputable fact we be made to us, our position and security “in Christ Jesus”. Which by the way if you want a sweet time of Bible study, go through this epistle and underline how many times you see written “In Him”, In Christ”, and the likes of phrases that declare who we are as His sons and daughters.
- Promises – the position we have, are all promises, and all His promises are secured and indisputable, and given to us to lay hold of today, tomorrow, and forever.

Today in our verses, the person is Paul (and you and I), our position (saints), and the promise besides being saints is “grace and peace” to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

The Person - Paul

So written by the apostle Paul, about 60AD, some 30 years since Jesus ascended into heaven and was/is seated at the right hand of God, living to make intercession for Paul, for you, and for me.

Paul (formerly known as Saul) will come to faith after meeting Jesus personally on the Road to Damascus. Most scholars approximate that Paul came to salvation about 3-4 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Saul, means "desired", and Saul just as you, God desires greatly to have a personal relationship with. And, regardless of where you have been, and what you have done. Saul is that example for every person today who will say God would never receive me, nor ever desire and want me, to which the person Saul tears down that lie. Saul was out and about making widows and orphans as he went about hunting down Christians to destroy them. But then God met him on the road to Damascus, and revealed Himself to Saul.

Acts 9:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

To anyone here today, have you had that personal encounter with Jesus Christ yourself. I would say to you, if you have never had "that moment" with God, that you can put your finger on and say that is the day (whether you remember the exact day is irrelevant, but that you remember the moment is), the moment where you were sure you entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That you saw your sin separated you from the Holy God, and let it be known the wages of sin is death, but God demonstrated His love for us in that Christ traded places with us, and our response (and there is a response – for it is a decision to be made), that we agree (confess) that we need a Savior, and Jesus is the Savior, and we ask Him to come into our life personally as Savior and Lord. Have you done that? If so when? If not, why not?

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:8-13 (NKJV) ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

What do You Want me to Do?

Paul did that, He received Jesus as Lord and Savior, and (Acts 9:6) he then asks the Lord....what do you want me to do. Beloved, have you done that? Have you today, or lately, asked the Lord.... What do You want me to do? See Paul's response, as we will read the life of Paul, was Lord I am now Yours, now and forever, all the days of my life. Lord, your will.... Is not my life. Lord what is your will for me?

Paul – An Apostle

God's will, Paul states, "an apostle of Jesus Christ". Apostle means sent one. So as we closed out last week in our last study of the Book of Mark, we see we are all "sent ones". Maybe not in the way of the early church apostolic position that established the foundation of the church, but surely in the term of being sent ones.

John 20:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

We also studied, that Jesus' mission statement therefore becomes all who are "sent out"

Luke 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Jesus' Mission Statement (Our Mission Statement)

- To preach the gospel to the poor,
- To heal the brokenhearted,
- To proclaim liberty to the captives,
- To give recovery of sight to the blind,
- To set at liberty those who are oppressed,
- To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

God's Will for Paul

So, God's will for Paul was to be an apostle. To which we would all say, that is an awesome call, wow Paul. Well here is also God's will for Paul, and important for us to seize hold of personally ourselves.

2 Corinthians 11:22–28 (NKJV) ²² Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, *in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;* ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

God's will for Paul was all these things, beatings, stoning's, perils, and shipwreck. Yet he never turned back from the Gospel, from the hardships.

Philippians 3:4–11 (NKJV) ⁴ *though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Paul had all the greatness the world would offer, and he says I count it all loss, meaningless, rubbish, for the personal relationship I now have with Christ. See here.... All "SAUL" gloried in..... "PAUL" threw away. And once you see your position in Christ, seated, sealed, "HIS", all the things this world parades as glorious, will fade away for the excellency of Christ.

By the way, as we read this glorious epistle that has been called by many the "Swiss Alps of the New Testament" because of the great heights it takes the believer..... was written by Paul from prison. Paul, by the will of God, ends in prison because of his proclamation of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Acts 24:5–9 (NKJV) ⁵ For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶ He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. ⁷ But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took *him* out of our hands, ⁸ commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him." ⁹ And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

So – Can You Rest in the Will of God?

So for all of us, can we rest in the will of God? Can we rest in where we are at in that? So often we miss all the blessings of today, because we are regretting the past, or wanting some future that is different from today. Can you settle in, Betty a homemaker by the will of God? Jimmy a mechanic by the will of God? Mike a pastor of an unknown/recognized church by the will of God? Barb, a student by the will of God? If you are married, by the will of God? If you are single, by the will of God?

Jesus a Carpenter for 30 Years / Whom I am Well Pleased

Jesus was a carpenter with his dad for the first 30 years of His life. Imagine the cuteness of Jesus with His little play set when He was a toddler, as every kid loves to imitate His dad. Jesus was a carpenter for 30 years, and then had a public ministry for 3.5 years, but I point out to you that when Jesus was baptized and the beginning of His public ministry, God the Father spoke and said, “this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”. The Greek structure reads this as, “this is My Beloved Son in whom I am already well pleased with.” Jesus hadn’t preached yet or done a miracle, but the Father said I am already pleased with Him. Jesus had fellowshiped with His Heavenly Father day in and day out in the carpenter shop and the Father was well pleased with Him.

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Christian be settled in the will that God has for you today. If not, one of the reasons you won’t or can’t, is because you don’t know, haven’t settled on your position in Christ, and His promises to you. If we forget, or never come to the place that we are His, He holds us completely in Him, in His hand, if we forget, or don’t know all His promises, then we will come to a place that it is all up to us, that we go it alone, and then we will never rest in any situation or circumstance for we will be then trying to figure out we “we” have to do to change the situation or circumstance. But when we know our position, we can rest in that position, in whose hands hold us (God Himself), then we can rest we are in His perfect will.

Position – a Saint

Verse 1 - To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: - yes.... It is clearly written, and it clearly means what it says.... Saints. The word saint means, “most holy thing”. Something “Holy” in all the places of the Bible means “set apart, dedicated to God”. That is what you are, you are set apart, you are dedicated to God. You are His! God defines what a saint is, and He defines it by saying a saint is Mine”. You Christian are a saint.

The world, the Catholic church, their definition of saint is not the definition that is God’s, it is theirs wholly made up by them, contrary to the Word of God. We just read what a saint is by definition of God. Here are a couple quick counterpoints to the Catholic church’s definition, and they say to be a saint you have to be dead, and you have to perform confirmed miracles (2 of them). Well God sure would have been wasting time writing this letter to dead people, now wouldn’t He? But here are 2 miracles that God that do make us saints, the resurrection and the ascension. The resurrection confirms the price of sin has been paid, and the ascension seats Christ in heaven living to make intercession for us. Believe Christ raised from dead for your sins, and you are made “holy”, and if Christ lives to make intercession for us, then who can condemn us? There is our perfection, and there are the two miracles

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 8:31–35 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Saints – Light Shines Through

A little boy attended a church that had beautiful stained-glass windows. He was told that the windows contained pictures of Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, Saint Luke, Saint John, Saint Paul, and other saints. One day he was asked, “What is a saint?” He replied, “A saint is a person whom the light shines through

*Michael P. Green. (2000). 1500 illustrations for biblical preaching (p. 310). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Substantival Adjective

The word for “saint” here is in the form that is called “substantival adjective”. We use an adjective to describe something, such as the apple is very good, and the word good describes the apple. The apple is the noun, the

subject. But when using substantival adjectives, the adjective and the noun are one in the same. The adjective becomes the noun too. So being a saint doesn't describe us (such as they are a saint – such a sweet person), saint describes not just what we are like, but at the same time, who we are. We are saints, holy, and set apart, unto God. It doesn't just describe us, it is who we are!

Faithful means Trustworthy

Faithful in Christ Jesus – faithful means “trustworthy”. We have been found faithful because we have trusted Christ for salvation. And..... consider this..... God says to us, here is my greatest treasure, My Son, and I entrust Him to you, and you have been found trustworthy to give such a gift.

Ephesians 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Our Position

So we start off this book, with some many amazing proclamations and promises to us, but we start with this.... Our position as saints! You are a saint... in Christ Jesus. Halleluiah

Parents – Train Up Child in their Position

By the way, parents.... We are called to train up a child in the way they shall go. Part of that training is to make sure they fully know who they are in Christ, that they know their position in Christ, and their security in Christ. And let me add this too..... kind of a side, but not totally, when you correct your child (or here if you teach Sunday school or youth group, etc), when you correct them, tell them why you are. Have a Bible verse to support why you are correcting, or adjusting, and as often as you can tell them not just why they are not to do that, but confirm to them who they are in Christ, their position in Christ, and why they have a high calling. Don't use it as a beat down, but as an elevator, to raise them up to be holy (saints – set apart – dedicated to God), and how precious and priceless they are to God. So take every so-called problem, and make it an opportunity, for that is the power we have because of Christ, that problems are opportunities to become more like Jesus.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesus

So this is written to the church in Ephesus, which is in modern day Turkey, and we will be talking more about the culture and environment which they are living, but here are a few things that make this epistle and the people it was written to relevant to us.

- Ephesus was the 4th largest city in the known world
- Population of 300,000 which was huge in that day
- It was a religious center, but not so much a Christian center, but idol worship.
- They had many temples, and temple worship, some of the most well-known were the temple of Diana and the temple of Artimus.
- It was a great cultural center, political center, and very wealthy.
- Does this sound familiar to America or what?

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Promises

Grace & Peace, it is not just a greeting to us from God, but a promise to us.

- Grace – God's Riches At Christ's Expense
- Peace – the war is over because the finished work of GRACE!

Grace always precedes peace in the epistles, because man can never have peace with God apart from God's grace, and man has to experience and receive God's grace as the entry way into peace.

Love Letter From

This love letter has the signature up front of who is writing it, not the end as we sign off today. God is declaring His promises..... for all of them are based on and sign and sealed upon, God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

A most wonderful start to this Book, two verses filled with the heart of God to His people. A love letter indeed.

God Says Come

Today we come and are gifted this Word from God Himself, His very heart opened before us, the calling to come near, be drawn to Him.

[Matthew 11:28 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- [Who Is God? \(How Great is He?\)](#)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

[Hebrews 4:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 1:3-6
Title: Chosen!

Ephesians 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3–6 (NKJV) ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Great Miser / Many Believers living like Paupers

She had gone down in history as "America's Greatest Miser", yet when she died in 1916, Hetty Green left an estate valued at over 100 million dollars. She ate cold oatmeal because it cost to heat it. Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she chose to wait in line at a free clinic, and gangrene set in and he lost his leg. After she read the morning newspaper, she made her son go back out on the street and resell the paper. She was wealthy, yet she lived like a pauper. We can sit with amazement and wonder why she did what she did, but she is actually an illustration of too many Christian believers. They have limitless wealth at their disposal, and yet they live like paupers. The book of Ephesians is written to believers that they may stand-up and claim the riches available to them.

Quick Overview of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it)". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
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Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Chosen
- Predestined

Position

- In Him
- Adopted
- Accepted

Promise

- Every spiritual blessing
- Holy and without blame
- Grace

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Blessed – Speak Well Of / The Power of Praise and Thanksgiving

Blessed – the Greek word is (Eulogetos), it is where we get our English word “eulogy”. To do a eulogy, you speak well of a person. You speak to their nature and their character, their goodness, and that's what we're being told here in verse three to speak well of the nature and character of our Lord, for all of his blessings and his goodness that he has given on to us. Can we do that? Can we speak well of him? Can we give him praise apart from anything else? Before asking anything or expecting anything, just simply because he's worthy to be praised because of his great blessing.

Interestingly, the word blessed here is not found anywhere else in classical Greek, and it's only used in reference to God. And so, in classical Greek they never used it even as they tried to associate with all the false gods. So it's quite interesting, this word's only used here in the New Testament writings, and it refers to God. And again it's where we get our word eulogy, and it means to speak well of. And so here Paul is saying, "Man, I have to speak well of God the Father. He's amazing with all the spiritual blessings and inheritance that He gave us.

And there's such a powerful place there in that one of the powers to receive these three chapters and all the promises that are made to us is to be people who praise God and bless God for His grace, and His mercy, and His love, and His character, and His nature, and just find ourselves opening our heart and praising Him because He's worthy. Praise will always lead to hearts open to receive the word of God.

who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, - the location for all spiritual blessings is found in only one place.... Jesus Christ.

You Must be Born-again

"In Christ, so you must be born again." If you're trying to walk, but none of these things are in you, if you're trying to do the fruit of the spirit, you just may not be in Christ. You have to ask yourself, is there a moment that I can put my finger on that I was born again? Because if not, then you're probably not and you can change that today. You can solidify this thing, this point of being in Christ right now by asking him to become your Lord and savior and to take you in and make you his own.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Blessings Found in Jesus – (in 10 times from verses 3-13)

The blessings are located in Christ. The blessings are not located in the church. They're not located in the world. They're not located in our wisdom. They're not located in our efforts. They're simply located in Christ. And so, as disciples, we walk along with Jesus. That's where the blessings are. Again, we don't have to reach far for them. We just need to receive them as he lives to make intercession that our hearts would be moved, our minds would be convinced I can have these things.

Now, as much as I speak this, I need to put a caveat in there. Obedience is part of receiving. We can't live in a disobedience and expect to be receiving things from the Lord. But on the other side, when you know your position in Christ and what Christ thinks of you, you know what you're going to find? You're not going to be struggling with habitual disobedience. You'll be so convinced of who you are in Christ, you won't want to live contrary to that. And you won't see that it's up to you and upon you, but that it's on Jesus and upon him, and everything changes.

Our position is in Christ and we'll read that statement or the equivalent of it 10 times in verses 3 through 13. The word "in" is used about 120 times in these six chapters. Verses 3 through 14 are one complete sentence with no run-on. It's amazing. It is considered possibly the greatest grammatical sentence ever written. It is still yet to be found a grammatical sentence in the Greek, in an ancient writing, of this perfection. That should tell us something. It's definitely written outside of our time domain.

So, as we read 3 through 13, it should be considered one thought. So even as we move into next week's study, it will still be part of this week's studies thought. Again, these are eternal terms outside of our time dimension. So we live inside a time domain that is present. When we step out of this time domain, out of this earth, we step into an eternal time domain. So the words God are saying are eternal to Him because He's outside of our time domain. But for us living inside the time domain, we have a response to the words that are spoken now.

We are Seated Next to Him – We can Rest in Him

Seated means to rest. And so we're told that we're seated in the heavenlies. We can rest in the heavenlies where we're seated, and we don't have to work up the walk and work to claim what is already bestowed upon us. It's the other way. We take what has been given to us and then use it as we go out to walk and work for the Lord.

Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

When Jesus said, "Follow me," we can take that and look at that Jesus is walking ahead and we're following behind. But the actual verb tense and usages, Jesus is saying follow with me meaning follow alongside of me. When we come to that as disciples, that he's walking with us alongside of us and we're walking with him alongside of him, then we can see that the spiritual blessings that are promised to us, and are guaranteed to us are right there next to us. And it's not something that we have to reach for some high lofty reach, but it's just right there with he whom we walk with, Jesus Christ.

Remember, he lives at the right hand of the Father, and he's living to make intercession for us. He's praying these blessings for us and he's praying right now and interceding that we can understand what our inheritances are, and

that we would claim them today because we have the free will to claim or leave unclaimed. And he's interceding for you right now that your heart would be moved to claim these promises of God.

Romans 8:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Everything Needed is In Him / Spiritual (Pneuma) Blessings

Everything you need to live according to God's will and purpose has been given. Now we just need to take it and use it. And so what I say is you don't have to ask for what has been given. You just have to go use it. So the prayer isn't the ask to be seated, to be accepted, to be loved. The prayer is to believe it and then use it accordingly.

Well, what are some of the inheritance? The word here, spiritual inheritance, gives us a clue. It's the word pneuma, which is the word for wind, which is the word for spirit. It's the fruit of the spirit. It's the power to walk worthy. It's the power to have these fruits and these gifts.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

People Say I Can't – Because they Don't/Won't

People can say, "I can't love. I can't have joy. I can't have peace. I can't have patience. I can't have kindness." But the day you came to Jesus, all these things were yours. Now it's yours to claim and to receive and to use. See, with this teaching and when you know who you are in Christ and where you're seated, you can no longer say, "I can't love or I can't have peace." You could say, "I choose not to love. I choose not to have peace. I choose not to have joy." But you cannot say, "I can't have love. I can't have peace. I can't have joy," regardless of the circumstance because all of these spiritual fruits and gifts have been given to us. And so, if we claim them and apply them, then we can have them. Do you see the difference that's being made here? Earthly thinking versus heavenly thinking.

James 3:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

God is Saying "Think from the Heavens"

Here is a major understanding of what is being developed here in this passage, and literally for the whole epistle..... catch this Christian.....all the "cant's", and the "falls" in our lives come from earthly thinking. You must think with your mind set on things above. Our thinking must change locations..... from earthly thinking to the heaven, where Christ is, seated on the throne, living to make intercession, offering us all the wisdom in the universe.

When you see..... based on my spiritual inheritance, with Christ living to make intercession for me..... I can love that person, I can have peace as I don't have to live in this fear and anxiety, I can have joy that surpasses the circumstances of this world. I can overcome because I have an open checkbook on all these things in my account in heaven. My account on earth is pretty bankrupt on these things such as love, joy, peace,.... But the checkbook of heaven is unlimited.

Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

We need to come to the Lord, daily I might, continually at that, and say Lord I need to make a withdrawal....Christian we have to change the way we think, we need to see past the earthly resources, the fleshly resources, and look into the heavens and see the wealth of spiritual blessings available to us. We have to change the way we think. We have to think outside this world. This epistle is meant to teach us and take us, into the heavens.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Spurgeon

Spurgeon says, "I'm glad God chose me before the foundations of the world because if it was after the foundations of the world when I was born He would never have chosen me.

Chose – Once and For All – Chosen Out From / Remember You are a Saint

Chose - The word chosen in the verb tense means once and for all, and the word means out from amongst. So we have been chosen "once and for all", thus there is no going back or undoing, IT IS DONE! And we have been chosen out from amongst. That is why we are "Saints", and not "aints". A saint as we study last week, the word saint means, "most holy thing". Something "Holy" in all the places of the Bible means "set apart, dedicated to God". That is what you are, you are set apart, you are dedicated to God. You are His! God defines what a saint is, and He defines it by saying a saint is Mine". You Christian are a saint., chosen out from amongst those who refuse the gift of salvation, and it is DONE! And God says there is no going back, [your position is secure, by He whom secured it!](#)

Claim/Believe the Position – Or Will Never Live the Duty

You see, if you don't seize and claim these promises, you will never be able to move on into the duty in the calling that God has for you. You'll never be able to live in power if you're weakened by a weak foundation or lack of a foundation. But when you can settle in then all these promises are yes, and amen, and God, and what he says and declare are truth and amen. Amen means so be it. Then you'll go and you'll live just as such.

You were called a saint, and he gets to that point very quickly in verse two. And now the rest of this book is going to be God made you a saint. You're called a saint. You're secured and guaranteed to be a saint. Now go live like you are. Not live like and become a saint, but live because you are a saint. Some people think if I walk and I work, then I can become a saint, where God says, "No, you're a saint. Now go walk and work as if you are."

Holy and Without Blame

Verses 4 - holy and without blame before Him in love, - Remember the word for saints? It is the "holy" which means to be set apart, dedicated to the Lord. Here is that word again, and rather than used as the word "saint" it is used as "holy".

I believe a promise and declaration is being made here – that is how God views us in Him. So when the accuser of the brethren come, that Devil, and he tries to make an accusation against us, the Lord shuts him down and declares they are in Me, and there are perfected, and therefore they are holy (saints) and without blame, there is no accusation you can make you Devil that can stick against them.

[Revelation 12:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

We have to change the way we think. When the Devil accuses us we have to say, those accusations have been shut down in heavenly places. So that leaves the world (people) and myself left to tear me down, to which I have to say..... regardless, God says holy and without blame, and so that is the way He sees it, therefore I will change my mind and see it the same. And when you know who you are in Christ, the way He sees you, what will you do, start living like it.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

We are His Pleasure

Good pleasure. It brings Him pleasure to make us His own. You bring Him pleasure by making Him your own. So once again, just the volume, a sea, a mountaintop of all that God thinks of us.

Predestined

Predestined means to determine beforehand. This means exactly what it says, that God chose a person before the foundation of the world. Some people have a hard time with this, and they try to reason it away, and in the end they lose the heart of what is being said, God chose you and predestined you, to be His.

Scriptures Teach Both Predestination & Freewill

The scriptures clearly teach both predestination and man's freewill. We therefore cannot teach one over the other, both together. Spurgeon likened them each to a rail on a railroad track. He said I might not be able to reconcile these two tracks, but you surely can't make these two tracks cross either. They both exist in the scriptures.

Eternal vs Present

Again, these are eternal terms outside of our time dimension. So we live inside a time domain that is present. When we step out of this time domain, out of this earth, we step into an eternal time domain. So the words God are saying are eternal to Him because He's outside of our time domain. But for us living inside the time domain, we have a response to the words that are spoken now.

Ironside

As Henry Ironside says, "As you enter the gates of heaven, you'll see the sign that says, 'Whosoever will'. Then when you walk through the gate and turn around and look at the backside of it, of the gate, it will say 'Chosen before the foundations of the world', and you can see you walk through the door, but God knew you were coming."

Some Let it Go to Their Head

I believe that verse 5 should start with "in love", not end with in verse 4. "In love predestined us" – for that is what the heart of the matter should be when we talk about predestination, and that is God's great love.

Unfortunately, some people let predestination go to the head rather than the heart, in that they can feel elevated as if it was something to do with themselves, and that God chose them because of something that was within them that made them qualify. And therefore, then it carries over that they look down upon others in judgment as inferior and as they are superior. Now predestination should be reasoned in our head because God never asked us to skip our minds. In fact, He wants us to give all of ourselves to Him, heart, mind, soul, and strength. But nonetheless, predestination should reach our hearts and not just our heads.

It's truly in spite of me, God still saved me. Predestination is impossible without the grace of God. He didn't save me, nor predestined me, because there was something good in me.

Man's Responsibility

Now man is separated from God because of sin, and if they don't do something about their sin, they will perish to hell for all eternity. There's only one sin that is the unpardonable sin, and every man gets to choose it. So there is free will that is clearly seen, and the unpardonable sin is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit means to speak against. That's what blasphemy means, to speak against the Holy spirit. The ministry of the Holy spirit is to convict the world of sin. And the Holy Spirit is convicting every man that your sin separates you from the Holy God and that you need a savior.

Matthew 12:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

John 16:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

As we read in Peter's epistle, God wishes that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance. And if it doesn't get any clearer, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever should believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." And so we see belief is an action that man takes to receive this gift of salvation, which if we can comprehend our minds around it is predestined for us. **2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)** ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:16–21 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Why do I camp so hard on this point? Because I see that there's a teaching out there that can be presented, that God elects some for salvation and therefore He elects some for damnation. And that is nowhere to be found in the scriptures anywhere. He gives man His free will, and you have your free will and the invitation today to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. He wishes that none should perish, but all should seek repentance. And He gave his only begotten son to the whole world. And then the people who believe that are the ones who receive that. Because see, if I believe that God chooses some for salvation and others for damnation, then I would say there's no way that He would ever choose me for salvation, because I deserve nothing but damnation. But then as I continue on and read through and fully understand these terms, then I see what an amazing God of love.

My Story – For Your Consideration

Whoever comes to Christ is called the Bride. So here let me share this story with you. After me and Renee were engaged, she told me (as some things you will never forget), that she had waited for me. That she knew that we would be together, even though there really was no reason for her to believe that as we weren't talking, we weren't smiling at each other, we weren't sitting next to each other at church. There was no pursuit going on. We knew each other, surely there was a consideration could this be the one, but no pursuing was going on at the moment, yet still she felt I was the one the Lord had for her to marry. Obviously that which she believed came from her Father in heaven.

Now when Renee showed interest in me, I was like really, wow!

Then after talking and seeing each other at church we were on a date, and we left the restaurant, and were walking down the avenue side by side, and she took my hand, and that was it, literally, that was it for me. I knew from that point on, I wanted to marry her.

Then several months later, it was me asking her, will you marry me. One of the arguments made for and against predestination is what they call irresistible grace, that a person who is predestined by God cannot say no, therefore they have no free-will to choose. Well, when Renee took my hand it surely felt irresistible to me, but I chose, for where else would I want to be. Regarding God, yes there are some people who will say no, I'd rather be single, then to be married to You, and tied down to a relationship with You, I'd rather do my own thing.

And let this not be missed either, even though God predestined you who have come to Him, He still chose you, He wanted you. For He loves you.

Now it was I who asked Renee to marry me. To which when I asked, she said yes, for she had always knew that someday I would. I see a good picture of predestination in my story; God knew who would come, offered His love, and let a person decide, if they would receive His love.

Beloved, I don't want to lose the heart of what predestination is, I don't want to turn it into a theological argument nor a theological mind lock, I want us to see predestination for what it.... A God who loves me, loves you, and says to you will you marry me, and spend the rest of your life (of all eternity) with Me? Predestination is a love story..... how will your story end?

Adopted

Story – Mom and Dad Wanted Me

Speaking of adoption, I remember my friend or somebody telling me the story of, he had adopted one child and he by birth had another child. And one day they were fighting and the born child said to the other, "Oh yeah? Well, you're adopted," thinking to flatten down that sibling, to which the other child said, "Well, oh yeah. Well, mommy and daddy, they chose me, but you, they were stuck with."

Roman Law of Adoption

This term adoption used here was of an adult being adopted, not of a child as we so often think so. But this adult is old enough to be adopted into a family. And when you were adopted under Roman Law, you could never lose your position in the family, and you were guaranteed your inheritance.

When he/she is adopted, he/she is entitled to the full inheritance which is guaranteed on to him. That is what we have here speaking to us. The full inheritance is given to us and received to us as adopted sons and daughters.

[Ephesians 1:3 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

William Randolph Hearst

William Randolph Hearst, the story is told that he was reviewing a drawing and he saw an incredible artwork. And he says, "I must have it." William Randolph Hearst at the time was one of the greatest millionaires in the whole world. And so, he told his staff to go find this piece of artwork and they searched the world and they came back and says, "We can't find it." And he says, "Then you go back out and you search for it again until you do find it because I must have it." So they went and they did just that.

They came back sometime later and says that we have found it. And he said, "Great, where did you find it?" And they said, "We found that in your warehouse." And so there's a picture for all of us. We have so many riches, and yet sometimes they're just stuck away in the warehouse that we don't even know that we own them. God is screaming out to us today, "Know who you are and know the riches of your inheritance that is offered to you." And if you have them in a warehouse or if you have them locked up in a vault, time to bring them out now and to claim them, seize them and enjoy them..... as part of our inheritance as sons and daughter of the King of the Universe.

Oh Christian may we change the way we think!

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Grace has No Condition on It

Verse six. Grace has no condition on it. You just have to accept that and make that a solid belief. There is no condition on grace, at least not on the one who receives grace. The condition only exists on the giver. And then, for God, His condition for grace is His only begotten son.

We are fully accepted in the Beloved.

Chosen – Predestined – Adopted – The Flag of Promise

The day was September 13, 1814, from the embankments of Fort McHenry looking out into the entrance to Baltimore harbor one would see British war ships determined to bring the infant nation to its knees. Although America had only recently miraculously won her independence from royal tyranny that sought to enslave the colonists into a world controlled by a hot-headed monarch determined to quash freedom of religious expression, Great Britain still controlled the seas with the largest, most powerfully Navy on earth - a Navy she used regularly to interdict American shipping, pillaging cargo and forcing sailors into involuntary sea duty aboard brutal frigates owned by the crown. Britain never imagined the infant America would dare to declare war to stop the oppression, but we did - boldly and justly, but with no real hope of victory.

Preoccupied by war with France, Britain paid little heed until, in 1814, having settled matters in Europe, she turned her attention and naval wrath on her former colonies, sailing with a mighty irresistible armada up the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, landing in Washington, where citizens fled in terror (including the Madisons), leaving the Brits to burn the White House and Treasury buildings to the ground. The armada then sailed back out to the Bay and north to Baltimore, planning a devastating crush that would bring the states to their knees and make them subject to the king once again. However, the Baltimoreans did not run; instead, embarrassed by their Washingtonian fellow citizens, they dug in and determined to fight valiantly to the last man if necessary. In preparation (in those days, people knew for weeks an invasion was on its way, and America had no Navy to stop the British armada) the commander of Fort McHenry, which guards the entrance to Baltimore harbor, ordered the largest American flag ever made sown for him - it measured 42 feet by 30 feet and was finished in a near-by warehouse by a team of seamstresses.

When the British armada opened fire on the helpless fort - the range of the ships' guns was far greater than that of the fort's - with a barrage of nearly 1,800 heavy rounds, the smoke blocked out the light of day, but, as you know, when it cleared, the giant fifteen starred banner was still waving in defiance. Meanwhile, a British invasion by land was met with the fierce determined opposition of the Baltimoreans and turned back. Each time the ships sailed closer to the fort, McHenry's guns drove them back. Finally, they gave up and sailed home, freedom was preserved, and British sea-going piracy ceased. The infant nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, not only survived, but also triumphed.

Ft McHenry ----a great battle fought to take back this nation, but victory was America's. As we look at this flag we are reminded we are free because the battle won there. For America, this flag is a daily reminder of the freedom we enjoy, and has lasted for over 200 years.

God gives us a flag, in a sense, one that has lasted for over 2000 years and will never fade or tatter, He gives us this word – predestined, pre-determined– he spoke it before the foundation of the world. He says when you hear this word, remember this word, let it be a reminder to you of the battle that was won on Calvary, and the promise of your freedom, and your destiny, forever.

Maj George Armistead, commander of the Fort, said I want Ft McHenry's flag to be large enough that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance. God says I'm giving you a word large enough that you will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance. When the enemy and this world attack. When all seems hopeless, when the day seems like night, and the attack seems like it will never end, when you question if you are saved, may we remember this word....chosen, predestined, pre-determined....guaranteed we are adopted, and accepted in the Beloved.

Conclusion

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Chosen
- Predestined

Position

- In Him
- Adopted

- Accepted

Promise

- Every spiritual blessing
- Holy and without blame
- Grace

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 1:7-10

Title: Redemption Puts the Broken Pieces Back Together

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it)". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Redeemed
- Forgiven
- Pleasing to Him

Position

- In Him
- Gathered together to Him
- In Christ

Promise

- Redemption through His blood
- Forgiveness of sin
- Abounding wisdom and prudence (knowledge)
- Broken Pieces put back together

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Promised Spiritual Blessings

So verse seven begins some of the blessings that are promised to us, our spiritual inheritance in the heavenly places, starting here in verse seven that we read on. We start verse 7 with our position, "IN HIM", which determines, delivers, fulfills everything else regarding our spiritual inheritances.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Verse 7 - In Him we have redemption

Definition of Redemption / Present Tense – Durative (Continual) in Action

Redemption means - a releasing effected by payment of ransom. 1A redemption, deliverance. 1B liberation procured by the payment of a ransom. (Strong)

The verb is present in tense, and durative in action, thus, "in whom we are having redemption." The redemption is an abiding fact from the past, through the present, and into the future. The fact of redemption is always a present reality with the believing reader of this passage whether he reads it today or ten years from now.

Familiar Term – 60 Million Slaves / Slaves Expensive / God's Grace can Afford It

Redemption was a familiar word in that day, maybe not so much in our day today, but at the time of this writing of Paul writing this in the midst of the Roman Empire, there's an estimation historically that there were 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire. And I might add that though there were many slaves, slaves still were not cheap. They had to be purchased. We see the price of a slave of 30 pieces of silver, but a slave that you would purchase then you still had to take care of. You had to feed, you had to clothe, you had to house and all that. So people might be wealthy enough to buy one slave, someone rich enough to buy several thousand slaves. But Christ purchased the sea of humanity, of slaveries, and to redeem man and oh, the riches of His grace; His grace can afford it. How great is His grace!

Verse 7 - through His blood

Redemption – Definite Article / Through His Blood

Verse seven, the word here for redemption is a definite article. So it reads the redemption, literally stating the one and only way of redemption is through the blood of Jesus Christ. And that is what the scripture says, "For there is no name given under heaven that a man can be saved except the name of Jesus Christ." Jesus is the only way, there is no other way. All roads do not lead to God, only through Jesus Christ. But here is the great things, all

though He is the one and only way, His way is more than enough, the riches of His grace can more than afford His only and Only Way.

[Acts 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

[John 14:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Blood Donor Champion / White as Snow – the Champion Jesus

Joe Kerkofsky was America's blood donor champion. Joe lost an arm when he was six, so when WW 2 broke out he was rejected for military service. But Joe could give blood. Over his lifetime, Joe Kerkovsky gave 31 gallons, and saved the lives of countless people. Remember the human body only holds 10-12 pints of blood, so Joe gave all he had more than 20 times. Joe made the comment, "Giving blood makes you feel like you're contributing life itself. There's no more precious a gift than life. Money can't buy the joy of giving blood to help someone who needs it." And those words could've been taken right out of the mouth of our Lord Jesus. Only one person has given more blood - and experienced greater joy from doing so – than Joe Kerkofsky - and that's Jesus Christ. Millions have received life, and been redeemed by Jesus' blood. As the hymn puts it, White as snow, white as snow, thought my sins were as scarlet, Lord I know, Lord I know, that I'm clean and forgiven. Through the power of Your blood, through the wonder of Your love, through faith in you I know that I can be white as snow.

[Isaiah 1:18 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Life in the Blood / A Bloody Nose

The Life is in the Blood – Leviticus tells us, what we know, that the life is in the blood. And it illustrates, that if man has no blood He dies, and the spiritual illustration come to us that if a man does not have the blood of Jesus He dies. The life is in the blood.... The blood of Jesus. Blood has many different functions, such as - transporting oxygen and nutrients to the lungs and tissues - forming blood clots to prevent excess blood loss - carrying cells and antibodies that fight infection - bringing waste products to the kidneys and liver, which filter and clean the blood regulating body temperature. The body needs blood to heal.

[Leviticus 17:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

[Hebrews 9:22 \(NKJV\)](#) ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Some time ago, Renee and I were visiting some friends. They had just gotten a new puppy, which was in the toddler age when we had come to visit, he was a big puppy. Well Renee and the couple were in the kitchen making coffee or something, and I was sitting on the floor petting the puppy. And I don't know exactly what happened, but I had looked away towards the kitchen, and the next thing I know is I felt a thump on my nose. I don't know if the dog turned and bit me in the nose, or what I think, that I had quit petting him for that moment I looked away, and he reached up with his paw to get my attention to keep petting him. Whatever the cause, I had a surface scratch on my nose, the kind that bleeds profusely. So there I am all of sudden with a bloodied face, what a sight, especially in a friendly visit coming from the living room. The sight of it produced a shock amongst all, and immediately the room went into "emergency mode". Renee is like where are the keys to the car I will pull it up front and we will go to the emergency. Our friend is a flight attendant so she grabbed her emergency book, turned to bloody nose, and she says "it says to tilt your head back to reduce the bleeding", and I can hear her husband (as only marriage couple do) saying it is a cut it is not a bloody nose. It was quite comical as I am listening to all this. But you know what I did? I went into the bathroom, and I stood over the sink, and rather than trying to stop the bleeding, I let the blood flow, I just leaned over the sink for a good minute or two, and let the blood flow. I know I had either been bitten by dirty dog mouth, or scratched by a dirty dog paw, and this is what I know the blood does..... it cleanses! Nothing was going to clean that wound out, no manmade medicine or ointment, better than the blood itself flowing and cleansing!

Nothing cleanses like the blood. THE (definite article) blood is what redeems.

Pain and the Flow of Blood

After the blood cleanses, then it heals by clotting. I found something interesting this week, as I continued on with a swollen foot that took doctors 3 weeks to figure out what was wrong with it. But it was something that the swelling started to go down, after 3 weeks, when I started to walk on it again (using a soft cast – aka walking boot). While I was on crutches, the swelling was full, and at night with my foot up, the swelling was even worse, to the point I could not sleep. But as I walked on it with the walking boot, the swelling went down, every day, it went down. Ohh yes there is still lots of pain to walk on it, and I had to be slow and careful how I walked, but the walking made the swelling go down, and the healing was beginning. Do you know why? Because the walking, even though it was painful, made the blood not just flow to my foot, but flow through my foot. As the blood flowed and moved through my foot, the blood did what it was designed to do, and that is heal. It's the blood that heals the body, for the blood carries all the vital needs throughout the body. Blood has many different functions, such as - transporting oxygen and nutrients to the lungs and tissues - forming blood clots to prevent excess blood loss - carrying cells and antibodies that fight infection - bringing waste products to the kidneys and liver, which filter and clean the blood regulating body temperature. The life is in the blood!

The life is in the blood. The blood cleanses.... and the blood heals. Maybe you are here today and there is some pain in your life, something has happened in your life, and you feel pain (emotionally, physically, or spiritually), I pray you be comforted today knowing that the blood flows, and is flowing, in the midst of the pain, and God is working a healing through the pain.

[Verse 7 - the forgiveness of sins](#)

Definition of Forgiveness

Verse seven, forgiveness of sin means to release and separate from all consequences. Forgiveness is loosening something from what binds them. Forgiveness means to loosen someone from what is binding them. Forgiveness means to send away.

Redemption is Transfer of Sin / Sin Must be Transferred / Unto the Lamb

What is being said here through redemption (as someone else pays the price).... is that sin must be transferred. Sin has to be transferred, and in the Old Testament it was transferred on to an innocent lamb and that sin would be temporarily covered by that lamb that would be sacrificed. All a foreshadow of the transferring a sin onto Jesus Christ once and for all, though the God man who had become the mediator between God and man. Sin would be transferred to Him and then the wrath would be satisfied through Him and His blood, as it says here, specifically.

The World Wants to Transfer

But the world wants to transfer it on to someone else. The world wants to take your sin, your problem, your guilt, your shame, and then transfer it on to someone else....., that it's your parents' fault, or transfer it on that it's your spouse's fault, or transfer it on that it's that person's fault in your life, or this event that happened. And the world continually tries to transfer guilt and sin and therefore they don't know how to transfer it on the Christ and so they're trying to bridge it through man's wisdom. And all the while people can transfer, but it will get them no freedom from it. They'll still be under it's control or under its hand and still bound to it because it hasn't been sent away, loosed from binding, because it hasn't been forgiven. There's only one way to release it, the forgiveness to send away, to loosen from the bondage of it, and it's to transfer our sin on to Jesus Christ.

And He says, "Give it to me. I want to take it. I want to set you free. Read my word, hear my word that I'm saying here in the Book of Ephesians, because I want you to be free today. You can walk out of here free, clean, forgiven with new life."

Forget the Past / Come Away with Me

And forget the past. The world wants to say, re-live it, re-experience it, dig it back up, let's analyze it. Whereas Jesus says, "No, come away with me. Come away." That's what forgiveness means. It means to send away, but it also means then simply to come away. You leave, you push it, you push it to the left, and you head right. You head

up to the heavenlies and you separate from it, and Jesus is saying, "Come away with me and let me give you words of comfort and ease and peace and love."

Philippians 3:12–16 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

God Writes Ephesians to You – So You Know Your Salvation is Secure

God wants your salvation to be secure. He's writing this to secure your salvation that you might know that you know that you're saved and forgiven.

Verse 7 - according to the riches of His grace

God Can Afford It

The wealth of our God isn't that He can just buy us, but the wealth of our God is that He can supply us daily and for all of our life. And so the question would be asked to anyone here today, what is your need today, because your God can richly supply all of your needs in Christ Jesus. Too many people stop at salvation, and not at His endless, rich, lavish, supply that He wants to give to all His children.

Philippians 4:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

The Power of Grace

Some pastors are afraid to teach on grace, they are afraid people will take it as a license to sin. I would say cheap grace should not be taught, as that is errant. What do I mean cheap grace, I mean the doctrine of grace that is not centered in the blood of Jesus. For in the context of the price that was paid to purchase a person from the slave traders block, was none other than God's only Son, who can sin without remorse. But when a person comes to the understanding of Gods-Riches-At-Christ-Expense, they will anchor their faith in that grace, and they will live their life in accordance to that grace.

Dr. H. A. Ironside in his book In the Heavenlies (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeau Bros., Inc.) tells the story of an attempted assassination of the first Queen Elizabeth of England. The woman who sought to do so dressed as a male page and secreted herself in the queen's boudoir, awaiting the convenient moment to stab the queen to death. She did not realize that the queen's attendants would be very careful to search the rooms before Her Majesty was permitted to retire. They found the woman hidden there among the gowns and brought her into the presence of the queen, after confiscating the poniard that she had hoped to plant into the heart of the sovereign.

The would-be assassin realized that her case, humanly speaking, was hopeless. She threw herself down on her knees and pleaded and begged the queen as a woman to have compassion on her, a woman, and to show her grace. Queen Elizabeth looked at her coldly and quietly said, "If I show you grace, what promise will you make for the future?" The woman looked up and said, "Grace that hath conditions, grace that is fettered (bound) by precautions, is not grace at all." Queen Elizabeth caught the idea in a moment and said, "You are right; I pardon you of my grace." And they led her away, a free woman.

History tells us that from that moment Queen Elizabeth had no more faithful, devoted servant than that woman who had intended to take her life. That is exactly the way the grace of God works in the life of an individual—he or she becomes a faithful servant of God.611

Michael P. Green. (2000). 1500 illustrations for biblical preaching (pp. 176–177). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Many here today, are that woman, as God has found faithful servants, who understand the grace that granted their pardon for sin.

Wow – Let’s Recap

Redemption – bought out/off the slave block

Blood – cleanses and heals

Forgiveness – guilt released by being transferred

Grace – Poured out lavishly

Ephesians 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Abound – Lavish / Not Random – But Carefully Determined

Verse eight, the word here for abound means to lavish, to heap upon. The Phillips translation reads, "Which has overflowed into our lives and opened our eyes to the truth." God's lavish grace is not random, but is carefully measured and determined as it is given by God's Wisdom and prudence (understanding – knowledge).

We Have Wisdom and Knowledge / Making Such Wise Decisions

Verse eight, this wisdom and prudence that's been lavished on to us, and I can say that (and I think anyone here can attest to it who has received Jesus), that the wisdom that comes with salvation, the decisions that get made are now made in such more wisdom and understanding, clarity and direction. Whereas as the world, I made so many mistakes because I was literally as, as it will say later in this study, just being tossed around to and fro. But as I walk with Christ and I learn how to tap into the heavenly inheritance that is for me and learn to think outside of this world and call upon Him and get His wisdom and understanding for me. Oh, the wisdom and grace and the decisions that are made in such wise manner.

Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV) ²⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Ephesians 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

[Verse 9 - having made known to us the mystery of His will](#)

Verse 8 Could be Entry in Verse 9 – Opening Up Understanding into the Mystery

Verse eight, this could mean God's grace is based on His wisdom and intelligence, or it could be the entry into verse nine, His wisdom and intelligence speaking of the mystery of his will is opened up to us being able to understand it.

Mystery – Cant be Understood Apart from God’s Revealing

The word mystery has nothing to do with things eerie. It means a “sacred secret, once hidden but now revealed to God’s people. A mystery is something that could not be understood unless the Holy Spirit revealed it to us.” We believers are a part of God’s “inner circle.” We are able to share in the secret that God will one day unite everything in Christ. The resurrection shows us and promises us that we will be with Him upon death, and the book of Revelation tells us how God is going to put an end to all this madness on the earth one day by His Second Coming.

God wants to reveal His heart and His ways to us. I am reminded of Abraham as the Lord was on His way to Sodom to bring the judgement that was due.

Let me sidebar here for a second. As I began to write this I felt an immediate pressure within me, oh do I really want to say use this story, as it is so controversial, and people will think I am a hate monger, for I am going to tell the story that God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for their sexual sin of homosexuality, do I want to go there, as this study has been so warm and uplifting up to this point has it not. Look Christian, don’t buy the lie that tries to silence us, we do ourselves and the person a great disservice, even may I say sin, by not speaking truths. I can tell anyone who is bound in sin today, whatever that sin may be, that God can redeem you, through the lavish grace of

His only Begotten Son's blood given for you. God loves you! He wants to redeem you and set you free, and free to come away with Him and have a personal intimate relationship with Him. Today, now, and forever! Where is the hate in that statement, in His story of Redemption?

So back to God desiring to reveal His will and His ways to us, He came to Abraham and revealed what was going to happen. Why? We see two very clear reasons, and one is so that Abraham would take on the role of intercession prayer, and secondly because God counted Abraham faithful that he would share the truths of God with his children. God entrusts His will and His way with people who will not hoard them, no keep them as "special revelations", but go and do something with it..... which is prayer and proclamation.

Genesis 18:16–19 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. ¹⁷ And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ¹⁸ since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

So Christian, what has God entrusted to you?

Verse 9 - according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

No Outside Influence – All Springs from Within God Himself

Verse nine – according to His good pleasure – which He purposed in Himself – there were and are no outside influence. This word literally is saying it springs wholly from within Him. That is good news, therefore none of these promises have anything to do with me and my performance, for they are set and secure in Him and Him alone.

His Purpose and Will – Is to Love you

Verse nine, His purposes and will in His life is to love you. That's what His purpose and His will is. If you ever wonder it, or doubt of what's God's purpose. We always ask "What's my purpose?" Or we ask, "What's God's will for my life?" Have you ever said, "Well, what's God's purpose and what's his will in his life?" And He'll say, God's will, God's purpose is to love you. That's His whole purpose and it's His whole will. You are treasured.

Psalm 100 -Sheep of His Pasture / His Good Pleasure – Come See Things from His Perspective

Psalm 100, "We are the sheep of his pasture." We are created by Him and we are made for Him and Revelation Four says, "We were created for His good pleasure." You bring God pleasure. He created you to do just that. And it is you that brings Him pleasure and we have a hard time to receive that and believe that. But hence, why we He takes us to the Swiss Alps of the new Testament, takes us into a heavenly view as He sees things, gets us out of this earthly view, an earthly wisdom, and get us into the heavenly wisdom and see things how He sees them, and it'll change all of our perspective and perceptions of God and ourself.

Psalm 100:title-5 (NKJV) A Psalm of Thanksgiving. ¹ Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! ² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. ³ Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Maybe You Feel Distant

Maybe you've sinned and you think you are now distant from God and He is going to put a straight arm and put you away, and this book is telling you that is not so. You are accepted and beloved, you are received in Him. If there's a distancing, it's you who are distant from Him. And that's what our flesh will do, that's what the world will do, that's what the accuser of the brethren, the devil he will do. He wants to distance us. And here's what God says, here's what I want to do. I want to overcome the distance. I want to take you up into the heavenlies so you can see things from my perspective. Oh, what a lavish book we have here. But it's you who have lost contact, not Him. Confess, repent, and return!

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Verse 10 - that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times](#)

Dispensation- Set Order

Dispensation (oikonomia), where we get our word “Economy” . A lot of people struggle with this word, and theologians come up with books upon books to explain it, but it simply means a “set order of how things work.”

God saying I’m setting the order of how things are going to work and nothing can change it. Satan, Evilness, terrorism, will not change my plan or how I run my plan, and it will all happen in the “fullness of time, on my time table. We will talk more on this in chapter 3.

[Verse 10 - He might gather together in one all things in Christ](#)

Ever Since Fall – Things Falling Apart

Ever since sin came into the world, things have been falling apart:

- First, man was separated from God in the garden (Gen. 3).
- Then man was separated from man, as Cain killed Abel (Gen. 4).
- People tried to maintain a kind of unity by building the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11) – the first false religion, worshipping the stars, but God judged them and scattered them across the world.
- God called Abraham and put a difference between the Jew and the Gentile, a difference that was maintained until Christ’s death on the cross.
- With the calling of Abraham and the Tower of Babel, we see nation divided against nation

Sin Tearing Apart – God Putting Back Together

Sin is tearing everything apart, but in Christ, God will gather everything together in the culmination of the ages.

Redemption is the putting of all the broken pieces back together. God is doing that in the world, and ourselves personally.

Do you feel your life is broken and in pieces? God speaks to you from His heart today, through my redemption, my grace, I am putting things back together in your life personally, can you trust me on that?

[Verse 10 - both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.](#)

Only Believers

Verse 10 seems to be confusing. Heaven and earth seems like all of humanity, but there's actually three locations. There's Heaven, earth and there's Hell. And Hell is what's not mentioned here. Only the believers who are alive on the earth at the end of the dispensation, when God says it's done, wrap it up, heading into eternity. Only those believers and the ones on who are already in Heaven will be the ones who are gathered together as one. Those who are separated because of their sin because of Hell will not be gathered together.

Conclusion

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Redeemed
- Forgiven
- Pleasing to Him

Position

- In Him
- Gathered together to Him
- In Christ

Promise

- Redemption through His blood

- Forgiveness of sin
- Abounding wisdom and prudence (knowledge)
- Broken Pieces put back together

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 1:11-14

Title: Sealed with the Promise of Eternal Security

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

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Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 1:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

3P's of the Passage (Title: Sealed with the Promise of Eternal Security)

Person

- His
- Predestined
- Sealed
- Purposed

Position

- In Him
- His

Promise

- Promised Inheritance
- Promised to be His
- Promised Eternal Security

Why it Matters to You

So why does this passage of scripture matter to you today? Well quite simply, if a person continually struggles with what is their purpose and worth in life, and if they continually struggle with their eternal security, they will never be able to move on and live in the victorious Christian life that God purposes for them, and promises for them to have for the taking. And notice, I say for the taking, because although God purposes it and secures it for the Believer, the believer still has to take it by their own freewill choosing.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Promise within the Promise

There's a promise in the promise which I will say to anyone and ask of anybody, what victory is not yours to be had? What victory is not within reach to be taken? All of the promises of God are yes and amen and all the spiritual inheritance has been given to us, to have victories and to live victorious Christian lives.

3 Words for Will

Paul uses three words that have the idea of will. They are expressed. And all three of them are to amplify the one idea of being created for His will, and everything that He does is according to His will.

- Purpose (prothesis) - determination n. — the quality of being determined to do or achieve something.
- Counsel (boule) - thought-out plan n. — a series of steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished; especially as the result of intent consideration.
- Will (thelema) - inclination (attitude) n. — an attitude of mind especially one that favors one alternative over others.

Purposed Willed of God

So in verse 11 we read the purpose of Him, the counsel of His will. Purpose council, it is determined, it is orderly. It's not something that is random, but it's very purposed with a plan. Now, I want you to consider the theory of evolution and everything is based on randomness with a happen chance of order here and there, to which if everything is random with a few happen chances of order, *what self-worth can be had in random chance?* But now consider purposed order, divine order, predetermined and purposed ordered by God. All with the regard to you, that all of this said order, purposed order, predetermined order, is all part of the whole plan for you by God of the universe. Now consider this whole world around you purposed and ordered about mankind and now determine what is your worth. And we see this detailed universe all purposed and determined by God.

- We have the creation of the universe, the world, and the sun, the stars, and the moon, all purposed by God.
- We have the earth, the skies, and the seas, all purposed by God.
- We have the fish of the seas, the bird of the air and the animals of the fields, all purposed by God.
- But in this divine purpose and predetermined only you, man, does God get his hands dirty for. And He bends down and creates Adam who means man.
- And we read in the Psalms that we are fearfully and wonderfully created. You were designed for a purpose and with a purpose, and that is predetermined by the purpose of His will and for His good pleasure are you.

Psalm 139:13–16 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

His Ultimate Plan – Man's Salvation – To be His!

But as detailed as all of that is, there's the plan of salvation. And here is the summation, the ultimate purpose of salvation for the redemption of man who has been separated from God by his freewill to choose sin. And the purpose and the predetermined plan of God for you is to be His. The plan, to be His. The work of salvation, to be His. And the end of all, to be His. And what He is establishing for us is His plan has and never will change. The plan of salvation was determined purpose, it was not random.

And he makes it (the Gospel) available to every man.

Admit- you sin separates you from the holy God, because you are guilty of breaking His Holy Commandments:

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Believe – the only way for the forgiveness and cleansing from your guilt is through Jesus Christ crucified for you:

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Confess – make the confession before God that you receive Him as Lord and Savior, and that you turn from your sin and turn to follow Him:

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Based on this – Can You Trust His Will

Now.....based on this (that His ultimate purpose for you – is to be His), can you trust the counsel of His will for you? Whatever state, whatever place you're in, can you trust the counsel of His will? Can you bring yourself to a place of, "I trust you". And to bring yourself in the place to say, "Nevertheless, let your will be done".

The Purposed Christian Life

God is very detailed and determined, very purposeful in all He does, and thus we can apply the same to our lives personally. The Christian life will not just happen, it has to be purposed, it has to be determined. If I want to diet, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want to exercise, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want to get a college education, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want a job, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. Well so too it is so with our spiritual life. As I often say, if you aim at nothing, you will probably hit it. Beloved, a deep Christian life will not just happen by chance, you have to engage it with a purpose and determined.

So, I ask you, to ask yourself:

- What is my study plan?
- What is my prayer plan?
- What is my fasting plan?

- What is my family plan?
- What is my marriage?
- What is my ministry/serving plan?
- What is my worship plan?
- What is my plan to draw closer to God?

Now I am not advocating a schedule, but a purpose, a purpose and determined will to develop and go deeper in all these things. Although I am not advocating a schedule, you may need to schedule and plan them ensure and develop them. We are called to redeem the time, for there are many things that will attack our time, the time we use to purpose and develop our spiritual walk. I think it was AW Tozer who said, anything that keeps me from my bible is an enemy.

Ephesians 5:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Mark 9:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Ephesians 6:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Ephesians 5:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Matthew 25:37–40 (NKJV) ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?' ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Hebrews 2:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

James 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Break forth in Worthy Praise

Verse 12, the phrase, "Praise of His glory", occurs in relation to each member of the Trinity,

- God in verse 6,
- Christ in verse 12,
- and the Spirit in verse 14.

All of these promises should make us burst into praise when we think of the Trinity at work to fulfill the plan and determined purpose of God, and that is for us to be His and to know that we're secure in Him.

Ephesians 1:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Jew First – Then Gentile

Paul is writing predominately to Gentiles in Ephesus (but Jews also). Verse 12, speaking of Jews, and then in verse 13, speaking of the Gentiles, and both of them receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

After you Heard – You Believed

Verse 13 says, "After you heard". God chose to speak and therefore after the person hears, that is when they choose. And, here again is the two rails that the train of salvation ride on, God's sovereignty and working, and man's freewill. But, as we know in the context of the whole counsel of God, it is the Holy Spirit who is doing the work in the person's heart.

John 16:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Notice – Nothing Else But Jesus

Verse 13 - notice there's no water baptism. There's no Sabbath keeping. There's no Holy communion. None of these things are what brings salvation. It is the hearing, the believing, and the trusting in the finished work of the cross of Christ.

How Beautiful the Feet

And so, there's a power of Romans 10 of how beautiful the feet are of those who bring the gospel. God uses humans to bring His word to people, but it's the Holy Spirit that has to convince the person the need for a Savior because Roman 3 tells us, "There's none who understands".

Romans 10:14–17 (NKJV) ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Arrabon – Engagement Ring

The Greek word translated "guarantee" refers to a purchaser's "earnest money." The Holy Spirit is God's downpayment - the foretaste of the joys of heaven. But the word, "arrabon," has another meaning. Today in Greece, it's the word used for an engagement ring. In ancient times it referred to the dowry or bridal price. A dowry was a financial pledge given by a man to the family of his bride-to-be. It proved that his intentions to marry and support the daughter were genuine. This makes for a beautiful picture when applied to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our engagement ring - He's our promise from Jesus - our assurance - that He intends return and take us as His bride!

Growing up in Western PA

It was a down payment. I remember when I was 18 years old, living in western Pennsylvania and I was selling my motorcycle before I was going off to school and this man came up and he looked at it and he says, "Boy, I love this bike. This is awesome. I definitely want to take it. I just need to take it for a test ride". And I said, "Sure, absolutely". I said, "But before you take it for a test ride, you're going to have to give me full price to hold this bike in case something happens to it when you take it away". which the guy said "No problem". And so he gave me this down payment, my down payment requirement was full price, because a down payment would do me no good if he stole the bike or wrecked the bike.

But he takes the bike for a ride. We lived on a dead-end road, which was, yeah, a couple of miles long, but it was dead end nonetheless. And he's gone. And his buddy who drove him there, me and him were standing, to which I turned and said to him, I go, "You know, this road isn't that long". And we both looked at each other and we kept waiting. And finally the guy comes back over the hill, and he's coming over the hill, I can see the whole left side of the motorcycle was damaged. The turn signals were broken and dangling, and the paint was scraped and the exhaust pipe was scraped, and he pulls up and he's got a big smile and he says, "I'll take it". And of course in my heart I was saying, "You sure will". And when I saw the bike, I had no worries at all what happened to the bike because I had a full down payment. And that can be same for you too. You might be beaten up a little bit, you might get scraped up a little bit, but the down payment is paid in full and you are sealed and you are His and you will be taken into his presence regardless of how beat up you may get in this life.

Purpose of the Seal

Verse 14, for purposes of being sealed in the culture at this time, was

- for security (Daniel 6:17, Matthew 27:62-66)
- for authenticity (1 Kings 21:6-16)
- for authority (Esther 8:8-12)
- for ownership (Jeremiah 32:10)

Daniel 6:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Matthew 27:62–66 (NKJV) ⁶² On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

1 Kings 21:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. ⁹ She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; ¹⁰ and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, You have blasphemed God and the king. Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

Esther 8:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews. ⁸ You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

Jeremiah 32:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰ And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. ¹¹ So I took the purchase deed, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open; ¹² and I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison.

Death if break the Seal

According to Roman law, if you broke the seal of the King, you were to be put to death.

Image of King/Owner

And the seal would be hot wax dripped on whatever that thing would be, and then the owner would have a ring that had an image, that was his image, and he would press it onto the wax and it would make that image and therefore it was the transferring and the impartation and the implanting of the image onto that thing, whatever it would may be, to show who's the ownership was and it came with the image and here we come with this Holy Spirit sealed for us. The image we are impressed with is the image of God Himself. We are image bearers of God. That's what we are.

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV) ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

You are Secure

God is making it extremely and very clear that he is saying, "You are secure. There is nothing that you can do that will make me disown you, make me separate from you." He's ensuring our security, our eternal security by saying to us, "It's a guarantee. I will not turn from you." You see, we can blow it and then we'll say to ourselves, "That's it. God doesn't love me." I said, "I love him and I follow him and I want to serve him and then I just went out and did this," or, "I can't believe that I did that. There's no way that he could ever love me," and God's saying, "Go look at the down payment. Go look at the promise. Go look at these words that are my guarantee to you that there is nothing that you can do that can separate you from my love." When I put that wedding ring on your finger, I meant it forever.

Seal Can't be Broken

This seal speaks that no one can open the seal except Jesus. We see that in Revelation 5. In Revelation 7 we see that this seal says no one can touch us, 144,000. Revelation 9 adds to that, that we can't be touched. And in Revelation 20, Christians can't be demon possessed because Satan can't break the seal when God puts the seal on him and throws him in the bottomless pit. He's not strong enough to break the seal, so the devil can't break the seal that's put upon you. You are secure in Him.

Revelation 5:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Revelation 7:2-4 (NKJV) ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

Revelation 9:4 (NKJV) ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 20:2-3 (NKJV) ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

The Next Question Always – Eternal Security – Can a Person Lose their Salvation?

Of course, the natural question and the one I'm asked often, people say and ask me, "Can you lose your salvation?" To which I say, "No." To lose something is an accident. I lose my keys, I lose my wallet, I lose my car at the mall. All of them are accidents. So there will never be the losing of salvation by an accident. Jesus will say, "No one can pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Can a Person Walk Away?

So then comes that next question, can a person walk away from Jesus? Can someone say, "I no longer want this salvation"? If it is a wedding ring, can someone say I want a divorce?

What is Most Important for Me to Say First

Now, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what is most important is the question, is the person saved in the first place, and if not, I need to pray for them, and tell them about their need for a Savior. Then secondly if they have professed Christ at some point in their life, but now are saying they reject the faith, and where that takes me is the same place again, I need to pray for them, and tell them about their need for a Savior. That is what matters most regarding this topic.

But Let Me Still Answer the Question

However, as a Bible teacher, and you as students of the Bible, it is a question that should be thought through, and it is something I think every one of us want to know the answer to. So I feel for me to say, "hey they need a Savior

and that is what matters most”, as true as that is, is kind of a cop-out, a way for me to not have to answer the question that is one of the most asked questions among Christians. So here I am going to answer it. And I believe, in the answer, we will find great something greater than an intellectual information understanding, but a deep heart, mind, soul, and strength for us personally on how to live the abundant and victorious Christian life.

[John 10:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

And John 10:10, is a good summation, on the topic, as the Devil wants to destroy, and God wants to supply abundant life. But this topic inside the church, among Christians, has destroyed many friendships, has caused many church splits, and even divided families..... and Satan laughs all the way. When this happens, it is man has missed the mark on this, and as spiritual or intellectual or theological they think they may be, they have missed the mark if it causes division among the body, bitterness, resentment, slander, and the likes. All of God’s Word is meant to unite the body, strengthen the body, and purify the body.

Won’t Find This as a Verse in the Bible

So let’s start with the simple fact..... there are no bible verses that say these words exactly...

- Once saved, always saved.
- A person can lose their salvation.
- A person can depart (leave) the faith.
- A person can never depart (leave) the faith.

Now, knowing the problems that this topic would cause in the Church, wouldn’t you think God would have added at least one of these as verses in the Bible? 31,102 verses in the Bible, why not just add one of these verses, just one of them, and then the debate would be over. But He didn’t. yet, I find it interesting that man quotes these lines like they are quoting scripture themselves. That is kind of scary to me, as it makes me think of Revelation, and other passages that warn about adding to God’s Word or taking away from it.

[Revelation 22:18–19 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

[Proverbs 30:5–6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁵ Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. ⁶ Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

[Deuteronomy 4:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

[Deuteronomy 12:32 \(NKJV\)](#) ³² “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Remember the Salvation Train

And as we continually say, the train of salvation rides on two rails. God's sovereignty, which would be his predestination, His foreknowledge, his choosing. And the other one is man's free will. And anytime we have these conversations, the two will always continually be side by side. The two shall never cross, but they both will run on the same track. That's the train of salvation, whether it's coming to know Jesus or whether to finishing the salvation on this side of Heaven. I see God's track. He chooses you, he wants you, you are secure in Him, never leaving you, never divorcing you, never to forsake you.

Your track is your free will. Your free will to choose, to say, "I do". To come and stay or to depart

Let me also say this before I totally dig deep into this – I will be honest, that I still struggle on how to reconcile the two of eternal security (God’s Sovereignty, and Man’s Freewill).

Clearly – Some Were Never Saved

First John Two says, "They went out from us, but they were never amongst us or part of us". So that is very clear, there are people who have all the appearances of being Christian, but never were ever saved. So when they walk

away, there is definitely a scripture that we can put on finger on and say, they may never have been saved (because ultimately in the end only God knows). I say that because, we have to look at 1 Timothy 4:1 also.

1 John 2:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

But Some will Depart from the Faith

But, Paul's letter to Timothy says that in the latter days (not necessarily meaning last days, just days after Paul writes these things), that some will depart from the faith. Depart is the word (apostasy), and it means to leave the faith. That is what it says, so I just read it for what it says. You have to do a lot of theological gymnastics to make it mean anything less than what it says, that people depart from the faith, meaning they were of the faith.

1 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Many Today Departing

This year, more than I can remember in my whole life, big name people, very well known people were departing from the faith. People who write books, people who lead megachurches, people who everyone followed and many can put their finger on their salvation personally because of that person's ministry. Yet many of them this year says, "I no longer believe". I am departing the faith. It's just what we've read, it's just what we see, that in the latter days, some will depart from the faith. Now for some people they'll say, "Well, they were never saved", just as we read in 1 John 2, to which that very well may be true. But some will say, "They departed", which that's what 1 Timothy 4 says. We may never know, but God knows and we can rest in that. But all I know, that I'm told in 1 Timothy 4, that it's my job to simply preach the scripture and proclaim these truths as they are written.

A Good Minister will Declare the Word

A good minister will speak these things. A good minister will teach the Bible as it says, not as he wants it to say. God says what He means, and means what He says, and He needs no help from me trying to make it saying anything else other than what it says.

1 Timothy 4:6–11 (NKJV) ⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. ⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. ¹¹ These things command and teach.

And this is hard to teach because my mind honestly can't comprehend that someone would want to walk away. After all they've tasted and seen of how good the Lord is as Psalm 34 tells us. In my mind, doesn't comprehend that someone could walk away, but here we have people who said, "I was just like you, maybe even more passionate than you, but I can no longer follow and believe". That's a hard one for me to comprehend, of what could have happened. But I do find it, that some people, some tragedy will happen. God didn't do something they expected Him to do, and they simply will say, "I can't believe". And I don't know, maybe it's that they... it's not that they can't believe that God exists, but they just don't want to have that relationship with him anymore because they don't want that, because he didn't perform up to their expectation.

And it's beautiful for us from our security, He gives us that free will, but He never exercises that for Himself. He never puts our performance on a condition. He never says, "Well, I remove my seal because you failed me in this, you did that", or whatever these things may be. He speaks to us that my seal, my guarantee, my promise to you, my engagement ring, is presented to you as a promise. No matter what, I will not withdraw myself. Now we read in 1 Timothy 4 that he allows us to withdraw ourselves if we choose. But he's making a promise no matter what, I will not withdraw myself regardless of what you do. Even if you cheat on me, even if you commit adultery on me, even if, and you fill in the blank, you see the spiritual analogies that's being made, regardless, my brain, I will never come to take back. But He leaves us to freewill in the relationship.

Again – No Bible Verses

So, again the simple fact..... there are no bible verses that say these words exactly...

- Once saved, always saved.
- A person can lose their salvation.
- A person can depart (leave) the faith.
- A person can never depart (leave) the faith.

God Wants Every Man to Examine Self – If in the Faith

Why? Because God wants every man, to continually examine themselves, to know they are in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

1 Corinthians 11:27–32 (NKJV) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Galatians 6:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.

There are some who will live a life of sin and say, hey once saved always saved, to in John will say, you need to examine yourself if you are truly in the faith, for those who willfully sin are living a lie.

1 John 2:3–6 (NKJV) ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Now, self-examination is examining self, but through the lens and the heart of God. I think sometimes we totally miss that in the self examination or examine ourselves in accordance with our wisdom and our knowledge and our understanding as we think things should be, but self-examination in terms that God calls us is we examine ourselves in the light of the scriptures.

I see a very interesting parallel to this as here I am in my fourth week of sitting in a chair as I teach this Bible study. We have finally found out what's wrong with my foot and it is a fracture, pretty good fracture, that I assume because of the hardness to walk and bear weight on this foot, but you know what I learned along the way is I should have, when I came to the doctors, just been quiet and presented my foot to the doctors and say, "My foot is swelling and I can't pinpoint anything that happened specifically other than it's swelling," but I went to the doctor, the first doctor, and I said, "My foot's swelling, and I notice it's swelling around here, this little red dot underneath my foot." I'm thinking possibly that I got a spider bite or a foreign object in there. So the doctor, he starts with my self-diagnosis, then, well, that must be what it is then. So he prescribed me antibiotics, which, as we know, the foot continues to swell.

I go to the next doctor saying, "Man, I need an X-ray," but I tell him, "Here's what might be the problem too. See this red dot?" To which he goes, "We'll do an X-ray, but yeah, that red dot looks like a puncture wound. Continue on with your antibiotics and we'll get an X-ray." Well, fractures don't show up on an X-ray, but when you're thinking that it's more likely an infection of some type, you're not overly concerned about the X-ray.

So carry this forward. I go to the third doctor. I say "The foot's swelling. The X-ray shows nothing." He looks at my foot and he says, "Yeah, your foot definitely appears to be infected. I can even see the infection around the toe," which what that was was anti-inflammatory cream that I was rubbing down my foot with. So he continues on, the third doctor now, with the approach that it is an infection. He adds a round of antibiotics, which, just by chance, because of the length that we're in to this now at two weeks the swelling starts to go down. So it starts to appear, yeah, that was and is the problem. This swelling is from an infection.

Well, go on another week and the swelling hasn't gone down. The foot still can't bear weight. So finally we come to the place of, "We better get an MRI," says the doctor at my request. We go get the MRI and the MRI reveals that the bone in the foot is fractured, which fractures don't always show up on X-rays.

So here's my point, my lesson is learned. Next time I'm just going to show up and say, "Here's my foot. Tell me what you think." I'd have probably been in for an MRI two weeks ago, if not three weeks ago. I'd have been in this boot or a cast three weeks ago rather than one week ago. My healing would have been two, three weeks further down the road because I wouldn't have been walking on an infection the way that I would and am not walking on a fracture.

I think sometimes we do that in our spiritual walk is we self-diagnose ourselves according to our wisdom and understanding and we're totally off. What we need to do is go to the great physician, the great doctor, Jesus Christ, present our lives to him and let him diagnose and determine what's well and what's not. So, here we see in our passage today, the calling continually, and God lays this out for us on the train of salvation having two rails. One is his sovereignty and the other is man's free will, that we come and we continually examine how are we doing in the faith?

When we Doubt Ourselves – We Can Trust Him / I Know the Moment I was Saved – And Trust He Continues

But then, there are those on the other side who say oh no I sinned, I can't be saved, I am wretched, I can't be in the faith, to which God would say,

Here is what I know, and here is where I start..... I know the moment that I was saved and born-again. There is no doubt about it to me. It was a moment that was defining, something I can put my finger on and say this is when it happened. If you can't do that, then that is concerning, and if you say I don't know if I am born-again, was born-again, or what that even means, then that is concerning too.... Maybe even to be blunt, then you probably are not, but you can be today, simply by asking Jesus to forgive your sins, and coming into your life to be your Lord and Savior.

[John 3:3 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

And I can rest on the promises of the vine – that I am attached to the Vine, and I am abiding in the Vine:

[John 15:1–11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

I know the moment of my salvation, and that I am abiding, and therefore there is no doubt to me that I was born-again at that moment. So now I claim and live in the security of Him.... And His promises. And all through the scriptures, we see when it comes to God's side of the gospel (predestined) we are eternally secure..... every time, everywhere, even when I am messing up and return to him broken crying Abba Father..... He says....

1.Never Perish

Jesus said those who believe in Him will never perish:

[My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand \(John 10:27,28\).](#)

These verses could not be stronger. Those who trust Jesus will never perish. Jesus said nobody will take believers out of His hand. This is because believers are securely held in the arms of God the Father.

2.Eternal Life

The Bible promises eternal life to all who believe in Christ. The most famous verse in the Bible says:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

The promise of eternal life is not true if it can be lost. There is, however, nothing conditional stated in this promise. If a person believes in Jesus they shall have everlasting life. Everlasting means forever.

3. Present Possession Of Believer

Those who believe in Jesus presently possess eternal life.

I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life (John 5:24).

Salvation, therefore, is not something that is far off in the future-it is a present possession of the believer. Salvation is not looked upon as a day-to-day thing. We do not keep ourselves saved day after day. Scripture treats our salvation as something that is secure forever.

Eternal Life Defined

Thus eternal life has already begun for the believer. The Bible defines eternal life as knowing Christ.

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3).

4.Nothing Shall Separate

The Bible says nothing shall separate us from Christ.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword . . . For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 38,39).

This passage makes it clear that nothing shall separate Christ from those who have trusted Him. Nothing. This includes the believer separating themselves from Christ.

5.Christ Remains Faithful

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day (2 Timothy 1:12).

The Apostle Paul stresses the fact that Christ is able to keep that which we have committed.

6.He Keeps Us From Falling

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy - (Jude 24).

The idea here is that He is the one who keeps us from falling, we are not keeping ourselves.

7.Kept By God's Power

The Bible says that we are kept by God's power, not our own.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3-5).

8. We Have Been Glorified

The Bible already speaks of us as being glorified:

And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified (Romans 8:30).

9. It Is A Gift

Salvation is a gift. A gift is often confused with something earned. No one can earn their salvation, it is God's gift to us.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8,9).

It has been given to us by Christ, we had nothing to do with earning our own salvation.

10. We Are Joined To Christ

Once a person has been born again by the word and the Spirit of God he receives new life in Christ. God puts Christ's righteousness on his account

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).

11. Christ's Sacrifice Is Adequate

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was adequate for our salvation.

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (Hebrews 10:14).

There is nothing that can be added or taken away from His sacrifice.

12. He Will Complete What He Started

The Bible says it is God's power that saves us:

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

He started the salvation process, He will finish it.

13. Kept By God's Power

Furthermore, that which keeps us saved is God's power, not our own.

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:5).

We did not save ourselves, we do not keep ourselves saved.

14. We Are A New Creation

We are identified with Christ as a new creation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

15. Christ Paid The Penalty Once

Jesus Christ has paid the penalty once and for all for sins. God will not demand payment for a second time. The Bible says:

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

Since Christ has died for our sins we will never have to die for them.

Great is the Mystery of Godliness

And these things are deep. There's a place of vanishing point, I call it, where my mind really can't comprehend the depths of these things. I just present them as the scripture say that they are. And I'll take what's spoken to the young protege Timothy, great is the mystery of Godliness. And truly it is. There are some things here that are deep beyond our understanding, but I know from the simplicity, it's as simple as this, God says, "I'll never leave you no matter what. My seal is upon you. My Holy spirit is with you and in you. And you can bank on that regardless". So when you think you've gone too far, when you think you've failed, and He'll never take you back. When you think that, "That's it, He's done with me". He goes, "No, just remember my ring, my seal. Nothing you can do can separate you from the love of God". And that's the most important thing that I can say about this right now, that I can say for us. Enjoy that promise.

1 Timothy 3:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

God Continually Stirring

I believe God is continually stirring us to live a life,

- that is abiding,
- that examines oneself to live in purity
- that we will live in His marvelous grace continually
- that we will purpose, be determined, to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

But Back Where I started – Are You His?

Now, I can go back to where I began and say, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what is most important is the question, is the person saved in the first place, and if not, I need to pray for them, and tell them about their need for a Savior. Then secondly if they have professed Christ at some point in their life, but now are saying they reject the faith, and where that takes me is the same place again, I need to pray for them, and tell them about their need for a Savior. That is what matters most regarding this topic.

Conclusion – Pray Believing

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 1:15-23
Title: Precision Prayer

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

3P's of the Passage (Title: Precision Prayer)

Person

- Is a Saint
- Is Rich
- Is Heaven Bound

- Is Beautiful

Position

- His Inheritance
- His

Promise

- His Power
- His Wealth

Why it Matters to You

The Book of Ephesians is about all the spiritual riches available to the believer. Ephesians 1:3 the theme of the whole book says, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:* For the first fourteen verses the Apostle Paul talks about how we are "born rich" when we trusted Christ. But he says that being born rich is not enough, for we must grow in our understanding of our riches if we are ever going to use them to the glory of God. God desired that the Christians in Ephesus understood what great wealth they had in Christ. After talking about Knowledge is Power through the first 14 verses, Paul goes and starts to pray for them that they would seize this Knowledge and have the Power to use in their daily walk. Two thousand years later, God desires the same for us here tonight.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

This isn't a Bible Study just to encourage you for today, but a powerful prayer for life. A prayer, that if you will pray daily will change your life, and the life of those you commit to pray for. For this is a prayer that asks for God's power to be supplied to your life and those you pray for. With God's power in your life, then there is nothing that can keep you from "being the glory of God."

Do you want a ministry like Paul's? Then follow his examples we see of him in the Bible – here we see him as a man of prayer. Prayer is something we are all capable of doing. We may not be able to teach like Paul, evangelize like Paul, but we can all pray like Paul. I believe that it is prayer first that equips us to do the rest. You can't do anything until you pray, but you can do anything after you pray. Do you want an abundant Christian life, then this prayer is for you. Parents do you want to see your children living and walking for the Lord, pray this prayer daily for them. Husbands and wives, do you want a marriage that glorifies God, then pray this prayer daily for your partner

God seeks those who seek Him in Spirit and Truth.

In Ezekiel 22 God explains why He would bring judgement against Israel, because of their sin. God was also sickened by Israel's wicked leader who led the people into sin.

(Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV) *"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."*

All God was looking for was someone to simply pray, but he found none. Can you pray? Can you? Can you stand in the gap? Your voice matters in heaven. You can be a missionary in a dozen countries and never leave Baltimore. You can heal the sick; snatch a sinner from hell's flames all without leaving your knees. Today God is still looking for men and women to stand in the gap.

As you pray this for others a beautiful thing happens within you, God will move in your heart to do something about it in their life. As we pray for others, God places a burden in our heart for the person we are praying for. As we pray for them, God starts to form our mind with His mind, and we take on the mind of Christ and intercede for them as Christ Himself does. We will be so moved we can't sit and idly watch; we have to be more involved in their lives, it is impossible to truly pray for someone without becoming emotionally involved.

There are 4 main points in Paul's prayer, we can use his outline and pray for each other (and ourselves). We hear so much about the Prayer of Jabez, a great book if you ever get a chance to read it. Well here is a prayer of equal power. When my mind can't focus, I go to these prayers in the Bible.

The 4 Prayer Points are:

1. That they will know God More. (v.17)
2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)
3. That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)
4. That they will know the Power Available to them (v.19-23)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 1:15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, Ephesians 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Prays for Those Doing Well / Old Chinese Health Program

Notice this example also, for it is vitally important: See how Paul prays for the people who are doing well. **after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints**, these people were doing great, yet Paul still prays for them. We tend to pray for the people who are not so well. Sick, depressed, unemployed troubled kids - which is all-good to pray for; But Paul said after I heard how well you were doing I prayed for you.

For centuries the old Chinese health program. You paid doctors up front to keep you well. If you got ill, they had to pay you back. If a person died of a preventable disease the doctor had to put a lantern outside the shop to show how many he didn't keep well. We need to pray for each other while we are doing well, to keep us doing well. Follow Paul, pray that God keeps the strong, strong. Satan saves his heavy artillery for the people who are walking with the Lord and doing damage on the gates of hell. Parents pray this prayer every day for your kids, husbands pray this for your wife, wives likewise. Get a prayer partner and each pray this prayer for each other....and watch what happens.....or better yet, what doesn't happen.

Prayer Point 1: That they will know God More. (v.17)

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

See into Heart of God

Remember verse 8, **Wisdom** – is the knowledge that sees into the heart of things and know them as they really are. God has given us superabundant wisdom, and now Paul prays that we will seize it. That we will see into the heart of God and see Him of how He really is, that we would know Him more and more every day. Remember verse 16 Paul said he does not cease making mention of you in his prayers.... he prays this daily.

Every believer needs to grow in the knowledge of God. A believer can't just be satisfied in knowing Him as their Savior. Never settle for, "that will do." I come on Sunday.

Multimillionaire William Hearst

Multimillionaire William Hearst invested a fortune in art works from around the world. One day Mr. Hearst found a description of some valuable artwork he felt he must have, so he sent his agent abroad to find it. After months of searching the agent reported that he finally found it. They were in Mr. Hearst's warehouse. Hearst had been searching frantically for treasures he already owned. Had he read the catalog of his treasures; he would have spared himself much trouble. The catalog of our treasures is right here at our fingertips, all we have to do is read it.

We need to know Him deeper and more intimately every day. Ask this daily, and God will show you daily, guaranteed He will answer this prayer We need to know Him as Father, Guide, and Friend. Too many times we forget the simple fact, that He is our friend. Yes, we must reverence and respect Him for his Holiness, but He also wants us to go with Him for walks, a hot fudge Sunday, and quiet drives to watch the leaves change. We build friendships by spending quality time together.

Full Knowledge

Now the root of this word "knowledge" means super-knowledge, or full knowledge.

Paul is praying here for believers, the Holy Spirit is already dwelling in them, for they/we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Paul is praying that we will let the Spirit do His work in us. The Holy Spirit delights in His special work opening up the things of Christ and revealing them to His saints. How does He do that, By giving insight into the truth already revealed in the Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – all Scripture is giving by the Holy Spirit:

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

That word "perfect" there in verse 17 means: complete, or perfect. All the full knowledge of God can be found in the Scriptures. Paul doesn't pray for them to kick bad habits or entangling sins, He prays that they will know Him more. As we know God more, those things know us less, for we are too busy fellowshiping with Him, to be bothered by the cares of this world.

When studied and preached simply and purely, verse by verse, book by book, the Bible can change lives and transform history.

(Isa 28:9-10 KJV) Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

If you need proof on the power of verse by verse studying, just ask Ulrich Zwingli.

Ulrich Zwingli was born on January 1, 1484, in a Swiss shepherd's cottage in the Alps. His parents instilled in him a love for God. The young man proved a brilliant student and following a brief stint as a schoolteacher he entered the priesthood. For ten years he labored in the village of Glarus, and there he began corresponding with the famous Greek scholar Erasmus.

The Swiss church was bubbling with corruption during this time. In 1516, when Zwingli moved to the city of Einsiedeln, he, too, was struggling hard with sin. In his new village, the young priest fell into an intimate relationship with the barber's daughter. But it was also in Einsiedeln that he borrowed a copy of Erasmus's newly published Greek New Testament. Zwingli copied it. Carrying it everywhere, he pored over it continually and scribbled notes in the margins and memorized it. The pure Scripture began doing its work, and Zwingli's life and preaching took on new vigor. Soon he was invited to Zurich as chief preacher in the cathedral.

He arrived on December 27, 1518, and began his duties on his thirty-sixth birthday, January 1, 1519, with a shock. He announced that he would break a thousand years of tradition by abandoning the church liturgy and the weekly readings as a basis for his sermons. Instead, he would teach verse-by-verse through the New Testament, beginning immediately. He proceeded to preach that day from Matthew 1 on the genealogy of Christ. Such preaching was radical in its day, but the city of Zurich loved it. Zwingli's concern for the city's youth, his courage during the plague, and his cheerful temper dispelled initial doubts about his reformation ideas. Later, when opposition arose, Zurich's City Council and 600 other interested citizens gathered to evaluate his actions. The assembly (the First Zurich Disputation, 1523) affirmed Zwingli and encouraged his work. Lives were changed; history was made. The Swiss Reformation had begun.

Pray for yourself and others that daily: Pray they will fall in love with the Word, and That they will know God More. Pray that a Reformation will start in their heart.

Prayer Point 2: That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)

Ephesians 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

EYES: Buenos Aires, Argentina. An 86-year-old blind women held off four thieves with a stick yesterday when they broke into the house where she lives alone in a small Argentine town. One of the men tried to attack Julia Castillo after smashing in the door of her house before dawn. But she fought back with her stick and made so much noise that neighbors awoke and called police. The buglers were arrested. There is more to seeing than meets the eyes. God calls us to look past what we see immediately in front us physically, but to look forward to what is coming.

The believer's hope is of course is that we are heaven bound

(John 14:2 KJV) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

But God wants us to live for heaven today, and not wait until we die or are raptured. Once your eyes have been opened and you are enlightened to the fact that you are already seated in heaven; you will be able to clearly see God's plan for your life, His power, and the person of God.

When people have revelation in their heart that they are going to heaven, you won't have to preach to them about being worldly or entangled in habitual sin. People won't be striving to get a faster car, bigger bank account, or any of those other things. You won't have to preach about service because it will come naturally to them.

If you are living for heaven, you will have peace and contentment in your heart. If you are living for this life you will not have contentment, it will always be just as soon as I get a new job, graduate High school or college, or move here, or get out of this relationship, or into a new relationship. It is a lie because once you get there, you will want more. If you have a heavenly perspective, then you will be comforted with what you have.

This word "know" used here in verse 18 (Gk "eido") comes from the Greek root word: optanomai, op-tan'-om-ah-ee; which means to gaze (i.e. with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable; and thus differing from G991, which denotes simply voluntary observation; and from G1492, which expresses merely mechanical, passive or casual vision; and G4648 a watching from a distance).

It means to experience first-hand, jump in there and see and feel for yourself.

Betsy Ten Boom had it right. She and her sister were put into a Nazi concentration camp for helping the Jews escape persecution in Holland during WWII. While in prison she was a faithful witness for Christ even in the midst of the horrible holocaust going on around her. She held Bible studies in the camp and led many people to the Lord. What stands out most about her to me is what a fellow prisoner said about her. She said Betsy talked about heaven, like she had already been there.

We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light:

(1 Pet 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

We have been called to His eternal glory:

(1 Pet 5:10 NKJV) But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Some callings offer no hope, but for Christians hope (elpis, el-pece)' means; from a prim. elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation, or confidence, The word carries with it the assurance for the future. We know it is coming, and we anticipate it with great pleasure.

The hope that belongs to our calling should be a dynamic force in our lives,

- encouraging us to be pure (1 John 2:28-3:3),

- obedient (Hebrews 13:17),
- and faithful (Luke 12:42-48).

The fact that we shall one day see Christ and be like Him should motivate us to live like Christ today.

The Hope of “His calling” is quite possibly the number one failure of Christians.

How do we get to that point and stay there? We have to keep our focus.

Put this in the forefront of your mind every day, and watch how when the things of the world come-up against you, you will say, "it's not worth it, He is coming back, there isn't much time." I say if Jesus doesn't come back today, then He is coming back tomorrow; and if you ask me tomorrow, I'll tell ya the same thing.

(Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

On the sixth day of the ill-fated mission of Apollo 13, the astronauts needed to make a critical course correction. If they failed, they might never return to earth. To conserve power, they shut down the inboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a thirty-nine second burn of the main engines. How to steer for that long? Jim Lovell, the commander, determined that if they could keep a fixed point in space in view through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually. That focal point turned out to be their destination - Earth. For 39 agonizing seconds, Lovell focused on keeping the earth in view. By not losing sight of that reference point, the three astronauts avoided disaster. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us that to finish your life mission successfully, Fix your eyes on Jesus.

Need a little help fixing your eyes on Jesus? Look at the prophetic signs. Folks, the Lord's return is soon. The clock is ready to strike midnight, the trumpet is polished, Jesus is driving the final nails on your mansion, and He is changing into His – “I got family coming over clothes.”

When the hard times come, remember the hope of your calling. Hard times will make you look forward to the hope of your calling.

Pray for yourself and others that daily: That they will know the Hope of their Calling.

1. That they will know God More. (v.17)
2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)

Prayer Point 3: That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)

Ephesians 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Notice the structure of this sentence - "the glory of "HIS" inheritance in the saints". Not only do we have an inheritance, verse 14, but Christ considers us (the saints) "HIS" inheritance. An inheritance is something of value and wealth.

God's plan isn't just to get us into heaven, but that we are "His Inheritance", His prize, His joy, His treasure.

(Matt 13:44) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field

(Matt 13:45) Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who when he found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

God considers us His treasures. God has invested in us, and considers us part of His great "riches". See that in verse 18b, the riches of the glory - of His inheritance. You are valuable to God, a treasure, don't treat His treasure like a common item, or worse some piece of junk. When a person sees himself or herself as the treasure of God they are, they will be disgusted with the thought of polluting it with pornography, fornication, drugs, and those types of things.

You young ladies, trading sex for companionship, you are too precious to God for that. You men sticking drugs in your body, you are a pawn in Satan's game.

We have all suffered defeats in our lives, set backs, sometimes the same defeat over and over again, and we begin to lose focus on the big picture, the Great Victory. And when you do fail, and satan comes to tell you that you are a piece of trash and unworthy of God's acceptance. Rebuke him, and say I may have fallen, but failure is only complete if I quit, I am God's treasure, and I will turn from this sin and live unto my Savior like the inheritance I am.

(Exo 19:4-5) You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine,

When she was young, Queen Victoria was shielded from the fact that she would be the next ruling monarch of England lest this knowledge spoil her. When her teacher finally did let her discover for herself that she would one day be Queen of England, Victoria's response was, "Then I will be good!" Her life would be controlled by her position. No matter where she was, Victoria was governed by the fact that she sat on the throne of England.

Know that we are His Treasure should lead the believer into a life of dedication and devotion to the Lord.

Pray for yourself and others that daily: That they will know they are His Inheritance.

1. That they will know God More. (v.17)
2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)
3. That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)

Prayer Point 4: That they will know the Power Available to them (v.19-23)

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1:21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Paul wants you to see what you already have – "born rich". He wants you to see all the power that is available for you to claim the riches in Christ. He doesn't pray that people will be broken of their lust, anger, profanity, alcohol, etc; instead he prays that they will see the power available to them. When you see all the power available to you, then you will have all that you need to overcome these things in your life.

How much power do we have? As much power, as God used to raise Jesus from the dead, is available for us today.

(Ephesians 1:19 NKJV) and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

(Ephesians 1:20 NKJV) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

A sin that continually ensnares us is bondage, it is like a coffin. It robs us of the full joy God intends for us, it impacts our family life and church life.....it takes life away. God says I released Jesus from the tomb, and I can release you from your tomb, whatever it is that is stealing life from you.

Look at the 3-Fold Power of God:

1. Power of the Resurrected Christ. Verse 20
2. Power of the Ascended Christ. Verse 20b
3. Power of the Dominating Christ. Verse 21

(Ephesians 1:20 NKJV) - **(Resurrected – R)** - *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead*

(Ephesians 1:20 NKJV) - **(Ascended – A)** - *and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

(Ephesians 1:21 NKJV) - **(Dominating – D)** - *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

Remember these three things in hard times. Resurrected – R, Ascended – A, Dominating – D. RAD

IF you see the power in you, then nothing can overpower you and defeat you. If you are in bondage to anything it is not that you need more power, but that you failed to use the power already available to you. **You don't need a program, you need the person – Jesus Christ**

The riches can only be claimed on the strength of His power. Satan is countering always and has greater power than you to keep you from the riches, but not the power that Jesus has to give you all these riches. When the temptation comes, we have to cry out to the Lord, give me the same power to overcome this as you used to raise Jesus from the dead.

Remember, The Christian really operates in two spheres: the human and the divine, the visible and the invisible. Physically, we are on the earth in a human body, but spiritually we are seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere—and it is this heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk. The President of the United States is not always seated at his desk in the White House, but that executive chair represents the sphere of his life and power. No matter where he is, he is the President, because only he has the privilege of sitting at that desk. Likewise, with the Christian: no matter where he may be on this earth, he is seated in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ, and this is the basis of his life and power

How dominating is this power? God has put all things

(Ephesians 1:22 NKJV) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

(Ephesians 1:23 NKJV) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

How dominating is this power? God has put all things – what kind of things? Meanness, depression, addiction, laziness, gossip, bad relationships, pornography, Satan's dominions and principalities....All things, do you get it? All are under His feet, the person, Jesus Christ.

In Revelation 1:15 it says Jesus' feet are like fine brass. Brass throughout the Scriptures signifies judgement. So everything under Jesus' feet has been judged. Lets see what he has judged and conquered.

Revelation 1:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

(Psalm 110:1 NKJV) 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" .

Who is Jesus' enemy?

(1 Corinthians 15:25-26 NKJV) For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

What else has Jesus' conquered?

(Colossians 2:14-17 NKJV) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Jesus has conquered sin and death, and defeated Satan. He is victorious. Also note that it says that Jesus is the Head of the church.

(Revelation 14:14 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

The crown on Jesus' head I suggest to you is a crown of victory. Under His feet are the spoils of victory, on his head is the crown of victory. Where are we? We are above his feet, not to be judged, and under his head enjoying His victory.

Pray for yourself and others that daily: That they will know the Power Available to them.

Conclusion:

How do you apply all this to your life? Always know this. We are fighting from Victory, not to victory. The battle is over, Jesus won the battle on the cross. Maybe you have failed in that you started to drink again, or you fall into sexual sin - you are not defeated, just a temporary set-back, victory is yours to be claimed over it. Maybe you have been diagnosed with a terminal disease, Jesus has defeated death, you will reign with Him in glory.

Pray in Victory, Lord you have all the power to do all these things in mine and our life:

- 1. That they will know God More. (v.17)**
- 2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)**
- 3. That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)**
- 4. That they will know the Power Available to them (v.19-23)**

(Luke 18:1 KJV) And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Christian don't faint or tire in your prayers. I know at times it seems like they are bouncing off the ceiling and falling to the ground, it is times like that you need to continue through. We think it is hopeless, and then we tire and quit...ultimately, we slowly start to lose our heavenly perspective. The days we live are hard times. Planes flying into buildings, war, and anthrax – remember to keep the hope of your calling, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and heaven to come.

1982 the University of Wisconsin Badgers were hosting the Michigan State Spartans. 60,000 fans came to watch the badgers win. It didn't take long for the crowd to see that the Badgers weren't going to win as the Spartans started to rout the Badgers early in the game. The game went from bad to worse for the badgers.

But as the game progress the fans started to get happier and happier. Every now and then they would break out into a loud cheer, even as their team was getting trounced. The coaches were scratching their heads, they said we're playing terrible, yet they continue to cheer louder and louder.

The reason was, because 70 miles away, in Milwaukee, at Brewers stadium, the Milwaukee Brewers were cleaning up on the St Louis Cardinals in Game 3 of the 1982 World Series. So all the people at the Badgers game had their Walkman on, their headphones plugged in, they were watching the baseball score up on the Scoreboard. As they watched the Brewers whoop up on the Cardinals, they were getting happier and happier.

The football game was painful to watch, but the baseball game was a joy. You know the problem with the Christian community today is that we have taken out our earphones, turned off our Walkman, tuned out our radios, and quit looking at the scoreboard. We are no longer tuned into the game that really matters. The game that really matters isn't here in America, our bank accounts, and our jobs. The game that really matters is in heaven, and God has already won it, and He continues to win because He is fighting from victory. Christian we are

fighting from victory. The score is getting better and better every day. The game may be painful, but the thing that matters is that our citizenship is in heaven, so let us set our minds on the things that are above.

3P's of the Passage (Title: Precision Prayer)

Person

- Is a Saint
- Is Rich
- Is Heaven Bound
- Is Beautiful

Position

- His Inheritance
- His

Promise

- His Power
- His Wealth

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Chapter 2

Ephesians 2:1-7

Title: Our Past, Present, and Future (Amazing)

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 2:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is made alive, they are no longer dead in sin.
- Has a new walk, and is set free.
- Is loved by God.

Position

- Alive together with Christ.
- Raised up together with each other (meaning the other saints)
- Seated in Heavenly places in Christ,
- Saved by Grace

Promise

- Saved by Grace (not our performance).
- Receives the riches of His Grace
- Receives the riches of his Mercy

Why it Matters to You

Why does this passage matter to you? Why spend an hour of your time to hear this, to study this, to come here when you could be elsewhere? Because God, the Author of these words..... wants you to know your past has been washed away by His finished work on the cross! That your present is empowered to overcome..... by Him, because you are raised and seated with Him, raised to life. And, your future (which includes today and all eternity) He will spend it showing you His kindness and mercy..... now those are words that can change a life "today", regardless who you are, how long you have known Him, or maybe still searching for answers of who He is, is He real, and does He want to have a personal relationship with you..... to which He answers you today that He does.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Made Alive – But Some only Merely Exist

Made alive - Some people merely exist because they don't know true life and living. It is found in one place, and one place only, in Christ.

Even Scholars Struggle / Simply No Trespassing Sign

Verse one, even Bible scholars struggle and debate over what is the difference of sin and trespass and I don't think it's that much of a debate. Sin simply means to miss the mark, as in shooting an arrow at a bullseye target, and if you missed the bullseye, it would be said you sinned. God has a holy law, His commandments, and if you missed keeping one of them you sinned. Now regarding trespass, Genesis 3 gives us a clear indication of what a trespass is, as we know that sin means to miss the mark, but trespass adds another layer of identification into that. And what we see in Genesis three was there was a sign posted, if you would, outside that tree that says no trespassing. And yet Adam and Eve chose to disobey the sign that God had given them that says, "You shall not eat of this tree." And so what we know, a trespass is it is to disobey the word of God. It's not just disobeying and breaking the commandments and the law. It is the disobedience to the very word of God where a person says, "I see the sign, I know what the sign says, I know what it means, but I'm choosing to jump the fence and break this boundary that God has put up where he said, 'No trespassing.'"

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Pastor John Duncan

I'm reminded of one of the Bible teachers I had in Bible College. His name was John Dunkin. He was an old hippie from the 70s, got saved in the Jesus movement and even at 60 he was still just a cool dude, long hair, and the whole hippie look still going on. But let me tell you, what a Bible teacher. Amazing Bible teacher. Just what a man of God that he had, and I know I'm digressing, but his wife was just like him with their adventure of life and enjoying life and being saved. And tragically in her later years, she was stricken with a debilitating disease that left her immobile, but she didn't want to stop living in life. And I remember him telling the story that they would go surfing and he would lay her on the front of the surfboard and he would surf the board standing up and they would catch big waves and ride it out, and she would be screaming and laughing all the way, and the joy that they had as a husband and wife and just what a beautiful picture that is.

But again, as I was saying, what a great Bible teacher. And I remember him telling the story and it's applicable for us today in that when he was recently saved in the Jesus movement living on in California, and there was a bunch of them recently saved living out in California in a hippie house and they got jobs on this orange orchard ranch and their job was to pick the oranges. And the owner took them around and said to everybody, "Here, you pick these rows. Here's how you do this. You put them here and et cetera, et cetera." But then they came to this one orange tree that had a fence around it to which the owner said, "So pick all these oranges that you want and help yourself to as much as you want to eat while you're working, but do not touch these oranges inside this fence or pick them because we are doing a special test on genetic cross seeding and to see if we can get a better tasting orange. And therefore this is off limit. Do not touch."

So it wasn't long after you have a bunch of young hippie kids, when the owner's gone, they look at that tree and they said, "I wonder what that orange tastes like." So John said he jumped the fence, picked an orange, brought it back, opened it up, peeled it off and gave a piece to everybody and they were all eating it together. And then John stopped and he looked at them all and he goes, "Guys, we just did it again, didn't we?"

And I think you can see how applicable that is even when God says what is clearly do not touch, do not enter, hands off, do not jump the fence, no trespassing. There's something in our nature that says, "I'm going to," and that's what trespass means.

Spiritual Death / Must Be Born Again

Verse one is spiritual death, which is separation from God. And then when there's a spiritual death plus the actual physical death, that's going to be the eternal death, and hence why Jesus said in John 3:3, "Unless a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." We must be born again out of this spiritual death and made alive as it's spoken here in this passage, and the gospel given to us that though we were dead in our trespasses and sin, those things have been washed away through the blood of Jesus and we have been made alive. That's what being born again is, to be born spiritually.

And if you do not know what that word means, to be born again, if you hear it and you think it's a fanatical statement, it was the statement made by Jesus himself in John 3:3. And if you don't know what born again means, then it probably means that you're not born again, and it's something that you need to look at and ask, why don't I know what born again means? Because you must be born again, Jesus said, to enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Verse 2 – Unlocks Verse 1

Verse two. So verse two unlocks verse one. It says that we're made alive. Verse one by itself. We can say, "Okay, that's nice. I see, we've been made alive," until you read verse two (and three) and see what life was before he made us alive. We're given two things. We walked according to the course of the world and we walked according to the prince and power of the air, and that's Satan. And so this is what we've been made alive from and, oh, the joy of being made alive.

Course of World = World Standards

Verse two: the course of the world means the world's standards and the world's value. And we studied the prophecy update last week and we see all that man's values and the world's values get, we got a mess in this world and we can all say yes to that. While the world's standard is self-centered, it's not God-centered, and that's what's being spoke here, the course of the world. It's about being self-centered, not God-centered.

And Satan is at work to influence the world and to want people to be self-standard, self-centered to make that their standard and their value. And anytime someone is all about themselves, then everything will always be about themselves.

Its Good News - Tell it as So – We are Made Alive

It's the Gospel means good news and sometimes pastors and just people, we don't present the Gospel as good news. It's good news. We've been set free, we've been made alive. We've been given not just abundant life, but eternal abundant life. And when we look back at what we've been set free from that should make us say even more, "Oh, what good news it is."

Satan's Radio Station

How fitting it is when it says Satan is the prince and power the air. I do liken it to that place of Satan has his own radio station (66.6), if you would, and he's sending out his signal and it's going throughout the whole world. And man can choose the dial into a station or to dial into Jesus' station (77.7). And so the devil, he's sending out his signal and whoever decides to dial into it and receive it, they're the ones who become influenced by it. And I think it's just real simple for us as Christians. You know what? Just don't dial in. Just tune it out and then really replace it with dial in to Jesus, and life is going to be great, it's going to be mighty.

Meander / Devil wants You to Succeed in Flesh / Movie God's Not Dead

Verse Two: That word walked is better translated meander. It means to be tossed to and for, and people so much they think they're the captain of their destiny, but no man is. Every man is under the influence. That'd be the Lord or the Prince in power of the air. And let me just say this to anyone who it applies for" don't think the devil isn't all for your business venture to succeed. And don't think the devil isn't all hoping and doing what he can to make your flesh be fulfilled to your desires. Because he knows what that brings and he knows where that leads. He leads away from the Lord, and it continues to drive people away.

I'm reminded of the movie, God's Not Dead, maybe you remember it. The woman who loved the Lord with all of her heart, she has dementia and she's in an assisted living. And her son comes who's a high roller, her son comes, he's got it all, bigwig on Wall Street driving the fancy car, got the cool hair, and the fancy expensive suit, and he comes to visit her and her mind is disconnected, and he's sitting off to the side and he's just looking at her like, what a shell of a person you once were. And if you remember the movie, he's looking at her in the darkness of the scene and he says, "You were the nicest person on the earth. I'm the meanest, and there you sit in your dementia, and here I sit. My life's perfect. I have it all."

In the movie so wonderfully, she comes out of the dementia for a moment. She looks at him and she says, the devil loves to put a nice cushiony prison cell together with all the wonderful things in it. The man becomes comfortable in it and he doesn't want to leave, but then a day comes when he tries to leave, he can't, because he finds that the

door has been shut and the cell is locked and the person is trapped within. And the young son just stares in amazement at what has just been said. Then the woman transcends back into dementia and says to him, "I'm sorry, what was your name again?"

Mark:

You prayed and believed your whole life. Never done anything wrong. And here you are. You're the nicest person I know. I am the meanest. You have dementia. My life is perfect. Explain that to me!

Mina's Mother:

Sometimes the devil allows people to live a life free of trouble because he doesn't want them turning to God. Their sin is like a jail cell, except it is all nice and comfy and there doesn't seem to be any reason to leave. The door's wide open. Till one day, time runs out, and the cell door slams shut, and suddenly it's too late.

Ephesians 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Conducted Lust of Flesh / As a Man Thinks – Not the Body Craves / Mind Produces the Craving

Verse three says, "The resultant of verse two is that we conducted ourselves in the course of the world." That is, "We conducted ourselves with the lust of the flesh," it says, "with the fulfilling of the desires of the flesh and the mind." And the scriptures are clear that as a man thinks, therefore he is. And we so often think that it's our flesh that is leading us. It's our appetite. It's that addiction that's leading us, but it's all right there. It's the mind and then what the mind determines the body follows. And so the battle is truly in the mind, the battle isn't in any other part of our body regardless of what the world's culture is trying to say about certain things such as that my body is screaming out for this drug or this physical pleasure. That's not true at all, and that's purposed by Satan, the prince and power of the air, to send out a false signal so that man starts trying to battle things in the wrong approach. Man tries to battle things from the physical flesh, body level and what needs to be battled is in the mind, and then of course that mind needs to be changed.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) 7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV) 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Cycle – Sowing a Thought and Reaping a Destiny

There's a cycle that is spoken through the scripture of, as a man thinks on it, then his actions follow it, and then once the action follows it, a habit is established, and once a habit is established, a lifestyle is made. And simply, if we stop and cut it off at the thought level, then the habit and the lifestyle never come in and get footing.

"Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny."

James 1:12–15 (NKJV) 12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Change Way Think / Change Way Live / Queen Victoria – The Twice Governor

And so Ephesians is a call to change the way we think, a call to live, like our position. And we studied that in earlier chapters,

- When she was young, Queen Victoria was shielded from the fact that she would be the next ruling monarch of England lest this knowledge spoil her. When her teacher finally did let her discover for herself that she would one day be Queen of England, Victoria's response was, "Then I will be good!" Her life would be controlled by her position. No matter where she was, Victoria was governed by the fact that she sat on the throne of England.
- A true story from way back. A man grew up as the son of the town prostitute. The town joke was him; they would say, "who does he look like? They would not allow him in the stores or on the walkway. He started to go to go to church, and he met the Pastor. The Pastor said, "you know who you look like? And the man thought to himself, the last person I expected it from was the Pastor. Pastor said, "you look like the son of God, go claim your inheritance." He was two times elected governor of his state.

- We are all created in God's image, but it is not until we are adopted will there be a family resemblance.

So I challenge you today to change the way you think, to live like you're called. I remind you of the four points of our last study and I want to remind you again to change the way you're thinking in that you're his inheritance. We have an inheritance, as we studied in verse three, we have a spiritual inheritance, but we can forget that the scripture also said, as we finished last week's study, that we are his inheritance. God considers us his inheritance and an inheritance is something of wealth, of value. It's something that someone says, "I can't believe I received this. This gift is amazing. I cherish it. What a wondrous thing." You're God's gift and you're of great wealth and you're of great value then.

1. That they will know God More. (v.17)
2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)
3. That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)
4. That they will know the Power Available to them (v.19-23)

God wants us to change the way we think. Man doesn't have to live on lower plane described there in Verses One and Three, but the higher level life made possible through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ, and as promised in Ephesians 1:19 and 1:20. That the same power that rose Jesus from the grave is available for us today.

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Children of Wrath

And then the third point is that we're called children of wrath in verse three here. And that wrath was what was due onto us. Some Bible commentators believe this reference to, just as others, Paul is referencing that he and the Jewish people were and making that linking that he was like that but now he's saved and he's making the point of Jew and Gentile. And that is very possible but at the very basis of it, it is true because both Jew and Gentile are in the same place. Neither were separated from this need for a Savior.

The children of wrath means the penalty for being as such that we just were described, the sin that breaks God's commandments, the trespasses that go against His word that we go against. We have the gospel here very clearly spoken to us, man has broken God's law, trespassed, he's separated from God. The penalty for breaking law is the wrath of God, death, eternal separation, for being guilty just as if we broke man's law there's a penalty to pay, so too breaking God's law, there's a penalty to pay. But there is a Verse Four that says, But God. And then begins the good news of Jesus Christ, taking the punishment, trading places, being the substitution that he takes our punishment so that we can become sons and daughters.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Just as Others – Does our Heart Burn for Those who are Dead in Christ

Verse three. Just as the others, it says, "The world is led by the prince and power of the world. And so here we are reading that we were just like that. And I think there's something to be remembered about that of where we were brought from by God's grace, but also that there are still people who are captive in that place. And so they have this wrath and this judgment that is upon them, and as we look at the riches and the greatness that has given to us, we should be looking on to them and going, "But this is what they're missing. This is what they are in bondage to." And I pray that it would stir our hearts to start rescue missions to go save and rescue people from this.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

BUT GOD

You know, Christian, I think too often our language falls so far short in the way we speak and the way we think. Some of the most powerful passages in the Bible are simply two words, "But God." And I think we should put that into our vocabulary. I've purpose in my mind and my heart, in 2020 I'm going to be saying these two words more so than I've said it combined in my whole 25 years of walking with the Lord. And that are those two words, "But God."

- So when I say, or when someone says I failed, the answer is, "But God."

- When we say, "The world is getting darker," we say, "But God," and then we fill in the blank. But God is light, God is victorious.
- "I failed," we say, "But God, who is rich in Mercy, forgives us and restores us."
- When people say, "My marriage is struggling," the two words that follow after that is, "But God." He is able to put that marriage back together and make it strong.
- And when someone says, "I'm depressed," the two words that follow are "But God, He is the one who is able to be the lifter of our soul and our heart and our mind."
- When someone says, "This thing is too strong to me," the next two words that we should speak is, "But God, He has overcome, and He is the victor and will bring you victory."
- So I'm going to put those two words in my vocabulary, and I hope you will too.

Definition of Mercy and Grace

Verse Four:

- Mercy - means not getting what you deserve.
- Grace - means getting what you don't deserve.

Do you see the difference? We deserve punishment, but Mercy says I won't give that to you. Grace is getting what you don't deserve and earned and we get salvation and we get love. We didn't earn it but God gives it. That's what Grace does, it gives us something that we didn't earn, that we didn't have to perform, and Mercy keeps us from getting the wrath that we deserve. And Oh, the beauty of these two words, the Mercy of God is best described as love in action, and that's what we see here in our passage before us today.

Definition Mercy given in Verses 4-5 / Mercy based on Love

Verse four says, "Rich in mercy," and we're given the definition of what rich and mercy is by verses four and five. Mercy loves, God's mercy loves, even when we were dead in sin. Mercy brings and gives life in Christ we read, and that life in Christ is not just any life, it's John 10:10, it's an abundant life, it's a rich life, it's an overflowing life. And we read mercy saves by grace. And we read, grace is based on mercy. And we read mercy is based on love, the love of God. Because of his love, mercy and grace are secured is what we read here in verse four.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

It is How God Operates

Verse five: Mercy is a gift as much as Grace, and it's all based on love. Grace is how God operates. God doesn't manifest acts of Mercy because we deserve it, it's because it's love in action. Grace and Mercy both come out of the nature of God. God is love, First John 4:8. When we settle that God is love, then we settle the way he will operate, and His actions are Grace and Mercy, because it stems from His very nature and being.

Saved – Perfect Tense

Verse five says, "You have been saved." This is in the perfect tense, meaning having been saved, and the verb tense is "shown complete action with continuous results". You having been saved, it's a past tense word but has a continual action with it, meaning it's eternal, the saving and the salvation is eternal based on Christ.

Before the Foundation of the World

He loved us before the foundation of the world. And Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still yet sinners, Christ died for us." What we read here and see here is eternal love continually told by God. So we know God loved us when we were sinners, yet some receive that gladly and receive the salvation, then sin after salvation and somehow they believe God doesn't love them because they're a sinner. To which is totally contradiction. If God loved us before and when we were sinners, why then would He change now? Grace means undeserved. We didn't deserve the Grace that we got to be saved, and we don't deserve it now. Yet God continues to give it because that's who He is. Why do we think something changes after we get saved, and we just continue to demonstrate that we're still yet sinners?

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Romans 5:6–11 (NKJV) ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

People confuse, forget that Grace is timeless and eternal. It is before, it is now, and it is forever. God loved you before when in sin and not saved, and God loves you now, still a sinner but saved.

Romans 8 said, "There's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

"If you love me before, then surely you love me now," we can say unto the Lord. No, and now I can rest in that and this ties in with us, then we'll live like it when we know His love is timeless and our forgiveness is secured and eternal.

Do We have Mercy on those in Trespasses and Sin?

Mercy loves even when someone is dead in trespasses and sin. This is the promise that we come here, we receive and we celebrate it. But if we're being made into the image of Christ and we're going to live our lives like Christ, then we have to ask ourselves, do we love like this? Do we give mercy? Do we love as God? God's mercy loves those who are dead in their trespass and sin. Do we have a compassion for them or did we bring a judgment upon them? We should be looking upon people and go, "There go I except by the grace and mercy of God." And then we should find our hearts opening to say, "May I pray that the mercy and grace and love of God reaches them while they're dead in their trespasses and sin."

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Comparing Darkness & Light

So Verse Five and Six we go from the former condition that we once were, back in Four and Five to the present condition that we are now, to mark the contrast between dead to life. Verse Five and Six contrast this great difference in brightness between the darkness.

And do you notice Verse Five were identified with His death, Verse Six were identified with His resurrection, and then the second half of Verse Six were identified with His ascension. As we see dead, resurrected, and ascended, that's beautiful for us. The identity, as we identify with Christ, and that's what baptism is. As we're baptized, the old man is buried and left dead in the grave, and the new man is resurrected into the new man and new life, and then we are raised up and seated with him in Heavenly places. Beautiful passage.

God's Output of Mercy & Grace

Verse six and seven, mercy, grace, and love are God's input, if you would, and then verses six and seven tell us what the outputs are.

Christ is not on the Cross

We will be raised from the dead because Jesus rose from the dead, and proves that we will too. Jesus is not on the cross anymore, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, because He has risen. With that comes power, because the dead are powerless. Too many people have a dead Jesus, a Jesus who is still on the cross.

A brother at the men's prayer breakfast was telling how He was raised Catholic and could never understand the so-called Born-again believers. He said a friend told him about the death and resurrection of Christ, and he said he already believed that and can't understand why they made a big deal about it...but all the while living in sin. But as

time passed he struggled with it more knowing that something was wrong in his life, he cried out to God one day coming home from Ocean city, he said show me what the cross means. When he got home he found his cross with Jesus on it had fallen to the ground and Jesus had broken off of it. He tried repeatedly to get Jesus back on the cross but he wouldn't stay on it. He called his friend and told him the story, and his friend said that is what I have been telling you, Jesus is no longer on the cross, he has victory over sin and death and is seated in heaven...then he got it, and gave his life to the Lord.

We will be raised from the dead because Jesus rose from the dead, and proves that we will too. Jesus is not on the cross anymore, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, because He has risen. With that comes power, because the dead are powerless. Too many people have a dead Jesus, a Jesus who is still on the cross.

We Are Raised and Seated Together / Lazarus

Verse Six: I like what one of the old time commentators said, "God has reserved a seat for you next to Him in Heaven." I look at that in my word picture life that I like to think in has God patting the chair. When we really want someone to sit next to us, we hit the chair and we wave to them, we say, "You, come sit here next to me, I want you next to me," and that's what the Lord is doing to us.

In John 11 Lazarus is raised from the dead, and then in John 12 he is seated next to Christ. Picture of us and for us. *John 11:39 (NKJV)* ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

John 11:43-44 (NKJV) ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

John 12:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Do I say You Sit Here or You Sit Over There?

"We are raised up together," it says, "and we're seated together in heavenly places." And so I say again, do you notice what we have here as a body of Christ? Do you see the us? He's speaking of a body. Do you see that we are raised up together, we are seated together in heavenly places? Is that how we look at our brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we look at them and say, "No, you sit over there. I sit here"? God says, "Raised up," and what happens raised up, I see a weird picture in my mind of God taking his nail scarred hands, reaching them out and lifting us up. "I lift you up from where you were. I pull you up to have you seated with me." And so the question for us, do we want to be like Jesus today this year? And if your heart will then God would be asking to you, "Who will you reach your hand out to and who will you lift up? Who is it that you can lift up? Who will you reach your hand up and lift down and say, 'You come here and you sit by me'"?

Ephesians is going to build, there's going to be a wave that's building, and I don't want to get there until we get there in chapter four, but there's this building up that's being continually woven in here in chapters one through three and not just what God has done for us, but what God has done for that person to your left and that person to your right. What God has done for the body and he's building a body, a beautiful body, and he wants us to change the way we think and he wants us to look and go, "That person is seated next to me. That person has been raised up next to me." They've been seated next to Christ. We will be seated together at the banqueting table at the marriage supper of the lamb during that seven year feast. During the tribulation period down here, we should start practicing for the marriage supper of the lamb right here, right now in this church today of that sweet fellowship that we will have together.

Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Verse 7 / Eternal Promise

Verse seven is an eternal promise. Ages to come for all of eternity, God wants to show us exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us. God says to you today, "This is what today is. Tomorrow and eternity is me pouring out my love, my grace upon you." And may it be reminded, grace is not based on performance, but His performance. And He's saying to you today, tomorrow, and forever, I want to pour out this great grace, exceeding wealth of grace and kindness towards you

Trophies of Grace

Verse Seven: the story doesn't end there. Verse Seven shows why God has done it, why He has accomplished Verse Four and Six, which were contrast to One and Three show the need for it. Verse Seven says, "All of eternity, that's today, to show all creation God's Grace." Believers are truly God's trophy of Grace. That's what He's declaring, this is why He's doing it. We are trophies of Grace.

You want to know God's Grace. He holds Ray Bollas up and says, "Need I say more? Look how gracious I am." And He takes all those who were dead in trespasses and sin, all of those whose lives were hopeless and meandering and wandering, and He holds them up before all the world and says, "How can you say I'm not gracious?" And that's the same with anyone to say how can he be a God of love? To which I say, "Hold me up. You can challenge all the things of this fallen world. But when you look at those who He has saved for no reason, other than He is love and He operates in love, and that produces in His love, Mercy and Grace, He holds us up as His trophies of Grace and says, "No one can say I'm not love."

And then if you aren't settled with that, His love is based on a cross on a hill in Palestine 2,000 years ago, where He says, "This is how much I love you."

Kindness Leads to Repentance

Verse Seven: it is His kindness that leads us to repentance. When I see it, receive it, it changes the way I live. When I came and understood His love, His kindness, His sweetness, I was drawn to it, I was captivated by it. I wanted to get closer and closer, not getting away from it, but closer. And so that changed my life as I see what that passage means, it's His kindness that leads to repentance. It truly shows me I don't want nothing getting in the way of this flow of His kindness and His sweetness, and that's what sin does, it blocks things up, it puts a barrier between us and our relationship. But because I wanted more, and to know Him more, and to be with Him more, and to be more intimately with Him, and it was His kindness that led me to repentance.

Romans 2:3-4 (NKJV)³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

And so I hope that word is moving in your heart today to know His kindness and say more Jesus, more of Jesus. It's not you dwelling on your failures and your faults that's going to get you closer to Jesus. It's going to be dwelling and focusing on Jesus that will get you further away from your faults and your failures.

Conclusion

Title: Title: Our Past, Present, and Future (Amazing)

Why it Matters to You

Why does this passage matter to you? Why spend an hour of your time to hear this, to study this, to come here when you could be elsewhere? Because God, the Author of these words..... wants you to know your past has been washed away by His finished work on the cross! That your present is empowered to overcome..... by Him, because you are raised and seated with Him, raised to life. And, your future (which includes today and all eternity) He will spend it showing you His kindness and mercy..... now those are words that can change a life "today", regardless

who you are, how long you have known Him, or maybe still searching for answers of who He is, is He real, and does He want to have a personal relationship with you..... to which He answers you today that He does.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is made alive, they are no longer dead in sin.
- Has a new walk, and is set free.
- Is loved by God.

Position

- Alive together with Christ.
- Raised up together with each other (meaning the other saints)
- Seated in Heavenly places in Christ,
- Saved by Grace

Promise

- Saved by Grace (not our performance).
- Receives the riches of His Grace
- Receives the riches of his Mercy

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 2:8-10
Title: You are God's Poem

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is Saved
- Is Boastless (PTL)
- Is God's Workmanship (Masterpiece)
- Is God's Poem
- Is Created for Good Works

Position

- Is Safe and Secure
- Is in Christ Jesus

Promise

- Saved by Grace (which is a Gift)

- Saved through Faith (which is a Gift)
- Will do Good Works

Why it Matters to You

Surely, we have reached the summit of the New Testament here in this passage. Our passage today summarizes the greatest gift (everlasting salvation), from the greatest lover (God's own heart), and God's greatest thoughts of you (His masterpiece). When, if we, can fully comprehend what is declared to us in these verses, we will live in power, we will live in peace, we will be secure in our salvation, and secure in our identity (not just in the life to come, but the life here now), we will walk a walk that nothing in this world can move or diminish. Oh, what a passage that is before us today.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Saved = Safe / To be Made Whole – Made Alive

Verse eight, saved means safe. We are saved which means safe from the wrath to come and that's for breaking the penalty of God's law. The word is used to deliver or rescue from danger or harm. But the word also goes on even deeper as it is used to mean "to make whole, to heal, to restore, to make well". The word goes well beyond just being saved from destruction, but to be made whole and as we studied last week, to be made alive.

How to be Saved – By Grace / How Not – by Works

Verse eight tells us how to be saved and that is by grace. Verse nine tells us how you can be saved and that is by works.

In verses 8-9, it's the amplification of verse 5. The original language is a definite article, it's the grace meaning the only grace. In the Greek, it begins with what's called a postposition for which could be translated because of the, different article grace, you are saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Salvation – Grace – Faith (are All Gifts) / Giftwrapped and Presented to You

Verse eight says, not only is salvation a gift by the gift of grace, but the faith to believe the grace for salvation is a gift also it's all a gift nothing that man can boast of.

It's a gift and here presented to you is a gift-wrapped box beautifully wrapped and if you look closely it has your name on it and it has this beautiful bow on the gift. God has given you a gift and he's handing it to you with your name on it extending it to you and the gift is He's Jesus Christ God's gift to you.

If I was to stand here today with a gift, beautifully wrapped, and said here I want to give you this gift..... surely you would not say ok let me do 100 pushups for you and then I will receive it, not would you say let me go feed the

poor, or read 30 chapters, or keep a bunch of rules first, and then I will come and receive this gift from you. No you would simply receive the gift. Yet for something inside so many people, that is how the gift of salvation is approached. It is a gift, and gifts are freely received from the person giving them, or..... some people will say, I don't want a gift from you, you can keep it. They don't want the gift, because gifts are through relationships, and some people don't want a gift from another because they don't want a relationship with that person. I think you see the point I am making regarding Christ, as some people don't want His free gift, because they don't the relationship that comes with the gift.

Ephesians 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Not of Works – No Boasting (PTL)

Verse nine, there will be no boasting for what works could compare to the works of the cross if you really consider it, yet man can shine his works and feel good about it then feel great because they fed the poor or they were reading 10 chapters a day or they were people of prayer and they did good works. And that is beautiful, and it does shine until you come and put it into the light of the brilliance of the cross, then the shine of works becomes dull and dingy compared to the shine that says it is done. The Light of the World was He who hung upon the cross.

John 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

What Works We Can Do - Believe

Verse nine, Oh praise the Lord that it's not of works, how exhausting the thought if it was of works and that I would have to work to get it. Because not only is it exhausting the thought of getting it but then obviously if it is by works you'd have to keep working to keep it and then you would always be finding yourself wondering if you've done enough to get it and are you doing enough to keep it.

Verse nine, there are works that man can do and we're told the works that we're expected to do is simply that we believe and so we can see that there are works for salvation then there's works after salvation but none of those are for to get and to have salvation. The works for salvation is that we simply believe, the works after salvation we're told faith without works is dead, the works after salvation are simply an output, a response to the change that is in us.

John 6:28–29 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

James 2:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

There's an old saying, "Good works never make us fit for God, but God does make us fit for good works."

PTL – Not of Works (Else I Would Always be Wondering)

Verse nine, imagine if it is works and the fact that we have to work, just the thought of it makes us have to imagine proves that salvation is not of works. I find it interesting, in James:2 we're told keep the whole law and if you're guilty and fail at one point you're guilty of them all. But I find it very interesting that people who are on a works trip for salvation, they never question the law, they never say keeping the law. And the reason is because they know in their heart they're guilty and they've already failed the law and therefore the works they want to do can't be the keeping of the law because they've already failed and therefore they're guilty. So what they do is they change the list of works and they make up a work, it's seven sacraments as you'll read in the Catholic church or for some it's the baptism to be saved or communion or confession, these type of things. The big ones always Sabbath keeping the Sabbath, which I still say, well, what is good enough on the Sabbath? What are the rules on the Sabbath? And what you'll find is people are making their own rules up about what it means to keep the Sabbath. They say, well, you don't do this and you don't do that on the Sabbath and that's works and that salvation to which you just go by whose means and who standards? What have if missed one, what of your list is one short? What of your list is a hundred short? How do you truly know? There's not a clear list in the Bible that says if you want to be saved, here's what you have to do to keep the Sabbath. Even the Jewish people, they made up their own lists trying to figure out, well, what does this truly mean? And man still tries to do it even on the other side of the cross.

- The Catholic church has seven sacraments, well, if there's eight or 20? How do they know they got all the right sacraments? By the way, the Catholic Church we say salvation is not by the works of sacraments, but if you press in on asking how to be saved, they eventually will say one, if not all the seven are required in some way.
- The Jehovah witnesses knock on doors, but what if they're ones short? What if they were knocked on a million doors in their life and find out that it was supposed to be one million and one doors? How do you know what is satisfying for works?
- And here's one I even say for the Sabbath keepers who now say you have to keep the Sabbath and that's on Saturday. I ask, how do you know today's truly Saturday? If you really want to get down to it, how do you know that today in this calendar that we all live to that it's really Saturday? If you go into the Bible and search for the word Sabbath, you'll find it a couple of hundred times. Go into the Bible and search for the word Saturday, you won't find it at all, nor will you find Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Sunday. You don't find a day a week in the Bible. And so if I'm a Sabbath keeper, I should be worried because you're not going to find the true day that the Sabbath is. And you could be wrong, you could be keeping Saturday and we're all really living that it's Thursday.

Only two days I need to be sure out for salvation. And those two days are the death of Jesus Christ and it doesn't matter what day that happened, truly, but Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sin. And then the next day I need to know was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We know it was the first day of the week. It doesn't matter what the first day of the week was, according to today's calendar, all that it is, is that we know that Jesus Christ died and He Rose again and that He took my sin and the substitution was accepted because He took my sin and buried it in the cross and He Rose again on the third day. If the substitution of Him trading places wasn't acceptable, God would have left Him in the grave, but He rose again. Romans 10:9 and 1 Corinthians 15.

James 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV) ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Luke 24:46–48 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Verse 10 – Nestled Between Two Gospel Proclamations

In verses 2:1-9 is the gospel, and again in 2:11-13 is the gospel again, but somewhere right here, nudged and nestled in, is verse 10 put in the middle of this and it's amazing. Why so? Because Verse 10 lets us know why God saves, the heart of God in salvation.

Workmanship - Poem

Verse 10, the word "workmanship" means poem. Let me read you a beautiful poem from the Song of Solomon of what God thinks of you. Let's not lose the context verse seven ties in here in our passage here in verse 10, you are trophies of grace and His poem. A poem is a work of art from the artists seeking to express himself in his work. You are God's poem, His workmanship and He wants to express Himself in you and through you.

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV) ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon 4:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you. ⁸ Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amanah, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards. ⁹ You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace.

Beloved ready for this? We're told we are his walking poem and back in verse seven we were held up as his trophy of grace and here in verse 10 we're being told we are his walking poem and a poem is the artist's expression of his work. It is His work the poem that we want to work express, we are His poem.

Workmanship means work of art. He is God thus, the work of art is a masterpiece.

Back to the Garden

Verse 10 created, takes us back to the garden, God's original creation.

God creating His Masterpiece.

So he made this masterpiece, you and I. God is a wonderful artist; consider the beauty of a sunset, a sandy beach, the Shenandoah Valley; yet in all their beauty, God considers them nothing compared to us.

The definition of Masterpiece in Websters dictionary is, "a persons greatest piece of work, as in an art; a fine example of skill or work. I like the compound structure of this word Masterpiece, master and piece – the Master's Piece. A masterpiece is made by the Master, not some underling or junior apprentice.

This masterpiece – the human body:

- is made up of 60 trillion cells.
- The nose can detect 10, 000 different smells
- The tongue has 6,000 taste buds
- The brain has 10 billion nerve cells
- The blood vessels linked together would circle the earth 2.5 times
- It would take 200, 000 pages to print out our DNA code.
- The Brain stores enough data to fill 7 million books.

If you want to see the Master at work, we have to go back to the beginning – Genesis. In the beginning God...

We see the repeated statement: **it was good.**

(Genesis 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

(Genesis 1:4) *And God saw the light, that **it was good:** and God divided the light from the darkness.*

(Genesis 1:10) *And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that **it was good.***

(Genesis 1:12) *And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that **it was good.***

(Genesis 1:18) *And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that **it was good.***

(Genesis 1:21) *And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that **it was good.***

(Genesis 1:25) *And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that **it was good.***

But now notice in verse 31, God creates man and He says.....**it was very good**

(Genesis 1:26 NKJV) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

(Genesis 1:27 NKJV) *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

(Genesis 1:29 NKJV) And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

(Genesis 1:30 NKJV) "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

*(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

At the end of every day of creation God said "it was good", until the sixth day, when God said "it was very good". The word "very" as used here is used often with other words to intensify them; in this case it would mean especially good, exceedingly good, great. Why did God say it was so good? Because in His final act of creation, He created man.

The Hebrew word for man used here is "adam", but it is used in its generic sense meaning "mankind". So here we see God is talking about the entire human race, and that includes you and me. And God said it was VERY good. The creation of man was God putting the crowning jewel on top of His creation. And He said "it was VERY good" Adam was first, but it very well could have been us, for we are man, created in God's image.

(Gen 2:7 NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

God spoke the world into existence, but to create man He got His hands dirty. God didn't create from a distance, He was intimately involved with each detail.

Man became a living soul: When I read the Bible I like to put myself in the story, like I was standing right there, I leave the black and white pages and enter into the story. So picture the day, a semi tropical climate, the lush green garden, a cool mist coming out of the ground, and along comes the Lord. We know from Scripture that wherever the Lord is, all eyes are upon Him. When Jesus walked the earth everywhere He went all eyes were upon Him. When Jesus returns all eyes will turn to see Him, God is the center of His creation. So can you picture all the animals in the garden? When God passed every eye turned to Him, but He didn't just pass, He stopped and started to do something in the dirt. The attention of all the animals are locked in on what He is doing. A lion comes over cocking his head in wonderment, two beavers leave the water to get a closer look, a giraffe uses his height advantage to get a better look, some squirrels hang out on branches to get a bird's-eye view, and a few rabbits hop over to watch. They all watch in silence as God puts some dirt here, some dirt there, and begins to shape it.

The word used here in Genesis 2:7 for "formed" is the exact same Hebrew word used for "potter" in Jeremiah 18. The picture it brings to mind here in the garden is God forming Adam just as a potter forming a piece of clay. God knew specifically what He was going to make when He started to form Adam.

(Jeremiah 18:1-6 NKJV) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

(Isaiah 64:8 KJV) But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

I am reminded of a Pastor and his wife, and they go around the world ministering at churches. She sings, and he gives a teaching about this verse, while he gives a live demonstration on how to make a pot. One thing I'll never forget him saying, who is considered to be a Master Potter, which is no small claim, in other words he is considered one of the best in the world. He said that every time he begins with that lump of clay, he doesn't even see the clay, but only the finished product, he sees that beautiful finished product. So too with God, for he is the Master of Master Potters.

Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God had as He formed Adam's face, the face He would look at and fellowship with for 930 years. Then after all the shaping was complete I picture God leaning back to stop and admire what He had fashioned. All the animals remain silenced wondering what is it, and then the Creator of the universe leans forward, possibly chest to chest, and breaths life into the nostrils of Adam. The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts Adam to His feet and presents him to the rest of His creation. At this point the garden erupts into a euphoric cheer, lions are roaring, monkeys screeching and shaking the trees, squirrels chattering, and birds singing. All of creation rejoicing, the animals in amazement at the beauty of God's creation, the crown of God's creation, MAN.

How precious we are to God for we are the crown of His creation. Am I being a little too dramatic here? I don't think so, we may argue over what is the most beautiful species on the planet, a man, a lion, kola bear, etc; but never what is the most precious. For it was man that Jesus Christ became, and it was for man that Jesus Christ died.

God didn't stop creating with Adam, but He is active in the creation of every one of us. And the same love and interest that God put into Adam, He puts into us.

(Psalms 139:13-16 NKJV) For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. (14) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (15) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. (16) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

In verse 15 the word "**wrought**" means "embroiderer, needlework", the picture it gives us is God with a needle and thread, ever so patiently making us. God being so interested in every little detail of how he makes us, bringing the fabric together into a beautiful piece of art. For that's what needlework is, it is art. God considers us His piece of art, His poem.

Now that we have seen and understood the work of art, the Masterpiece we are to God, now we can see why He would go to the length and pain of the Cross at Calvary to redeem us; why He would be willing to give His only begotten son to suffer the shame and pain of the cross. We are the object that God wants to pour all of His love out upon. Just as we did no work in our creation, we do no work in our salvation....we just freely receive this gift.

We Are Twice His (Made & Bought)

A childhood story sums all this up. A little boy made a sailboat one-day with the help of his father. He got the wood from a tree, he used his dad's tools to shape the boat. He made the sail with some fabric. Then he sanded and sanded the hull until it was smooth. Then he painted it his favorite color. The day came and he took out to the stream, put it in the water and watched it float. Pride and joy filled his heart. But a sudden wind came and pushed the boat out into deeper water and the boy couldn't get it, then it drifted out into the current and started down the river. The little boy followed as long as he could, but eventually it drifted out of sight. A heartbroken boy. Weeks later he and his father are downtown, and they pass a hobby shop, and there in the window was his boat. He said father I want to buy my boat back, his father said son at that price it will cost you everything you have....the boy said it will be worth it. As he walked home with his boat, he held it tight in his arms, joyful that it was his again, and he said, "I made you and I bought you, you are twice mine."

This is what Jesus would say to us today, "I made you and I bought you, you are twice mine."

Since Saved – Now Do Good Works

Verse 10, it doesn't say, now I created you and saved you, now go do good works, that's not what it means at all. It means since I saved you, you're now equipped to go do good works.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Real Estate – Location is Everything – We Are In Christ Jesus

The saved person is “in Christ Jesus”, and as the real estate principal goes, the 3 main keys of property value is.... Location, location, and location. Location is everything. Verse 10, the key to good works is in Christ, that's where the power source is. It says, prepared beforehand, God has prepared good works for you.

Moses

Moses, he had prepared good works for Moses, trained and taught in the house of Pharaoh, then he goes to the back end of the wilderness. All part of his preparation. He comes and he leads the Exodus of Egypt with nothing but a rod in his hand. It doesn't take much to do great works for God. He buries the whole enemy of Israel in the red sea. He spends 40 years leading and keeping the nation. He's given the good works to be the one who comes and delivers and proclaims the 10 commandments to the nation of Israel.

Joseph

Joseph, he was prepared for good works, he had a dream and he ends up in a pit. Yes, a pit, but he stayed faithful and that was good works, just like Moses was on the backside of the wilderness, that was good works. Joseph, he ends up in Potiphar's house, he's number two in the house. That's good works. He ends up in another pit, they're in prison, but he stayed faithful, there's another round of good works for all to see and give God glory. Then he becomes second in the kingdom and through that he saves a whole nation. God would say, Moses, I prepared this for you, God would say Joseph, I prepared this for you. And God says, Ray, this is what I have prepared for you. I have good works prepared for you, for your whole life and through your works you will bring me glory and all the world will see me. And the point of the good works is that all men might be drawn to him.

Come Full Circle

Full circle verse two, how once walked to how we now walk, in verse 10 it was full circle, in verse two we started with how we once walked and now we see how we are to walk with good works.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

So I think this is important place to point out what I call “Holy Grace” and Dangerous Grace”. In holy grace a person sees what they have been rescued from, sinning against THE HOLY GOD, and give praise for it, and live as we have studied here in chapter 2. Dangerous grace is for those people who say I am saved by grace, I received the gift, but..... They still live like verses 2-3. They don't live like

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

God Has Good Works Prepared for You / So Live Like It- Believe It

God has good works prepared for you and the question is what has God prepared for you? Here's the first question. Do you believe that he has? We think inward but equally so think outward, change the way we think we have been created for good works, therefore we can do good works. Now the question is, will we live like it? Will we leave here and say I've been created for good works and therefore I'm going to go and do good works for the

glory of God. And it simply comes in and says, Lord, what are the good works that you have prepared for me today, tomorrow and for the rest of my life.

We need to live like it, we need to change the way we think that we can and will do good works because that's what God has created us for. Our lives are the canvas on which God paints. On which He expresses His thoughts, and will, and heart.

I think in the simplicity of it, it just comes down to go, I believe it. That I've been created and been planned to do good works, and so I simply believe it and therefore enter into what are the good works that you want to perform through me, Lord.

I definitely have a tendency to say, "Oh, not me." I think we all have that sin, that tendency to go, "God would never use me, or at least not in a big way, not in a great way. Maybe God will only use me in a little way." I think we need to come and simply believe, "God, you want to use me. You will use me."

We have clearly established God's sovereignty and man's free will through our studies and what I want to say I can have all the Jesus Christ I want but not one drop more. I can limit God on how much He gives me or better says, I can limit God on how much I allow Him to flow through me in these good works.

God's good works are ready to flow for us, we have to decide how wide I want to turn on the spicket.

James 1 says, if a man doubts don't think he will be receiving from the Lord to do these good works.

James 1:5-8 (NKJV) ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Conclusion:

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Is Saved
- Is Boastless (PTL)
- Is God's Workmanship (Masterpiece)
- Is God's Poem
- Is Created for Good Works

Position

- Is Safe and Secure
- Is in Christ Jesus

Promise

- Saved by Grace (which is a Gift)
- Saved through Faith (which is a Gift)
- Will do Good Works

Why it Matters to You

Surely, we have reached the summit of the New Testament here in this passage. Our passage today summarizes the greatest gift (everlasting salvation), from the greatest lover (God's own heart), and God's greatest thoughts of you (His masterpiece). When, if we, can fully comprehend what is declared to us in these verses, we will live in power, we will live in peace, we will be secure in our salvation, and secure in our identity (not just in the life to come, but the life here now), we will walk a walk that nothing in this world can move or diminish. Oh, what a passage that is before us today.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 2:11-22
Title: God Want's You

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NKJV) ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were

without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Continually Remember

In our passage today it begins with the words “therefore remember”. The verb structure in the original Greek language, is what is called the “present imperative”, and therefore what it means is “continual remember, keep on remember, don’t forget this”. So there is a calling for us to continually remember, keep on remembering, to not forget..... The things we are going to read here in our passage today.

Here are 5 things we are to continually remember:

- We were once without hope (2:11-12)
- We were once far off (2:13)
- We were once walled off (2:14-18)
- We were once outside the building (2:19-21)
- But Now – we are the Dwelling Place of God (2:22)

You are the dwelling place of God! The Holy God, dwells in you, and if you are wondering what all the means listen on as we study what that means. As we have said in a prior study, there are only 3 things that matter in real estate, and every real estate agent confirms..... location, location, location. When looking for a place to live, dwell, the number one thing is always location..... this is where I want to live. Whether it is one reason or a thousand reasons, we come to the place of..... this is where I want to live. God, the creator of the universe, He who sits upon the throne, wants to live with you and in you.

How does just that thought make you feel today? How long has it been since you “remembered that”? When we find the perfect house, we say I want this house, I am willing to buy this house, because I really want this house. God wants you. Maybe you don’t feel wanted, maybe you feel second in everyone’s life, maybe it isn’t even a felling but a demonstrated fact, that you are second, or a demonstrated fact that you are unwanted. BUT GOD..... says to you today in this passage, I want you!

God wants you, and went to great lengths to get you, to buy you, and as we look at our passage today and remember where we were, we are reminded the great distance He overcame to get us, to have, to make us His.

3P’s of the Passage

Person

- A New Person
- No Longer Strangers
- No Longer Foreigners
- Is the Dwelling Place of God

Position

- In Christ Jesus
- With Christ Jesus
- Brought Near to God
- Standing on Solid Ground

- Is the Dwelling Place of God

Promise

- A Promised Covenant
- Hope
- Peace with God
- The Law Against Them Abolished
- The Wall of Separation Abolished
- Is the Dwelling Place of God

We were once without hope (2:11-12)

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Look at Condition

Look at our condition in these verses:

- Without Christ: called Uncircumcision.... you were without Christ.
- Without Citizenship: being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.
- Without Covenants: strangers from the covenants of promises of God.
- Without Hope: having no hope.
- Without God: and without God in the world.

Temple Still Standing / But Peter has Been Sent to Gentiles / But Jew & Gentile Still Greatly Divided

The Temple in Jerusalem is still standing at the time of this writing. The temple was destroyed around 70AD, and this epistle was written around 60AD. But to both the Jew and the Gentile the Temple stood for a religion dedicated to the Jews only, and not the Gentiles, at least not in equal standing. In Acts 10-11, Peter is given the vision that salvation is for the Gentile also, and that God tells him to go witness to him. This happened approximately 35AD. So we have only about 25 years here, and Paul is writing this letter to reassure, and counter any thoughts that the Gentiles are not called to God also. Consider America, and how long it took to break through the racial walls in this Christian nation. There were slaves in Jamestown in the 1600, a civil war among the states in the 1860's, and Martin Luther King Jr. in the 70's. And even still, today there is a remnant of racism. Consider how radical it was for the Gentile to accept that God has called them just as He calls the Jew; think how radical it was for the Jew after 4000 years. Paul writes so that all may know.

Acts 10:44-46 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

For the Jew:

- It was forbidden to give good advice to a Gentile (according to the Talmud).
- If Jew married a Gentile their family disowned them.
- The Jewish mentality was that the Gentiles were made to keep the fire of hell hot.
- The Jew would burn their clothes if they touched a gentile, and then go through ceremonial cleansing afterwards.

Circumcision - Goliath

The Shepherd boy David, before he became King, sums up circumcision:

(1 Samuel 17:26 KJV) And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

To call someone uncircumcised is to put them in the category of Goliath, a Philistines (who in Biblical typology represent the flesh), an enemy of God who deserves a rock in his head.

Imagine the Gentiles Getting this Letter

Imagine the excitement running through the Gentile world as they read this letter, God has opened His arms up to them, the great Apostle Paul, (once a leader among the Jewish religious) says so. Paul writes this epistle from prison. A gentile prison, he is at the mercy of them, yet he will write of their position in Christ. If you go to Rome today you can see the ruins of those ancient prisons, the kind Paul would have stayed in. They were rock cells, side by side, with a common sewer running through all the cells. Day and night, never ceasing he would endure the stench of his living condition, yet he still wrote about the blessings given to all believers, even the gentiles that were holding him.

Maybe after being raised in America all of our lives it is hard to believe that we were not always called, but it is true. God reminds us of our past, so we can cherish our present and future. The fact being, before we had accepted Christ, we were Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants (where God says to Israel you will be My special people – the Gentiles didn't have that promise, were outside of that covenant promise), Without Hope, Without God. So these verses were not that far off for us.

Imagine this story:

One night a Pastor falls asleep on Christmas Eve. He dreams He is awakened by a knock upon the door. He is summonsed to a deathbed. Upon the way on the street he thinks it is odd that he sees there are no children playing with Christmas toys, no wreaths on the door, no Christmas trees in the windows, no church bells ringing, no carolers singing, no smell of Christmas turkey and hams. As he arrives to the hospital, opens his Bible to read the encouraging words of Christ that brings hope and peace; but instead he opens his Bible and finds no New testament, rather it ends with the Book of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. He looks at the dying person and sobs, for he has no words of comfort, any promises of eternal life. He runs home and looks for all his commentaries he has on the New Testament, Matthew, Ephesians, Revelation; but finds nothing, and realizes that it is not Christmas Day, cause the Christ child was never born, the Messiah never came - no Messiah, no hope.

Just this thought alone should be breaking forth our hearts with joy and thanksgiving; I also want to always remember that there are people around me today who think that God will have nothing to do with them. They say or think, "look at me, I'm dirty, rotten, I've made a mess of my life, God doesn't want people like me". We have to show them that they are wrong in their thinking, and show them the Word. Also, inside this church, we have to always remember that for some people this is their last stop, they have tried everything else to get their life right; Programs, and peoples, and even churches where they were not welcomed, and in their last hope they try your church. Brethren leave your comfort zone and clicks, and look for them every time you come to church.....and when you are out living in the world outside these church walls.

Dispelling the Past:

Look at what both the Jew and Gentile had to overcome after 4,000 years of conditioning:

The Jews were the chosen Nation of God, but they confused the calling of being a witness, to being better than the Gentiles, looking down at them, thus becoming prideful and arrogant. The sign of circumcision was given to set them apart, but not above the Gentile. The Jews should have looked at the Gentiles as an opportunity to communicate the true and Living God to them, but instead looked down upon them.

God commanded the Nation Israel in the law to love all strangers who lived among them:

(Leviticus 19:34 NKJV) 'The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Circumcision means to, cut off, destroy. The covenant was given then as a symbol of not following the flesh, but living for the spiritual; much like baptism is today for believers.

Gen 17 – tells the story of the covenant of circumcision between God and Israel.

(Genesis 17:11 KJV) And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Side Note: Genesis 17:12, They were commanded to circumcise the child on the 8th day. Doctors have confirmed that it is on the 8th day that the body reaches it mature level of Vitamin K, which is necessary for blood clotting. God never does anything in vain; He always has a purpose in His ways. Some may look at circumcision as a cruel requirement from God, as if to be with Him, pain is a prerequisite.....not so. Circumcision comes with a great

health benefit; a study was done back at the turn of the 19th century when it was recognized in New York City a high rate of women dying from cervical cancer. As they did their study they found the rate was high among all women except Jewish women. So they looked at the Jewish and non-Jewish husbands and saw the difference came down to circumcision, and found that non-Jewish men carried more bacteria, and it in turn was infecting their mates.

So this is who we, the Gentiles were..... Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants, Without Hope, Without God.

We were once far off (2:13)

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

you who once were far off have been - We were "Far Off", which means a distant journey. The word picture here is like wandering in the Sahara Desert, you keep walking, and walking; the heat pounding down upon you, your body thirsting for water but your canteen is empty. You see a hill far off thinking beyond that hill the journey ends, but when you reach its peak, all you see is sand and more sand. That was the Gentile, "meandering", just being blown around (as we studied in Ephesians 2:1-3).

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

have been brought near. - "brought near", literally means "in the hand". We are in God's hand, He holds you at this very moment. Isaiah 49:15-16 Yet I will not forget you. See I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Beloved, the Lord is holding you in the same hands that were pierced with nails on Calvary, yet it wasn't the nails that held Him to the cross, but His love for you.

Isaiah 49:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

by the blood of Christ - It is only by the blood of Jesus that man can be redeemed. People say that is too narrow; they are offended that the way to God is too narrow if Jesus is the only way...they say that is too narrow. They miss it, the world should rejoice that there even is a way.....how narrow it may be....yet still wide enough that whom so ever shall believe, shall be saved. Man has offended the Holy God of the universe, yet He still provides a way to be right with Him.

Why Blood? / That is How serious sin is

Why blood, why a sacrificial system? That is how serious sin is to God, that only blood can take it away. Hebrews 9:22....without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Propitiation

Propitiation means complete emotional satisfaction. God has no ill feelings towards us. The work of Jesus Christ on the cross completely satisfied God's penalty for man's sin. We can rest now and have peace with God, there are no works that we have to do to satisfy God.

(Romans 3: 23-25 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Therefore / Back to Ephesians 2:8-10

In verse 11 it started with, therefore, and every time you see the word therefore in the scripture we need to ask, what is it there for? It usually takes us back, and forward. It takes us back to what has just been told, and then ties in with what is currently being told. So we are currently being reminded of where we once were, but may we not forget the context that we are in is in the context of verses 2:8-10.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

You are God's Poem, you are His workmanship, you are His masterpiece. You are His trophy of grace, as you have been saved (made safe and secure) by grace, through faith, not of works, but a free gift of God. All that is through, we have been brought near, by the blood of Christ.

It is a gift, a free gift, that we cannot, nor need to, earn..... But simply receive. He says to us, your sin separates you from me (Romans 3:23), you have broken my holy commandments, and with breaking any law there is a penalty to pay (Romans 6:23), but God demonstrated His love for us that Jesus took the penalty, paid the price, and offers it as a gift for anyone who desires to receive forgiveness for their sin against God.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In our last study a giftwrapped box was used as an illustration, where it was simply held out and offered as a gift..... just that simple. But here is something truly amazing, and every one of us needs to be reminded (continually reminded) God offers the gift, yet He considers us the gift, the treasure, the jewel!

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:45–46 (NKJV) ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

I have a box under my Christmas tree each year, it is the first gift put under the tree and the last to be put away, and it is a beautiful gift box, that the lid can be taken off, and we hand it to visitors and tell them this is what God considers His most precious gift, and when they open the lid mounted to the bottom of the box is a mirror, and the person sees themselves in the mirror, and thus they see God's greatest gift, treasure, jewel, and what He was willing to give to have..... His Only begotten Son:

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We were once walled off (2:14-18)

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

For He Himself is our peace - Jesus reversed the rolls. For us to be brought near, He had to be far off.

(Matthew 27:46 NKJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

God in His holiness can not look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13 / Isaiah 59:1-2),

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.....

(Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

God had to turn His back on His Only Begotten Son while He bore our sins on the cross. It was the only way to bring us to peace with God. Isaiah 53:4-6.

(Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

has broken down the middle wall of separation, - When Jesus died on the cross man had peace with God, and peace between the Jew and Gentile. The temple divided the Jews from the Gentile. The Gentiles were allowed in what was called the “Outer Court or Court of the Gentiles”, but they could enter into the temple itself. Archeologist have discovered the inscription from Herod’s temple, and it reads like this:

No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.

God is saying throw that sign away, there is no longer a wall separating the two, both have equal access to me.

Story- Moved the Fence

I am reminded of the story:

It is said that during the Second World War some soldiers serving in France wanted to bury a friend and fellow soldier who had been killed. Being in a foreign country they wanted to ensure their fallen comrade had a proper burial. They found a well-kept cemetery with a low stone wall around it. It was a picturesque little Catholic church with a peaceful quality. This was just the place to bury their friend. But when they approached the priest, he answered that unless their friend was a baptized Catholic he could not be buried in the cemetery. He wasn’t. Sensing the soldiers’ disappointment, the priest showed them a spot outside the walls where they could bury their friend. Reluctantly, they did so. The next day the soldiers returned to pay their final respects to their fallen friend but could not find the grave. “Surely we can’t be mistaken. It was right here!” they said. Confused, they approached the priest who took them to a spot inside the cemetery walls. “Last night I couldn’t sleep,” said the priest. “I was troubled that your friend had to be buried outside the cemetery walls, so I got up and moved the fence.”

You know what Beloved, God doesn’t just move fences to bring us in, He demolishes them.

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Jesus broke down the Ethnic Walls, and the Gender Walls:

Gender Wall broken down: (Galatians 3:28 NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

[Galatians 3:28 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ethnic Wall broken down: (Colossians 3:9-11 NKJV)since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

God brought all, Gentile, Jew, Male, Female, Free, and Slave together into one new man. When Jesus was on the cross what was he wearing? Forget the pictures you see, go to the scriptures, He was wearing nothing. Clothing in our culture signifies where we are from.

- A sombrero - Mexico
- A kilt – Scotland
- That big hat - China
- That furry hat - Russia
- Blue Jeans - America
- Grass skirt - Tahiti
- Dhoti - that colorful headwear – India
- Saree - that colorful clothe wrap - India

When Jesus was hanging there naked, he was saying He is cross- cultural, He brings together groups that are against each other culturally, racially, by birth and he brings them together. He can bring them together because

they have one thing in common - Sin, and he destroyed sin by taking it upon himself. Jesus in one act removed our separation from God, and the walls built between men.

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Harrison Ford / Tom Brady

Jesus preached peace, told every man, woman, and child there is a way to have peace in life and peace with God. Harrison Ford, the wealthiest and most successful actor in Hollywood, when asked what he lacks, he said peace. Tom Brady, known as the greatest of all-time said:

But he was interviewed on 60 Minutes a few years back..... And he says, why do I have these Superbowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me? Maybe a lot of people would say, hey man, this is what it is. I reached my goal, my dream, my life. Me, I think, God, it's gotta be more than this. I mean, this isn't what it all is, this isn't what it's cracked up to be. Wow. So the interviewer said, well, what's the answer? Brady responds, I wish I knew. I love playing football, I love being a quarterback for this team. But at the same time, I think there's a lot of parts about me that I'm trying to find.

Harrison, and Tom, the answer is Jesus Christ. No Jesus, No Peace....Know Jesus, Know Peace.

Notice the Trinity

Notice the trinity (v.18) here at work in our salvation, and coming before the Lord.

Access - Protocol

Access is from the Greek word, prosagoge – it is where we get our word “Protocol”. Today when the government announces a dignitary entering a room, they ring bell, or in Britain they stomp the staff on the floor, and announce, now enteringMr. so and so. The honorary looks forward to with great anticipation and excitement of the person coming. The door is opened to them 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is the word God is using here, "Protocol".

This verse, this word "Protocol", has revolutionized my prayer time. The thought that God is anxiously waiting for me to come to Him, like I am some dignitary, makes me look forward to our prayer time together. I have access right into His presence. The Creator of the Universe has been waiting, and is ready to hear.....the bell rings, the angel stomps his staff, now entering.....and God says I've been looking forward to our time together. Andrew Murray said, *"this is the glory of the inner chamber, to converse with God the Holy One."*

(1 John 5:14 - 15 NKJV) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

If you were to go to the White House today, desire to enter the Oval Office and speak with the President, you would have a lengthy protocol to go through to get that entrance before the President. Now the Secretary of Defense, the Vice President, they too have to go through a protocol to enter into the meet with the President, but of course theirs is much more fast-tracked than ours would be. However, you know who needs no special permissions, no preapproval, no visitor requests to see the President, you know who can come in anytime they want???????? The Presidents Bride (wife), and the President's children's (sons and daughters). So there is a picture for you and I as sons and daughters, as the Bride of Christ, He says boldly (with confidence) come into to see me, at any time, for any reason.

Remember the theme of this book is spiritual blessings, Paul is saying don't live like paupers when you are millionaires. What is at my disposal?

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I have fellowship with someone who is Wonderful, a great Counselor, Mighty in Power, a Loving Father, and brings Peace. Prayer focuses all of our attention on God, lifting its burden off of us. Prayer is a specific divine appointment with God.

We were once outside the building (2:19-21)

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

But Now – we are the Dwelling Place of God (2:22)

v.22) for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. In past times God dwelt (meet the people) in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, then the Temple in Jerusalem, then from the Throne of Heaven he came and dwelt in a dirty manger in Bethlehem. In a sense, He still dwells in dirty managers, He takes the dirty managers of our hearts, cleans them up, and now dwells in them.

The “HOLY OF HOLIES” was the innermost sanctuary of the Temple. Separated from the other parts of the Temple by a thick curtain, the holy of holies was specially associated with the presence of God. The High Priest, and only the High Priest, would enter only once a year to make atonement for the people. When Jesus died on the cross the veil was ripped in two, showing that man no longer needed a High Priest to come before God: (Matthew 27:50-51 NKJV) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Matthew 27:50–51 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

But, God still dwells in that Holy of Holies today, and that is “you” and His “church” which is you with all the other believers “you” around you.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Verse 19 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, - God says you are a citizen of heaven, members of His household, and that you are seated in the heavens;..... yet, while you are living here on earth, he considers your body the Holy of Holies, and that He dwells there. God is saying my glory will radiate from your very being as you live out your calling here on earth.

Citizen Makes Us Ambassadors

If I am a citizen of heaven, then that makes me an Ambassador here on earth. Webster's definition of Ambassador is, Diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative; or sent on a special or temporary mission; an authorized messenger or representative. Paul ends this book speaking about being an ambassador:

(Ephesians 6:19-20 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Verse 20 - having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone - These promises are true and time-tested. We have the Word of God to back all these promises, with Jesus' resurrection as the final proof that His Word will never fail. It has been said that the Bible is the anvil that has broken all the hammers. (Ephesians 3:5 we will look more deeply into this statement about apostles and prophets).

Verse 21 - being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. First a new man, now a new building. Verse 22 is in the present and on-going tense. The building is growing, we are growing as we each grow in the Lord. Now since the people next to me are growing also, there will be some friction, rubbing together as we grow. We may rub each other the wrong way. God will put people in your life to knock the rough edges off so that we might fit better together. Don't try to run from people who rub you the wrong way, stay and let God work in your life. 1 Kings 6: As they were building the Temple, all the hammering and chiseling went on in the pits, away from the temple mount. Jesus is building the perfect body. I would suggest to you that the hammering and chiseling for the new temple is going on right here on earth, as we are being fit together in Christ Jesus.

1 Kings 6:7 (NKJV) ⁷ And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

So this is who we, the Gentiles were..... Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants, Without Hope, Without God.....BUT GOD. Heaven is reality, and this is what God thinks of you. Forget the world's view of you, and what they think. Einstein said, I wish I knew the mind of God, for everything else is just details. Here we have the mind of God, His Word, and He considers you His temple, He has broken down the separation between man and God, and man and man. He has provided access for us to come before Him and have fellowship with someone who is Wonderful, a great Counselor, Mighty in Power, a Loving Father, and brings Peace.

Hopelessness, God can make a way, when there is no way. We were hopeless, yet God in His Love, broke down the walls and brought us hope through His son Jesus Christ. Today, whatever seems hopeless to you, whether it is your job, relationship, finances, he still brings hope, and He still breaks down walls. What is that troubles you today, whatever it is, Let Go and Let God. Stand on these promises that we have been brought near, we have peace with Him, nothing separates us from Him, we have full access to Him, and that we are His temple, His dwelling place.

Because God Wants You

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Chapter 3

Ephesians 3:1-7

Title: The Flood of Grace

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage

Ephesians 3:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Overview

The title of our passage today is "The Flood of Grace". We see in our passage today the word "dispensation".

- **Dispensation** (oikonomia), is where we get our word "Economy" . A lot of people struggle with this word, and theologians come up with books upon books to explain it, but it simply means a "set order of how things work." God saying I'm setting the order of how things are going to work and nothing can change it. Satan, evilness, terrorism, prosperity, will not change my plan, or how I run my plan, and it will all happen in the "fullness of time, on my timetable (remember 1:10). Paul will show in these verses that the fullness of time has come, and the church is now in the period "of the grace of God."

Ephesians 1:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God

Position

- Secured Through the Gospel
- Of the Same Body
- On the Solid Foundation of the Word of God

Promise

- The Dispensation (flood) of Grace
- Partakers of the Promises of God

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

The Cause Changed Paul's Life & the World Forever

For this reason/cause: the cause is that the Gentiles and Jews are one. This cause changed Paul's life, and the world forever.

Paul was a prisoner because he believed in God's new program of uniting Jews and gentiles into one body, the church. In Acts 21, Paul was arrested for what they thought was bringing Gentiles into the temple. Paul tried to defend himself by giving his personal testimony, the crowd listened to him until he said the word "Gentiles" and then they rioted. The rest of the book of Acts explains how Paul got from Jerusalem to Rome as a prisoner.

Acts 21:26–33 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them. ²⁷ Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸ crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." ²⁹ (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) ³⁰ And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. ³¹ Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³² He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³ Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done.

Paul's Life of Riots / Franklin Graham

I love Paul's passion, and so passionate was Paul that many places he went his teaching and preaching caused riots. He caused a riot in Ephesus when he preached Christ, He starts a riot here, He goes places and gets run out town, he gets stoned with rocks, but the man just gets up and keeps going. You cant stop a man/woman who are

convinced of the Gospel. I admire what I am seeing this very month with Franklin Graham the son of the late Billy Graham, as he has been run out of town literally in Liverpool England for his speaking the Word of God. After that two other cities joined in banning him from using the public venue to bring the Festival of Hope. The LGBT group pressured the leaders of the city to bar him because of he supports the Biblical position of what the Bible says regarding homosexuality. But mark my words, the Festival of Hope will go on, somewhere, somehow, they will find another place to host the Festivals there in England. In the end they will thank all those who opposed and raised up against the Festival of Hope for the free advertising, as many will come who want to hear the message of Hope, the flood of grace, the message of forgiveness for any who would receive it, and the promise of the power to live in freedom and power that God promises to all who come.

This Raises 2 Questions for Each of Us

Paul a prisoner of the Lord and notice it says for you as he's speaking to the Gentiles, Paul said he was willing to be a prisoner of the Lord for the Lord and for these people. And so that would bring us to two questions as we would look at such a verse

1. and that is are we willing to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ
2. and if so, for who?

So Paul is in prison. Now, this isn't the horrible prison pit yet that he writes. He's under house arrest right now. He hasn't made his way into the prison pit. Again, he's under house arrest, but nonetheless, his freedom has been taken. He cannot go and do as he wants. He's not free to move about the region. He's not free to do mission trips as he chooses. He's under the total control of the Roman government. And that has come about because of the false accusations that have come against him for breaking the religious laws of Israel, which we saw in the last study.

God had broken down those middle walls, but the religious people still had them up. And Paul was accused of violation, of bringing non-Jewish men into the temple. But the truth be told in that account of acts, they were Jewish men. So Paul is twice free and right in that these men were Jewish men. But that wouldn't have mattered technically because God had broken down the wall. So Paul could find himself in prison saying, "This is totally unjust and unfair. I'm totally innocent of all charges and totally innocent before the Lord."

Paul Doesn't See Himself as Prisoner of Rome – But of Jesus Christ

But regardless, Paul doesn't see himself a prisoner of Rome. He doesn't see himself a prisoner of the Jewish state, but of Jesus Christ. He sees the Lord Jesus had put him in this prison, this situation, these chains that bind him. So how about you? Do you find yourself in a tough place today, a difficult situation, and you feel bound and chained maybe by no fault of your own or wrong of your own, but are you willing right now to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ? To be in that position so that he may be glorified in you, through you, onto someone else's life for their betterment and for them to see the glory of God.

We truly have a key of victorious Christian living, especially in a fallen world. You see, when we say

Who controls your situation will determine how much your situation controls you.

I am a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I'm a welder of Jesus Christ, not the manager that I desired to be. I am a children's worker for Jesus Christ, not the missionary that I had desired to be. I am a husband of Jesus Christ. I am the wife of Jesus Christ. I am the son, the daughter of Jesus Christ. Can you bring yourself into that place where you see the situation? This is where Christ has me, and I am going to take that and accept it and I'm going to live for the glory of God in that and for them.

Notice – the “For You”

Notice it says for you, Paul says, speaking of the Gentiles, "I am a prisoner by Jesus Christ for you," and he has no complaints about it. Who controls your situation will clearly determine how much your situation controls you, but the question for you, how about you when it comes to the for you? Are you willing for you or do you want to pick and select who the for you is? We may say, yes, I will be a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I love you Jesus. It would be an honor to be your prisoner until God shows us who our for you is. Then we go, them? They're so selfish, they're so

ungrateful. Do you know what they have said to me about how they have treated me? And then that can really change, that can bring us that we will really find out what type of prisoner we truly are.

Who controls your situation will determine how much your situation controls you.

It's a yielding. It's a trusting to the Lord. If this is who you made me a prisoner of Jesus Christ, if this is who the for you is, okay, I will do that because I'm a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I'm not a prisoner of my situation.

And if it is a difficult for you, whoever that person may be, then you add on to the Lord. Now help me fulfill this calling. I believe this is a calling that you've given me to be the prisoner in this situation. If you would, the bounding in the chains of it, and I believe there's always a yielding before the fulfilling. There won't be a fulfilling and a satisfaction and a satisfying of who God has put us in place to reach if we're not willing to yield, for some people just want to endure and get through, but that's not yielding. It's a whole different story. When we yield and we lay down our rights and our wants and our desires and say, "Here I am Lord, have your way."

But with the yielding, trust me, Christian comes a feeling. When God finds willing, yielding vessels to flow through, he flows through them. God flows through you. The same God who walked on water, the same God who broke the loaves and the fish, the same God who raised the dead and the same God who rose from the dead will flow through you. But the yielding must come first.

And see this, we read verse one and we go, wow, that's a lot of yielding. Paul's going to be put in prison to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles. But let me make my point. When the yielding comes, then the feeling comes and there's a supernatural flow of the Lord through anyone who willingly yields and allows God to flow through them. And my case in point is right here before you, chapter one and chapter two. Look at all the glory that God revealed and has told us. And it came because he was willing to yield himself and God found the yielding man and a willing man and he became a man that God could flow through.

So "The 2 Questions" / I Pray Spirit is Working on Your Heart

So that brings me back to my two questions. Who are you willing to yield to? Who are you willing to yield for? Are you willing to yield to Jesus Christ to be his prisoner and are you willing to yield to whoever he makes the for you to be regardless who that may be.

I pray the spirit is working in your heart right now. As he speaking to you about your situation and you've been struggling about being a prisoner of Jesus Christ, especially to that person who you don't believe deserves it, maybe they've mistreated you, whatever it may be. I pray the spirit is speaking to you right now and moving in your heart to see the glory of being the prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Richard Wurmbbrand / Not How Much we Can Endure – But How Much Can we Love

Richard Wurmbbrand spent 14 years in a brutal Romanian prison. He was not under house arrest. He was beaten, he was tortured and he even has written a book. Tortured for Christ is when he left that prison his bodied was mangled and beaten even to his days. He couldn't wear shoes because they would take his shoes off, tie him to a rack, and beat his feet with a pole, with a bat and brutalize him. But he said something that only recently have I heard for the first time. He said, "It's not how much you can endure. It's how much you can love." And that's a deep statement because we can believe that enduring and just enduring the situation and not losing our witness and not become bitter and resentful or being critical with our attitudes. We can think that is something. And that could be true to a point until you hear Richard Wurmbbrand and says, "It's not how much you can endure. It's how much you can love."

And even as his captors tortured him, every time he would pray, they would beat him. And they came in one day, saw him praying and said, "You've lost everything. You've lost your job, your home, your wife, your children. You're in this prison. What could you possibly have left the pray for?" To which he answered, "You," as he prayed for his torturers. That spoke the volume and depths of love. It's not how much you can endure, it's how much you can love, and you may be enduring and getting through, but there's a whole other thing whenever you can actually

start to love. Are you willing to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ for whoever God has put in front of you to be the prisoner for?

Never Does He Say Woe is Me

Paul isn't upset with what he doesn't have, the so-called limitation that is put upon him. For the sake of the Gentiles, Paul gladly allows himself to be chained. And not only does he allow it, he rejoices in it. Not only does he rejoice in it, he thrives in it. All through this letter, you will read nowhere where Paul was being critical and where Paul was saying, "Woe is me, this isn't fair." No, he is looking at this as a true honor and a blessing to be a prisoner of Christ for the Gentiles. In fact, in verse 13 he's going to go on to say, "Don't lose heart at my tribulation." He's saying, don't feel sorry for me. We see Paul living in just power and glory of being made a prisoner for Christ.

Ephesians 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

Ephesians 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

I Love the Sound of "Dispensation"

Verse two, the dispensation of grace - I love the sound of that phrase. It sounds like a fountain, an ocean of overflowing grace. And all of grace and mercy, it flows from the heart of God. It all comes from the source, which is love. Love is the method of operation, the way that God operates and it's always through love and the manifestation of love is mercy and grace.

Dispensation = Set Order

- **Dispensation** (oikonomia), is where we get our word "Economy" . A lot of people struggle with this word, and theologians come up with books upon books to explain it, but it simply means a "set order of how things work." God saying I'm setting the order of how things are going to work and nothing can change it. Satan, evilness, terrorism, prosperity, will not change my plan, or how I run my plan, and it will all happen in the "fullness of time, on my timetable (remember 1:10). Paul will show in these verses that the fullness of time has come, and the church is now in the period "of the grace of God."

This period of grace is freedom; we can Let Go, and Let God. How wonderful to live in these days of grace. There are no doubts, no need for second-guessing, the view is clear from the cross. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Sadly, not everyone receives this grace, Mankind has a tendency to say I don't need God.

- If we could just get the right party in office, then everything would be great, we wouldn't need a spiritual revival but a political revolution.

- Or if we could improve our environment then everybody would live in peace. If I could just get away from my weird parents, then I'd be ok, they are the problem. I am a victim of being raised wrong and abused, if I had good parents then I'd be happy.

- Then others say I can't believe this whole faith deal, if i could see Him touch him, hear him, then I would believe.

So God says I have given you all these over the ages, and have shown you that even when you have these things, you still won't be happy; it will only be a personal relationship with me that will make you happy. So he marches us through these periods of dispensations in the Bible.

#1 Dispensation of Innocence: (from creation to fall). They say, "you see if I just didn't have lousy parents I wouldn't be so messed up". Well Adam was made perfectly and had no parental influence, except by God the father. People can't blame their parents, Adam and Eve had the perfect parent and they still chose to sin. In Ezekiel 18:2, *God said I want this proverb no more heard in the land, our fathers ate sour grapes so my teeth are on edge* - in other words don't blame your family for past problems, if you are grinding your teeth it is your problem. Our generation and culture needs to understand this. Quit the blame shifting, trying to excuse their actions because of the parents. It is one of the leading defense cases now, murders and rapist are trying to claim

dysfunctional family caused their horrible behavior. Adam and Eve represented you and me, and proved man will mess up, even in a perfect environment- because we are sinners.

And parents, quit beating yourself up, saying and wishing you had been a better parent. We all wish we would have been better parents, had done some things differently. But ultimately, our children became their own person, and made their own decisions. Adam and Eve had the greatest and most perfect parent, and still chose wrong. So too, even if you had been perfect, in the end it is still their choice as to whether they chose to follow and obey the Lord or not. So set yourself free today, and see Adam and Eve, and the perfect parent, still didn't keep them from going wayward.

#2 Dispensation of Conscience: (from fall to flood). They say, "If we can just do what is right in our own sight, then everything will be alright. Live and let live. Do what is right for you, and I'll do what is right for me and we will all get along". Look what happened when everybody followed his or her own conscience. They became so vile, sex with fallen angels (demonic spirits), etc, the world was so perverted, only Noah was righteous.

(Genesis 6:5-6 NKJV) Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. God had to flood the earth and start over.

#3. Dispensation of Government: (from flood to Babel). They say, "the government will make everything right". Babel was a government works program. Lets all pull together, become one, and we can achieve anything, and everything will be great.

(Genesis 11:3-4) And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

They said, "We will ascend up into heaven built with bricks and mortar. The mortar was made from asphalt, but in those times the word was "slime" (how fitting as we see so much corporation in our government).

Their government works program couldn't get them into heaven and they ended up being dispersed throughout the world.

#4 Dispensation of Promise (Vision): (from Abraham to Exodus). They say, "If I just had a vision, something to look forward to, if I could just get out of this mess, then everything would be ok. If I could just have a fresh start". How many times I have seen women with this vision, "if only I can change my body, then my husband would love me, or men would notice me, then I'd be happy." But vision doesn't go as planned, for what they find out is that it doesn't bring them closer to God, but into the world. Men have their same; whether it be hair on their head, six pack abs, a sports car. Whatever it is, they find that their vision takes them away from the Lord, and into a bondage.

God gave Abraham a promise/vision that was passed down the line.

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

(Genesis 15:7 NKJV) Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

(Genesis 15:5 NKJV) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

(Genesis 15:18 NKJV) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;

But somehow with this great vision promised, the next generation begins to fail, and so on, and so on. Abraham's son Isaac was promised the same vision, but he plans on passing this blessing on to the next son Esau based off of food (Genesis 27:4); but the younger son Jacob steals the blessing from his brother by tricking the aged Isaac (Genesis 27:19); Jacob favors his son Joseph over the other brothers, so they in turn sell him into slavery in Egypt.

The whole family ended up going down to Egypt. We had just read that they were promised land **from the river of Egypt**, not in Egypt. They never did see their vision come to pass, instead they ended up baking bricks in Egypt for 400 years of bondage.

(Genesis 15:13 NKJV) Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

#5 Dispensation of the Law: (from Exodus to Calvary - The law was given). They say, "If we just had some rules to live by, some do's and don'ts." The problem with the law was that man couldn't do it, he couldn't keep them. People think if I can just get the 7 habits of effective people and get that down. If I can just get the "how to's" from the "who's who", I would be happy and successful. So people read this book and listen to that tape, the problem is it might be good stuff, but we just can't do it. We see history repeat itself over and over. Israel does well, then they fail, they do well, and then they fail. They go from the mighty kingdom under David and Solomon, to being captives to the Babylonians. They go from rebuilding their nation and city after the Babylonian captivity to being under Roman rule.

The law is good but we are sinners and just can't do it. The law was to show us how short we fall from God's standard, and the need we have for Him.

(Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV) Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

#6 Dispensation of Grace: (the one Paul is speaking about here – Grace: from Calvary to the Rapture). We realize that it isn't living in innocence, or our conscience, or government, nor a vision thing, or rules and regulations – but just grace. I love you, I died for you, I rose again, if you will just embrace me by faith, confess your need for me, you will be saved. Just as Moses was a mediator who brought the Word of God to the people, so the promised Prophet would be the Mediator who would bring God's Word to the people. A mediator is necessary because of the fact that God is infinite, and man is finite. Man cannot understand or comprehend the infinite God. Because I Am Filled with Sin and Iniquity, I Cannot Approach God Who Is Absolutely Holy and Pure. So, I Need A Mediator. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy that there is only one God and one Mediator between God and man, and that is the man Christ Jesus. He can touch God because He is God. He can touch me because He became man. And now through Him I can touch God.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 (NKJV) ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

This period goes from the resurrection of Christ all the way until the next period – The Tribulation

#7 Dispensation of Tribulation: (7 year Tribulation Period). They say, "I'm not going to believe something I can't see". During the Tribulation people will see and still not believe. In Revelation 6- 19, angels fly across the earth proclaiming the gospel (Rev 14:6-7), the moon turns to blood (Rev 6:12), the rivers and seas turn to blood (Rev 16:3-7), the two witnesses rise from the dead (Rev 11:11-14)..... talk about seeing it, yet people still won't believe. After seeing all this, people cry out to the mountains - fall on me (Rev 6:12). They will not cry out to the Master, the Rock of Ages. The whole idea of seeing before you believe is false. God says believe it and then you'll see it. You believe in me, and it will be amazing what you see.

#8 Dispensation of Millennial Kingdom: (The 1,000-year period). People say, "if I could just live in a good environment. If we didn't have pollution and disease, and crime, well then, we would be happy and content, and live in harmony." The world will have 1000 years of perfection, the lion shall lie down with the lamb, with no more sickness or wars. Things will be right and fabulous, the environment will be right, yet people still won't believe. At the end of the 1000-year millennial reign, there is a rebellion against God. 1000 years of perfection, yet still people rebel against God

You can go through the Bible, and see all the various scenarios. Innocence, conscience, government, vision, rules, seeing it, right environment Yet people still don't come to the Lord. All the excuses are still just excuses. The only answer is Jesus Christ, through grace.

Ephesians 3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Mystery means – Once Hidden

The word mystery has nothing to do with things eerie. It means a “sacred secret, once hidden but now revealed to God’s people. A mystery is something that could not be understood unless the Holy Spirit revealed it to us. God revealed to Paul this mystery that the Jew and Gentile shall be His body which He will dwell in. The Jew and Gentile were at such enmity with one another the thought of being friends would blow their minds, but throw in that they will be so close that they will be one, they would have a mind meltdown trying to grasp that.....but the greatest revelation, the greatest mystery for all man is that God would no longer dwell in the temple made with hands, but in the hearts of all men and women who would receive Him -----only through the Holy Spirit could man ever be able to grasp such a wonderful thing, our natural minds can’t comprehend such things.

God had to bring the Jew and Gentile together as one, cause He is only building one temple, but He is using many living stones fitted together to comprise it.

**Ephesians 3:4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
Ephesians 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:**

Paul Great Student – But Needed Holy Spirit to Understand

Verse 4 - understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), - Paul was taught by Gamaliel, ancient writings tell us he was the greatest teacher of his time. Paul was well studied in the Old Testament writings.

[\(Acts 22:3 NKJV\)](#) "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

Notice again, my knowledge: It wasn’t until the Holy Spirit filled Paul that he could see what the Old Testament prophets were talking about. Here are verses Paul would have read over and over asking himself what do they mean, never realizing they all pertained to God calling the Gentiles through the Messiah. All these verses are Messianic prophecies. Isaiah was written about 700-750 years before Christ came.

[\(Isaiah 11:10 NKJV\)](#) "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

[\(Isaiah 42:1 NKJV\)](#) "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

[\(Isaiah 42:6 NKJV\)](#) "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

[\(Isaiah 49:6 NKJV\)](#) Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

[\(Isaiah 60:3 NKJV\)](#) The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Paul Pondered – Then Holy Spirit Revealed

Paul must have pondered these verses as a Pharisee, and then boom.....the Holy Spirit opened them up to him, and He said “wow”, I can’t keep this to myself.

[John 14:26 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

My Story

I used to do Street Ministry on Orange Blossom Trail (OBT) in Orlando, Florida. I would sit out front of an abandoned Psychic House (now a crack house) and told people I can tell them their future. They couldn’t resist, they would have to stop and listen. I would quote [\(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV\)](#) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. At one time the Bible and the plan of salvation was a mystery to me, I couldn’t understand what John 3:16 meant, but then one

day God revealed the mystery to me through the Holy Spirit, and I see it clearly now. John 3:16, and so many other Scriptures I couldn't understand, now I can see them, and know the truths in them.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

We Are Not Too Different from Paul

We aren't so much different than Paul than we think, we have the same opportunity to tell people this great mystery that they do not understand, that will blow their mind. A message that will change us and the world.....forever. The Dispensation of Grace, what a great time to be alive, and living for Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Fellow Heirs

The person is fellow heirs. That's what's being spoken here in first Peter 2:9, what the Gentiles become is what had been the promise to the nation of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

We Are Not Too Different from Paul

We aren't so much different than Paul than we think, we have the same opportunity to tell people this great mystery that they do not understand, that will blow their mind. A message that will change us and the world.....forever. The Dispensation of Grace, what a great time to be alive, and living for Jesus.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God

Position

- Secured Through the Gospel
- Of the Same Body
- On the Solid Foundation of the Word of God

Promise

- The Dispensation (flood) of Grace
- Partakers of the Promises of God

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:7-13

Title: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Last Week We Studied / Gentiles Shall be Fellow Heirs of Same Body & Promises

Ephesians 3:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body: This describes the mystery itself—that believing Jews and believing Gentiles are joined together into one body of Christ, into one Church, and no longer separated before God as such.

Partakers of His promise in Christ: The truth of this mystery means that Gentiles are now full partakers of His promise. This was a privilege no longer reserved only for the believing Jewish person.

Through the gospel: This could only happen through the gospel, where all men have an equal standing in Jesus. This is the same gospel Paul is a servant of, because of the gift of grace given to him by the working of God's power.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 3:7–13 (NKJV) ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. ¹³ Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Least of the Saints?

Position

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Fellowship in the Mystery (the 1 Body of Christ)
- Full Access to Him
- In Him

Promise

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Given the Manifold Wisdom of God
- Full Access (with Boldness and Confidence) to Him

Overview

Although it doesn't seem so, in many times we just read through these several verses, they seem to just be a bridge from the past thought to the next thought, I believe we have a deep passage that is key to this whole book, and to the whole great ministry of the great apostle Paul. Paul writes and prays that the recipient of this epistle will claim all their spiritual inheritance, and Paul in these short verses will give us keys to how he did, and we can. So let's get into it, and "search" for the "unsearchable" riches of Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Outline: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

- Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)
- The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)
- A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)
- The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)
- Access to the Throne is the "Key" to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12)
- Paul's Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

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The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)

God Gives Gifts

As you recall, Ephesians chapters 1-3 are about what God has done for us; one of the gifts God has given to us, is the Apostle Paul.

You Are A Gift to Someone

Do you realize you are a gift to someone? There is not a person in this room who is not a gift to someone.

As God gave Paul as a gift church, God gives you as a gift. I think that will change the way you live when you see that God gives you as a gift to people. That God says I love this person so much, I am going to give them a gift, and I give them you.

And just to note, even if the person or people don't view you as a gift, you are still a gift none the less. Paul would say to the church in Corinth, the more I love you the least I am loved; but that did not stop him for continuing to love them and give himself as a gift to them

2 Corinthians 12:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. ¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

A Minister - Servant

Ephesians 3:7 (WWSGNT): The word "minister" is diakonos (διακονος), "a servant seen in his activity." Our word "deacon" comes from this Greek word. The Greek word refers to one who serves. The word "minister" is misleading, since it is the technical word used today to designate the pastor of a church. Paul merely meant that he became one who ministered the gospel, served God in that capacity.

Paul says he is a minister, but that is a title of service, not exaltation. In classical literature of ancient Greece, the minister (diakonos) "is a table waiter who is always at the bidding of his customers." (Wood)

Paul's saying, I am just a minister, an errand boy, and happy to be just that.

The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)

Effective Working – Even the Errand Boy

But even an errand boy, a servant, needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What type of power are you serving with?

Mount of Olives – Place of Distribution

Just back from Israel, as I taught up on the Mount of Olives, I reminded myself and all on the trip, the promise that was made there. I called it "The Place of Distribution". Yes, it is where the great Matthew 24 message of the last days was given, distributed, but also for the last days I need the promise that was given on that location..... And

you shall receive power when the Spirit comes upon you. God gave the promise that He would give, distribute, the power and equipping for us for the ministry, serving, He has given for us to do.

Acts 1:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

Acts 1:4–8 (NKJV) ⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Right Now Ask for Gift of Holy Spirit

I think we should all pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit today. If you would like to have someone lay hands on you and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can come forward after service and we will do that. Paul gives us a key to the unlocking of his success, and that is in Ephesians 5, and the verb tense would make it read, continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit, God Himself, to live the life God calls us to.

Ephesians 5:15–18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Luke 11:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

More of Him, less of me. We aren't reading about Paul who learned and mastered how to be a good person; we are reading, and God is showing us, a man who is led and supplied by God Himself, not Paul himself.

George Markey

I am reminded of a good-ole country boy from Indiana, who I met when I did a mission trip in the Ukraine. His name was George Markey, and he was the first pastor to plant a Calvary Chapel in the Ukraine after the walls came down. He had a church of 1,000 in Indiana, and I asked why he would leave 1,000 to go into the unknown, to which he said he wanted to go where the fishing was good. Well he was in the city Kiev, there in the Ukraine, and education is paramount in that country. George said he had professional musicians, professional interpreters, and the likes. All these exceptionally talented people performing ministry roles. The only problem he said was that nothing was happening in the ministry, it felt dead and dry. Then the Lord spoke to him to replace all the professionals, and just use people who loved Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit of God. He said it didn't matter if they missed a chord, or didn't understand a word in translation, all that mattered was they had an intimate relationship with the Lord, and we led and equipped by Him. He said immediately after he did that, the ministry started to flourish. Holy means (uncommon), and ministry done in the common will be common. So, how common, or uncommon, is your ministry? More of Him, less of me.

Paul was a Gift – May we be Too

Paul was a gift, simply serving, and gladly serving, by the effective power of God.

Ephesians 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Effective for 2 Reasons

Paul was an effective servant for two very clear reasons; one was because he was filled with the Holy Power, the power of God, and secondly because he was humble. Paul is writing from prison, and yet he doesn't play on that to say look how spiritual I am, I serve even in such hardship. When Paul wrote this, he was under house arrest, he still had not come to the prison pit that he would end in when he wrote 1 and 2 Timothy. He would be under

house arrest that still wasn't pleasant considering he would give up his freedom to go where he chooses to go, and so what he desired to do. But he freely gave that up to be a *minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.*

Caesarea Maritime

It was in Caesarea that Paul, while under house arrest gave his defense before

Acts 25:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ And after some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. ¹⁴ When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying: "There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix,

Acts 25:23 (NKJV) ²³ So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.

Paul would be imprisoned two years, but when it came time to preach, he preached with power. So powerful that King Agrippa says Paul almost persuades him to be converted. You would think Paul would wear down, flame out, his fire and zeal with be extinguished.... but we see that as time goes on, even prison time, Paul grows hotter and hotter, his passion and zeal grows by the day, not diminishes by the hour.

Acts 24:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

Acts 26:28–29 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." ²⁹ And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

Why? Because of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)

The Unsearchable Riches of Christ / The Deeper Paul Searched – the Deeper it Went

The word "unsearchable" is anexichniaston (ἀνεξιχνίαστον), from exichniastō (ἐξιχνιάζω), "to trace out," and Alpha privative which negates the word, making it mean, "that which cannot be traced out." The riches of Christ here "are the riches that Christ has or which are in Him. The ploutos (πλουτος) (wealth) thus contained in Christ is the whole wealth of the salvation He bestows; and this is 'unsearchable' not in the sense of inexhaustible, but rather in that of unfathomable, 'past finding out,' such as cannot be fully comprehended by men" (Expositors).

As Paul searched and traced this gift of grace, the deeper he went, the deeper it became.

The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)

How Does Paul React (with Such Great Revelation) – With Great Humility

Paul was given the greatest revelation of all time, one of the greatest callings of all time (to be an apostle to the Gentiles), God personally came to meet him on the road to Damascus. How does he react? He reacts with humility.

When You See God's Greatness – You Will be Humbled

When you see God's greatness, you will be humble.

Isaiah - in a vision was taken to the throne of God, what did he say,

(Isaiah 6:5 NKJV) So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because 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."

Peter - said depart from me when he knew he was standing before the Almighty God.

(Luke 5:8 NKJV) When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

John the Baptist - said I'm not worthy to tie your shoe, let alone baptize you.

(Matthew 3:14 NKJV) And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

Paul had Ink Spot on His Shirt

Paul says he is the least of the saints. Now you know Paul isn't living in some type of habitual sin, but Paul is like a white shirt with an ink spot on it. The closer you get to the Lord, the more obvious your sinfulness will be to you.

Understanding the deep truths of God's Word does not give a man a big head; it gives him a broken and contrite heart.

Paul's Resume of "greatness"

Paul starts off as a Pharisee, chief among the religious. Here is his resume:

(Philippians 3:4-7 NKJV) though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Blameless in the law, there were 613 Jewish laws if you wanted to be blameless, and that is not just keeping them, but you would have to had memorized them all in order to know what to keep.

But Then..... His Progression

But he met the Lord, and look at the progression of how he saw himself:

- Least of the apostles – (1 Corinthians 15:9) written around 56AD.
- Least of the saints – (Ephesians 3:8) written around 60AD.
- Chief of sinners – (1 Timothy 1:15) written around 62-63AD.

(1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

(1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

So Paul goes from the "top 12" as least of the apostles, then to let's say "top 25%" as least of the saints (if 1 in 4 receive the good seed – Mark 4), and then as the "chief of sinners", he goes to bottom, bottom 100%.

Paul Most Accomplished – But Remained Amazed that God Would Save him

Paul was certainly the most accomplished of all the apostles he wrote several books of the New Testament started some of the greatest churches and lead some of the greatest mission trips and yet he remained amazed at the fact God would save him.

It's sad when people think the God was lucky to get them.

More He Saw Himself – The More He Saw Grace

The more Paul saw his sinfulness as he matured in the Lord, the more he saw God grace. It seems the more Paul preached this message of grace, the less and less he saw of himself. He starts by saying I'm the least of the apostles, so as I read that he is still in the top twelve. Then least of the saints, that still means he is in around the top 25 percentile, because he is above all the heathen. But then he says I'm chief of sinners, I'm number 1, but it is a number 1 that doesn't come with any prizes. Be encouraged, for Paul was saved somewhere around 35AD, and it was twenty years before he said he was the least of the saints, twenty-five to become least of the saints and almost thirty to become the chief of sinners.

Heart Check – Where Are you on the Progression Chart

So for a heart check, really, where are you on this progression? You the least of the apostles (I am a spiritual heavyweight, really, I am just ask me). Or do you see yourself pretty good saint, especially as I look at the other saints I know. Or do you say, there or I except by the grace of God as you look upon the lost and dying. The beauty of seeing yourself as the least of the saints, you will never look down upon another one of God's saints, you will place yourself above another saint, and thus you will always be lowly and humble among your church family, and among your home family, and I will promise you a power and sweetness in your relationships when you do..... for God will honor you in ways you have never imagined before..... just ask Paul, and just look at Paul's life. And if

you will consider yourself chief of sinners you will never look down on a sinner again, you will look at sinners' as lost and dying and in need of a savior; you have a whole new heart for them, and you will be moved with compassion as you seem enslaved and ensnared to sin, and the devil, and you will never rest in their lost state, but live a life to set them free, just like Paul did.

See the more you see of Jesus, the more you will see how far He has saved you from.

The Unsearchable Riches – How Far You Willing to Dig – Does your Shovel has Rust on It

How deep are you willing to dig? How far are you willing to search? Has your shovel rusted? I noticed that my shovels rust over as they lay against the wall, but I also notice how shiny they get when I am continually pierce deeper and deeper into the ground.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)

Ephesians 3:9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

All See – Turn Light On – Take Photo

Verse 9 - to make all see – This actually means to “turn the light on”. The Greek word for “see” is “photizo”, where we get the English word “photo”. Paul is saying here is a photo, look at, see what I see (and saw). A photo is something that preserves proof. As I show you pictures of Israel, it is showing you what I actually saw, experienced, and proof that it is real. I like what our guide said about Israel, he said whether you are a believer or atheist, coming to the land of Israel proves one thing, that the writers of the Bible walked this land, because every physical location of the Bible is found in the land. Paul is saying, here is a photo of what I saw, and I want you to see it, and that is you are part of the body of God.

A Mystery

A mystery is something that is not perfectly clear, but the more it is considered and searched out, the clearer it becomes. The mystery has been made completely clear to us today, that God has one body, and that is made up of anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord for salvation, whether Jew or Gentile.

Romans 10:8–13 (NKJV) ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Have you called upon the name of the Lord for salvation?

Caesarea – Place of Adoption / I have a Photo

When I was at Caesarea this week, I called it “The Place of Adoption” as it is the place that it was clear as clear can be, that the Gentiles were adopted into the family and body with the Jews to make one body. Here is a photo of Caesarea, a place of clarity, the mystery clearly cleared, God gave Peter a vision, what I call clean let no man call unclean..... speaking of the Gentiles, and then called Peter to go preach to the Gentiles and when he did the Spirit fell on them and it was clearly declared, the Gospel is for both the Jew and Gentile!

Acts 10:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 11:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

Adoption Today is the Same

Adoption has a common element to it. Two parties both wanting. As for the child, the want of a family, someone to love them, to care for them, to take them in, and make them their own. But on the other side there is a parent who wants a family, someone to love, someone to care for, someone to give them self to and for.

I watch some families in this church adopt children, and I always just marvel in them, I just think how wonderful and marvelous they are for the children they made their own. I have seen it from those with little children, and then those who the little children are now adults, and I marvel how I have to be told or remind myself of the adoption, because the family I see is so one, and so beautiful. It is truly something that moves my heart, it is one of the most amazing things I see in life.

We as children saw a Heavenly Father, and were drawn and then said could it be that He could want me, make me His own, bring me into His family..... Could He possibly want me! Then we find a God, who says to us, oh how I want you, oh how I desire to have you, I want you to be part of my family.

Have you celebrated that today? I pray you soak in that today. I am not asking you to respond to then go out and do some great exploit, or service, but to simply marvel right now..... God wanted me.

The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)

Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 3:11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Angels See as they Look at Us

Wisdom - being revealed to angels who are marveling. Peter said the same thing. So Paul and Peter are saying the angels have to watch us, to understand what is God is doing, on making one Church, one body, made up of Jew and Gentile (who believe and call upon the Name of the Lord).

1 Peter 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Mystery of God on the Cross

I think we can clearly see that the mystery being spoken of is that the Jew and the Gentile shall be one body together and that the Gentiles are fellow heirs in all of the promises of God, including being grafted in and becoming part of the body. But I think the greatest mystery that has been unfold, and only by the Holy Spirit can it fully be revealed and understood, is that the means and the way that this would be and happen is that God himself would become the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. That is the amazing mystery, that though it was a foreshadow as demonstrated in Genesis 22, as Abraham took his son, his only son, Isaac, up to Mount Moriah, the very same Mount that Jesus Christ would be crucified on 4,000 years later. That is the true mystery that was fuzzy, and not fully, clearly understandable, but has now been made known when Jesus Christ went to the cross and died for the sins of the world.

Genesis 22:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Devil Too

Other principalities would include the devil - who marvels at God's wisdom of one sacrifice, one perfect sacrifice, can redeem the whole world. Now, very important for you to pull this thread; if we keep digging, and we never reach the bottom, and we grow deeper and deeper in the grace of God, and become more and more like Him; then the Devil (the fallen angelic being) has to study me and you to understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ, and the more he sees that, and that it is directed towards, and price God willing paid for us to buy us and adopt us..... it drives him mad, and you will be the object of his anger and hatred.

1 Peter 4:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Access to the Throne is the “Key” to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12)

Ephesians 3:12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Access is Key to the Search

Access is key to the search, that is unsearchable, no end, no bottom. Once you reach one summit, you look from the summit to see there is another peak even higher. But God gives a clear map and direction on where to search, as He says come unto me with confidence, and I will be your “guide”, I will lead you from summit to summit.

Promise Full Access / But Make No Mistake – Only 1 Way to the Father (Through Jesus)

There is the promise of access unto God, the calling to come with confidence and boldness. However, let there be no mistake, the access to God is through Jesus Christ and Him only. There are no co-redeemers, and not all roads (aka religions) lead to God; Jesus will say in what the verb structure is called emphatic, I am the Only Way, the Only Truth, and the Only Life, no one comes to the Father except by Me!

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Access Not Through Buildings or Religion

When I was on the Temple Mount there in Israel, obviously there was no Temple there, so all of Israel goes to the Western Wall (The Wailing Wall), and they pray, sometimes wailing in tears because they cannot go up to the Temple Mount area, and because there is no Temple (which represented the presence of God – called the Shinekah Glory, dwelling in the Holy of Holies). I call the Western Wall, “The Place of Misdirection”, because they are misdirected on where the presence of God is, and I called the Temple Mount the “Place of Representation” as it was a place to represent what was to come, that all the sacrifices were a foreshadow of the need for a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, and that the presence of God was not going to be limited to a building, but that God would make his children the Temple of God and dwell in them.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Jeremiah Indicts Israel Before 1st Temple Destroyed

Before the destruction of the first Temple, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to indict the nation, saying you put all your trust in that you have a Temple, and therefore you are blameless, yet you do all kinds of evil. So too it is true today, no building, no religion, no statues, no monuments, no mosques, can provide access into the presence of God, only Jesus Christ the mediator, the bridge, the access, to God in heaven.

Jeremiah 7:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ² “Stand in the gate of the LORD’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!’ ” ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.’ ⁵ “For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, ⁶ if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷ then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. ⁸ “Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations’? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” says the LORD.

Paul’s Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

Ephesians 3:13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Paul Preaches Bold Access – From Prison

Access - look who is speaking access, the guy who is in prison. Hey you can access the throne of grace from your seat right here, in your hospital bed, anywhere, anytime.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God doesn’t just save a person but provides access to a personal and intimate relationship with Him that you can boldly come before Him, anytime and any place

Paul Says – Don't Cry for Me

Paul says and don't cry for me, i gladly live this life. Yes Paul pours himself out for the Gentiles, but every drop he pours out was first poured into him as he waded into deeper water of Gods unsearchable riches.

Enduring versus Loving

Enduring is one thing, but loving is a total another thing. Paul loved to the end, and the longer the tribulation lasted, the greater his love poured out.

Closing – This Passage Unlocks So Much of Paul's Ministry / But Israel/Christian Do Not Take All the Land

So was I close we see an amazing proclamation declaration of the Apostle Paul and his enduring and loving to the end and so we have a key that unlocks for us today from the heart of this man the heart of the message is he delivered From God himself that all the spiritual inheritance are ours for the taking and they are unsearchable the riches that had been provided for us in and through Christ Jesus .

[Ephesians 1:3 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

But there is something that I fully saw as I travel the land of Israel as i went from North to South and East the West and as glorious as it was to see the land and Israel back in it I couldn't help but notice how much of the land is real didn't possess considering how much God had promised them. the book of Ephesians is written to us that we might possess all the spiritual inheritance In Christ Jesus they got hands for us and yet so many times we as Christians we don't take all the promises and all the inheritance and we don't live to the fullest all the promises of God In other words we don't take all the land either.

I pray the Lord challenges our hearts today before we leave this place will say I want all the spiritual blessings that are promised to me And I don't want to just stop where I'm at I want to go deeper in the unsearchable riches of Christ and may I never be content where I'm at regardless of how many years and regardless of how great the years may have been they always know but there's more because it's a promise of God and the riches are unsearchable therefore every time I search I'll find more.

Calvary is a Bus Station Now – Buried among Busyness

It's also amazing to me, after we were up on Mount Olives overlooking the Temple Mount, and even as we then drove around the city, I could not see Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha from the Mount of Olives today. And when we went through the city and got up to where the crucifixion was, even knowing as I did that it was right across from the Damascus Gate, I still could not see it. And I think the example is so fitting, because it was just surrounded and buried by the bustling city around it, a bus station in front of it, and buildings around it. The greatest demonstration of love there on that mountain was just buried by the busy-ness of the city and the people going past it. And I think that's so fitting because sometimes that's just the way our lives are. We totally miss the glory of what happened 2000 years ago, as God came down, because of the busy-ness and the bustling of the world around us. I pray God will just speak to our hearts today, that we can set ourselves apart.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- Fellow Heirs of Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- Least of the Saints?

Position

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Fellowship in the Mystery (the 1 Body of Christ)
- Full Access to Him
- In Him

Promise

- Fellow Heirs of the Promises of God
- Possessors of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ

- Given the Manifold Wisdom of God
- Full Access (with Boldness and Confidence) to Him

Overview

Although it doesn't seem so, in many times we just read through these several verses, they seem to just be a bridge from the past thought to the next thought, I believe we have a deep passage that is key to this whole book, and to the whole great ministry of the great apostle Paul. Paul writes and prays that the recipient of this epistle will claim all their spiritual inheritance, and Paul in these short verses will give us keys to how he did, and we can.

***Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)** ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

***Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)** ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

Outline: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

- Paul's Powerful Ministry (3:7)
- The Power Behind Paul's Ministry (3:7)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because of the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:8)
- The Effectiveness of his Ministry – Because he was the Least of Saints (3:8)
- A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words (3:9)
- The Angels have to Look at You to Understand the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:10-11)
- Access to the Throne is the "Key" to where to Search for the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3:12)
- Paul's Prison took him into Deeper Waters (3:13)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

***Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

***Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End of Study

Ephesians 3:14-21
Title: "Let's Pray"

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

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In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Outline Ephesians 3:14-21 (Let's Pray):

- Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)
- We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15)
- Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)
- Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)
- Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)
- Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)
- We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)
- We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

The Title of Today's Study is "Let's Pray". So let's pray, and then jump into this great Word from the Lord.

Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

For This Reason

Verse 14 Paul says, "For this reason," which he's referencing back to verses 1 through 13 of the chapter, which speaks of the family being one Jew and Gentile together.

A Prayer for Self and Others

Verse 14. Paul prays this for you. You should be praying this for yourself and your spouse, your kids, and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer Posture

Paul says he bows his knee. I believe this is literally. He is bowing his knee. It's not a figurative idiom, but he's actually bowing his knee and that's the prayer posture that he's in. And many times, people ask, "What is the correct prayer posture?" I answer it as the same way I answer that people say to me, "What's the best Bible translation to use?" To which I saying the best one is the one that you will read and likewise, the best prayer posture is the one that you'll pray. Whether it's bowed, knees lifted, hands or feet up, or a prayer shawl over your head, or going for a walk, whatever it may be. The best prayer posture is where you will be praying.

Whether it is bowed knees or lifted hands, or bowed head, or whatever the position is..... the posture is about what is going on inside the heart, a heart of submission saying Lord I need You, I can't do this, or what I can do, I know will fall so short compared to what You can and will do. So the ultimate posture is one of submission and yield and declaring I need You. To that note, I encourage you to fill out prayer cards that we will pray over in the Corporate Prayer Meeting, as for many the reason people don't fill it out is because they haven't come to a place of submission, that they are crying out to the Lord.... I need You, for everything I have been doing just can't get it done or breakthrough. Prayerlessness is our Declaration of Independence, our saying we got this, we can handle this.... Or worse, we don't really care (and that is a place that needs a totally heart check).

But I find myself that many times I pray regardless of the prayer posture.

- I like to pray with an open Bible and I use that verse, such as the one before us today, and I use that to guide my prayer. And I asked the Holy spirit to lead that. And so we call it scripture fed spirit led prayer and that's very much what we do on Tuesday night in a corporate prayer setting.
- But I also find in my prayer time, it necessary for me, whether I'm sitting or bowing or standing, that I have nothing around me. Many times even no light. Just totally nothing to stimulate me, nothing to distract me, no phones, not even Bible. Because then I'm going to start pondering the theological and doctrinal threads of the passage that I'm thinking. But I just sit there with nothing.
- But I also find it necessary at times that I do just go. I bow my knee, put my head down on the couch or the floor, and I just think upon the Lord, and I speak to the Lord, and I pray to the Lord.
- But I also find that there's a time that I just need to worship the Lord and that's all I'm doing, is lifting up worship to him. I'm not worried about intercession. I'm not worried about hearing anything for myself. I just worship him and I find myself so lifted up and blessed in that way.
- And there's another thing, as I could talk so much about prayer and the power of it, but I like in Ezekiel 37, the spirit speaking to the prophet Ezekiel, and he tells him to pray over these dead bones. Pray over the word that was spoken to them. And I think there's such a power in taking the past Bible study, such as today's Bible study, and then tomorrow in whatever prayer posture, just taking the points of this Bible study, just taking the scripture of this Bible study, and begin to pray them again. Praying and letting it sink in. That's what the spirit told Ezekiel to do. You preach to these dead bones, now pray over what you spoke. And then we see that these dead bones came alive. It's a, truly one of the greatest prophetic passages of the scriptures speaking of the nation Israel. Being reborn as a nation coming together. But there is a predictive prophecy about that. But then there's what's called the didactic prophecy and that's an application for here and now. And that's an application that take this word and pray over it.
 - Last week. I just had a wonderful time on Monday praying over Sunday's Bible passage. I prayed I'm a gift and so You give gifts. Lord, help me to be the gift to somebody. Besides my Golden Retriever, who else thinks I am a gift hahaha?
 - Then I prayed, Lord, give me a fresh filling of the spirit so I can love and serve as you do.
 - I really pondered where, how was I doing on the progression?
 - I asked the Lord, "Do I see myself as the least of the apostles? That I'm above people?"
 - Lord, where do I see myself as the least of the saints?" Do I see that there are saints underneath me or am I really in a place in my heart that I see I'm the least of the saints, and therefore I can look at everybody are elevated and above me, and I won't ever look down, I'll always look up and I'll always look for the betterment of them.
 - Then I had to spend time. Lord, am I the chief of sinners? Lord gave me a heart, a whole new heart and love for the lost. I prayed, "Lord, let not one last person come into my path that I don't move and be moved in my heart." I continually asked the Lord, "Stir up the passion to pray for the lost."

Ezekiel 37:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Paul Prays to Father

Verse 14 Paul opens his prayer to the Father. This is his second prayer in the book of Ephesians and in chapter one, the first prayer, in verse 17, he opened that prayer to the Father. The reason being is that's how Jesus taught us to pray. It's the model prayer from Matthew 6. "Our Father who art in heaven." And it's important for us as we open any prayer to the understanding that our prayer is to the Father and he's a good Father. He paid great price to have you. And when we come to prayer, our asking, our seeking, our knocking, we've come with that. If the Father in heaven did not spare his only Son for us to have us, then what could we possibly ask in prayer that he wouldn't provide to us? That of course being in accordance to his will, but if he gave his Son, is there anything that he would withhold from us? And so the question asks, why don't we pray more and ask more?

Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Matthew 6:8–13 (NKJV) ⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Let's Pray

Back in verse 12 of this chapter, Paul was speaking of that we have access to the throne that we can boldly come to because the access is through Jesus Christ and that speaks that our sin is covered. We are right standing with God and therefore we can boldly come before the throne of grace and what I like here is Paul says we have access to the Father in heaven and then immediately after he says that he takes advantage of that access and he enters into this prayer and he starts to pray. It's as if he says we have access and then that access that he reminds us, reminds himself, stirs him to immediately enter into prayer.

Ephesians 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Hey church, why do we wait to pray? Why do we pray after? Why does it so often that people tell us something whether that's face to face or whether it's an email or whether it's a text and they tell us something that's a burden. They ask us to pray or they just share something and then we say, "I'm going to pray about that," which is something that we will do later. Why is it that we just don't pray right there? Why don't we just pray on the spot? If we're honest, half the time we're going to forget or get busy. Yet if we prayed on the spot, our prayer life would double, if not more. So Paul says, hey, we have access. So it immediately takes advantage of the access and he starts to pray. This is a good model for us. We ought to pray on the spot.

Couple studies ago we said we don't say enough, but God. So often we talk about all the woes and all the yields and all the concerns and we discussed how we need to put it into our vocabulary more than those two words. But God, well, let me add to that. Here's two words that we should add along with those and make it a routine and a habit of our life. And those two words are, let's pray. Not three words of let's pray later or those several words of I'm going to pray about that. I might have, we just go to two simple words that we can all remember and say, let's pray.

Ephesians 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

And I would say especially here as we're among each other, Jesus says, "My house shall be a house of prayer." This is the place we should make a house of prayer. But may I also remind you as Paul has been bringing it home again and again and again to us and we continually speak of it, that we are the temple of God now that the living God dwells in us, that we don't have to go to a temple to meet with God. God makes us a temple and there we are meeting with him. So we are the temple of God as we've been told and as we've been promised and as it's been declared, then should we not be temples of prayer, houses of prayer, and then therefore should we not be even more. So let's pray.

I think all of us are guilty of it, and I don't mean to lay a trip on anyone, but churches and people overestimate the power of programs and they underestimate the power of prayer. God has given us this bold access. He calls us in the prayer. Paul shows us here in the book of Ephesians the call to prayer to boldly come before the throne of grace. We're told in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I'll answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know." And then nowhere does he say, "Let's start more programs." No, we always see the simplicity here, the call to prayer, and I like Jeremiah 33:3 when you just think of it for the simplicity of it. "And I'll show you great and mighty things which you do not know."

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) ³ 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

There Are Unsearchable Riches – Come Find them

That ties in with chapter three's message. It ties in with the continual message. There's this unsearchable riches of Christ that we as heirs, fellow heirs, have a right to because we are in the family of God and he says, "Come to prayer and I'm going to show you unsearchable riches. I'm going to take you deeper and things you never even dreamt of before. You can read all you want, read all the books in the world and hear all the sermons in the world,

but you come in and you ask me about me and you spend a long enough time to sit and listen, just as Jeremiah said, call me and I'll answer you and I'll show you great and mighty things which you do not know." That's a promise in prayer that he will always show us more about him.

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

Verse 14. So now what Paul prays is a prayer of unsearchable riches. No limits, no depths, just simply riches in Christ that are ours as fellow heirs.

We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15-16)

Ephesians 3:15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

We Have the Family Name

Verse 15 says who the whole family is named. No. If my last name was Rockefeller, Bezos, or Trump, I could go right now and make a nice withdrawal or use the family credit card or the family line of credit. Well, that's the point that's being made here for us. We've been adopted. Therefore we now have the family name. We are now part of the family and our family name is the name of the Father and I can boldly come to the spiritual bank of the Father and make out a withdrawal and it would have no end because the bank of heaven is limitless. It's unsearchable.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

The Riches of His Glory / Unsearchable

Verse 16 says to the riches of glory. We're talking unlimited riches. Heavens declare the glory of God. That's a slim picture of how rich and glorious God is. Anytime you think or forget his glory or the riches, just look up into the heaven and say how vast. It's unsearchable and I think I will make a withdrawal and surely won't even deplete a speck in the vault.

When we look up into the heavens. By the way, it's literally no excuse for anyone because the scriptures say and they're inspired by God, but the heavens speak of his handiwork of his existence and therefore no man can say anything otherwise, no man can say, "I'll believe it when I see it." God says when you see all of creation, it speaks that it's impossible for there not to be a creator. If you look at a masterpiece that was painted, just the painting itself testifies that there was a creator behind it. An artist, when you look at a building and see its construction, though you may never seen the construction crew or the designer of the building. When you see a building standing, you have to look at it and go, there was a creator behind it, and that's what God's saying about creation. When we've looked, just the very fact that there's a creation speaks that there was a creator.

Psalms 19:1 (NKJV) ¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*

Romans 1:18–23 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,* ¹⁹ *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.* ²⁰ *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,* ²¹ *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* ²² *Professing to be wise, they became fools,* ²³ *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

Speaking of the unreachable and unsearchable riches of heaven, go ahead and imagine filling a bag up of heaven. If you were to go outside with a big hefty bag and you were to fill it up with this heaven that's around us, you could see the simple example is it never depletes. And if you look up when you see his glory, look at his glory and know how rich he is and call upon him for your needs and it will never be depleted.

Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Inner Man versus Outer Man

Verse 16, this word for might is the word for Dunamis, power and dynamite. The inner man. This is what he wants to give this dynamite power to the inner man. You see your body that you look at and spend so much time looking at and fixing up and preparing to take out. It's just the carrier of what the real person is and that's the inner man. It's the soul in you. That's the real you. Hence why anyone can do great exploits for God regardless of this physical body, regardless of the physique. You could be bedridden, or you can have the strength to climb mountains, but it's the inner man that does the work of the ministry and therefore anyone in this room has the ability to do great and powerful things for the Lord because of the real man. The real woman is what's inside this carrier.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Paul Speaks from Experience – Desires us to Experience the Same

The word for “might” here is where we get our English word “dynamite”. Paul doesn’t want to give us a little firecracker to be entertained with, he wants us to have a power that can move and level mountains.

Verse 16 says to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and this takes us back to verse seven. It was Paul's prayer here for us was what he experienced in his life personally and the power of his life. Cause back in verse seven he says all the gifts and all the glory and everything that he can do and accomplishes because the effect of working of God's power in his life. Paul knows the effect of working of God's power through the Holy Spirit, and he prays something that he's has been proven in his life and therefore he prays it for us. This is my power. I know it, so I pray it for you because I want you to have it too. So powerful, isn't it? You can be in jail, bound in chains and still be giving praise to God and finding unsearchable riches in here.

Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

To Settle Down – Be At Home

The Greek word to dwell means to settle down and be at home with.

Now if you came over my house today Renee would welcome you gladly to sit in the living room which is beautifully and comfortably decorated you would feel so at home she would then invite you into the kitchen for coffee at the counter and a bite to eat in the dining area then you would feel so at home; But don't go down to the basement she would die if he went down there because it's a mess .

Humorous story I think we can all relate to the spiritual application and that is that there are places we invite Christ into our lives and feel comfortable about it and other places still have doors and locks on it

You realize Christian Christ was always comfortable with sinners we see it with his time that he's with Zacchaeus saying today I must dine with you the accusation that was levied against him was that he eats with sinners and tax collectors

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”

Luke 7:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

You know those fixers upper shows those home renovation shows I would be completely settled down and happy to have them come to my house even the basement or my backyard which is pretty sad shape right now. I would

love to have them for I would love for them to say I would change this and I would change that and the best of all is on those shows when they say that they don't just tell you what to do they actually help you do it in fact in the most part they do majority of the work if not all the work .

Jesus is comfortable with sinners even Paul the chief of sinners and Jesus says let's change this and let's change that And I will just tell you what needs to be changed I'll help you change it in fact I'll do all the work if you only allow me to do it

So Christian right now what room in your heart needs some work we know the big 3 the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life let's start there

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

By Faith

And he says through faith and the faith that you need to have is but what he says needs to go but he says needs to be changed he says it because he's good and he's faithful and the father knows what's best for you and by faith you agree you do know best and therefore I yield to whatever you want to change in my life .

Recommended Book

Pastor Chuck recommends a book called “My Heart, Christ Home” by Robert Munger, as the small easy to read book takes you through a home as if it was your heart, and Christ goes from room-to-room with you speaking of His desire for each room.

- The Dining Room – what is the appetite of the things of the Lord or things of the world.
- The Living Room – where every day He says I will wait here by the fire to meet with you and fellowship
- And it continues on from room-to-room, and I highly recommend this book to you to read and pray over. I highly doubt you can read it and not find God changing something in your life.

Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, Ephesians 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Foundation (Root & Ground) is Jesus Crucified

Verse 17, foundation is love and that love is the love of Christ. The root and ground of love of Jesus Christ is his sacrifice upon the cross. That's the foundation of Christianity. It's the foundation of everything; a Holy God stepping down into humanity, taking on sin, becoming sin, and overcoming sin, that man may be forgiven. In John 20:20 when Thomas doubted, Jesus said, "Look at my hands and feet," and when Thomas saw the piercing, that's when his vision became clear. If you ever doubt, if you ever need a vision adjustment, go to John 20:20 and you'll have 20/20 vision again. So Paul's praying that you'd be rooted and grounded in love. That prayer is the foundation of Jesus Christ and him crucified, and you can only build as high as the foundation will provide, but anyone who lays the foundation in Jesus Christ and him crucified can build to this height that Paul is praying us to build to.

John 20:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:25–29 (NKJV) ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now this is the love of God:

1 John 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

4 Dimensions – Out of this World

His love promise to us is beyond a mental understanding. It's four-dimensional. We live in a three-dimensional world, and that is with length and height. Here Paul adds a fourth dimension of depth, and so what's being spoken here is a prayer for an understanding of a love that's outside of our dimension, and you can have it because God wants to give it. You can love God's way. You see, man's way of love is limited. It's three-dimensional. God's way of Love is four-dimensional. It's unlimited.

Beyond Know in Head – But Experience in Heart

And he wants us to know it experientially, not just in knowledge. That's what the word "to know" means. It's to experience. See, I can know my wife loves me, my wife can know that I love her. We can have an intellectual knowledge of that love, but I surely didn't get married just to know that my wife loved me. I want an experience with her love, and I want her to have the same. God wants us to enter into an experience of love with him.

Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Fullness in His Presence

Verse 19, the fullness of God, what does that even mean? What does that even look like? All I know is I want it, and I want God to give it to me. And I'd see the fullness of God. It means more of God and less of me because as he grows bigger, I'm obviously going to grow smaller, and that's what's happened in Paul's life as we studied his progression.

I know that the fullness of God, is found in His presence, and there again I say.... I want the fullness of God, I want to be in His presence.

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Enlarge Capacity

Paul asks God to enlarge their spiritual capacity and help them grasp the full volume of His love for them! Any chocolate lovers here? Once, a guy jumped into a vat of sweet, delicious chocolate. He prayed, "Lord, make my capacity equal to my opportunity." God's love is an ocean. Take in all you want. Our only limitation is our appetite! Be "filled with all the fullness of God."

We Pray for Others – Because they Don't Know there is More

Why pray this for someone else? Because man may not know there's more to be had. They are content, and thus we pray that God will take them higher. I don't mean this in a puffed up way, but I made lots of Christians. I have counseling time, and I have times sharing and spending time. And I just can see their content, and then I feel sorry for them, and hence I need to come to this place of prayer because I know there's more. And I know when they have more, they'll be more, but so many people are living with less and they don't even know that there's more and why we need to pray for them and why God gives us this prayer to be praying for others, why Paul was praying it for us, because he knows there's more because he's experienced it, and he wants us to experience it to.

We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

He is Able

Verse 20, "To him who is able," it says. I can read these four points and say, "No way, all this stuff ain't happened to me," and I can say, "Do you know how spiritual I would be if all these things would come to pass?" I would be like a new man. We would be like new men and women. We can say, "Don't you know how much change this

would take?" And Paul, closing the prayer by reminding us that God's able, and yes, praying things with fervency and passion and faith, yes, we can be new people. We can have the fullness of God. We don't have to leave here the same because he who is able, he has the supply. God has the ability. He has the exceeding abundance, he has the riches, he has the unsearchable riches beyond finding out. He's above what we can think, and he has the power through the Holy Spirit working in us to do these things. So Paul closes with the reminder, "He's able," that you can read through these things and say, "No way," whereas Paul goes, "Oh yes," all the way.

This a Prayer not a Teaching

And notice this is a prayer. It's not a teaching. Paul isn't teaching us these things. He's telling us these things can't be taught. They can only be caught. And there's a bag you can fill up that can't be filled, and I say, "Let's go grab our bags and start scooping the glory of God," and we'll notice we won't even put a dent into the heavens, but we will have the fullness of God.

Chapter 4 Duty – Must be with Prayer

We begin chapter 4 next week, where we begin the duty part..... and the Holy Spirit by Divine design, speaks that apart from prayer, all our "duty" will fall so short; but empowered with the faith and prayer that He will do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..... There is nothing that we can't do, overcome, and spiritually excel in.

We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

A Promise Forever and Ever

Verse 20 says, "To all the generations forever," and that dispels that this gifts and these promises was for the early church that was given to help get the church going. God is speaking to us. Paul is preaching to us. The spirit says, "Same power for Paul is the same power for you today. It's forever. Therefore, it is for today."

Conclusion

Outline Ephesians 3:14-21:

- Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)
- We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15)
- Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)
- Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)
- Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)
- Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)
- We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)
- We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

3 P's of this Passage

Person

- Rooted and Grounded in Love
- God's Power is Working in Them

Position

- Has the Family Name
- Our Position in Him is forever and ever

Promise

- To be Strengthened
- He will do exceedingly above all we could ask
- The Riches of His Glory available to Us

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Chapter 4

Ephesians 4:1-6

Title: How Then Should We Walk

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Title

So after three chapters of doctrine, we come to three chapters of duty, of doing, of walking; it comes to the question, "Then How Should We Walk?", and so we start with that today, and once again a rich Word from the Lord for all of us today. A Word, that if taken to heart, will change your heart, will bring you a peace and a power in your life that is exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think. This passage literally could change you whole marriage today if you will chose to walk in accordance to what the Lord calls of you today, it will surely change your relationships with not just some people, but every person you have a relationship with..... Yes, I am not just preaching, I am declaring, from experience of doing and watching, this passage can and will change your life today, if you will receive it.

*Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)*²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Today's Passage

*Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you*

were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Outline: Ephesians 4:1-6 (How Then Should We Walk):

- Your Identity & Calling – Know It (4:1)
- Walk Worthy – Balance the Scales of Profession and Practice (4:1)
- Walk with Lowliness – How do You enter the Room (4:2)
- Walk with Gentleness – A Bruised Reed We Shall Not Break (4:2)
- Walk with Longsuffering – Give God Time to Work (4:2)
- Walk Bearing with One Another in Love – Do I Really Love that Person (4:2)
- Walk in Unity and Peace – The Walk is a Continual Action (4:3)
- Walk in One – The Number for Christianity is Easy, it is One (4:4-6)

Let's Not Get Fancy

So "let's pray", and let's get into this word today, and let's not complicate it, may I not be fancy, let's just take the words for what they say, and then let's learn them, and then leave here and live them!

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Your Identity & Calling – Know It (4:1)

Verse 1 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord

Paul a Prisoner – Who Controls Your Situation

Verse one it says, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, not of Rome and as we say, who controls your situation will determine how much your situation controls you. Paul's imprisonment doesn't control or bind him. He repeats this from chapter three verse one, he repeats this for us to be reminded where he is as he writes this, and yet where he is, is in prison and he's been there for about two years. And it's important that it's reminded to us because it's always easy to say, that's easy for you to say, just look at your life, it's perfect. It's easy to preach when the sun is shining, and the flowers are blooming. But how about when storm clouds are forming, the future is uncertain, the present is painful?

Paul wasn't just removing excuses for anyone who would say, I can't do all these things because the past never forgets me no matter how hard I may try, my present is painful, and my future is uncertain. And based on the present, I don't see clear skies anytime soon.

But Paul, is not just removing excuses, but making a proclamation. You won't walk, you won't run, you won't even stand if you allow present or past pain and struggles to control and bind you. The situation controls you, not who you yield to controlling the situation.

Never a Slave Again

Verse one, John 8:32, 36, for who the sun sets free is free indeed. If you're a prisoner of Jesus Christ, you'll never be a prisoner to anyone or anything ever again, just as Paul.

John 8:32 (NKJV) ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Press On – Leave Past Behind You

Paul will say, "I put the past behind me and I pressed forward to the high calling that the Lord has for me."

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

There are some of you here today where you have your time of walking, then even running, filled with power and all the things that come with it. But eventually and inevitably you always find yourself with your feet knocked out from under you, lying flat, faced down. Not in prayer, but in that gut punch of the past putting you down. And you were out for days, weeks, months, some people even years. And Paul gives us the word, I've got to put the past behind me. I need to put eyes forward, fixed target. Having the high calling. And I want you to settle that today, right now. I'm going to put this past behind me that keeps dogging me. And I'm going to fix eyes forward. And I'm going to live with eyes on heaven, not eyes on me, eyes on Jesus, not eyes on my past, but eyes on my future. I want you to leave here with power today, freed. Paul's going to give us some heart penetrating words how to help us do that. But I also want to say, "Look, I understand some of your pain is pain that will only be healed when you see Jesus face to face." But I believe the Lord would be speaking to you too. He knows your pain, but like Jacob, he'll say, "Get up." If you're not walking strongly, it's still okay to be walking with a limp. And you might never sprint, but you can still have forward motion.

2 Keys to Walking (Our Identity & Our Calling)

But in our passage, it begins with, walk worthy. Paul gives us two keys to walking. And one of them is who we are in Christ. And the other is the calling that we have in Christ. So two powerful keys for walking is who we are and the calling we have.

Our Identity

Paul has just developed three chapters, let me just give you a bulletized list (of just a few) and I pray it washes over you of who we are, what he thinks of us.

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ just as He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame before Him in love,**

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV) ⁵ having **predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us **accepted in the Beloved.**

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ In Him you also **trusted,** after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV) ¹ And you He **made alive,** who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ and **raised us up together, and made us** sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For we are **His workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ that the Gentiles should be **fellow heirs,** of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Our Calling / Do You Realize You Have a Calling?

And now secondly, let's take a look. He says our calling. Do you know every one of us has a calling? Every one of us in this room has a calling. And he's going to start talking about that calling. And so I ask you, do you realize you have a calling? Do you believe that you have a calling? And how much do you desire the calling? And here's what I

promise you about your calling. It's coupled with the unsearchable riches of Christ. It is deeper, wider, higher, longer than anything you can imagine. And that is what the Lord is calling to you. Come receive it. Too often we think the "calling" is called to be a pastor, a missionary, etc, etc, but it is way beyond that..... it is the calling to walk with the Lord, to walk worthy, every day, in every situation, to live out the principals the Lord lays out for us, as believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Walk Worthy – Balance the Scales of Profession and Practice (4:1)

Verse 1 - beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Balance the Scales (Profession & Practice)

Verse one, the word worthy was used with weights and scales and it meant bringing up the other beam of the scales or bringing into equilibrium the scales. It carries the idea of one thing being equivalent of another thing. In other words, a Christian's practice should weigh as much as or be equivalent to his profession.

How Walk? By Walking Out Your Calling

Verse one, walk worthy. How do I walk worthy? Second part answers, by walking out your calling, trusting God has given you the calling, that's how we walk worthy and that's really not very complicated. Now is it?

Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, Ephesians 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Now Interesting Doesn't Start with Evangelism & Soul Winning

Verse two and three. It's interesting that this doesn't start out with the call to evangelism, even though all the people who are perishing nor does it start out with missions, but then again who will tell the whole world, nor does it start out about church planting or choosing pastors and elders and the likes. But it starts out with these words, lowliness and humility and unity and you see for the reason is the world wants love, look at all the books, movies, songs. We even have a day set aside for so-called love called Valentine's Day. Do you know how many movies have been made about love? How many books have been written? How many songs have been sung and how many cards have been sent? The world is looking for love.

- Songs written about love – estimated 100 million
- Valentine Cards per Year – estimated 1 billion
- Total Spending on Valentine each year – 18 billion dollars (2 billion is on chocolate – that's not a bad thing)
- 51 million Americans read Romance Novels per year – 93% of them were woman

Stores are loaded with flowers for people to express their love. Go into any grocery store and there they are, flowers and cards and candies as a way to express love because the world wants to express love. On a side note, I can't help myself when I am at the store and I see a man buying flowers, I always walk past him and I look at him as I go past him and I say to him, so what did you do? And we always get a laugh together when that happens.

World Doesn't Know What Love Is

John 13:35 says, that they will know that you are my disciples by your love, one for another. The world truly doesn't know what love is. Look at the world's attempt to describe it through the arts, through social media, through political parties, through entertainment. They literally have no clarity on what love is and the reason is because love is only defined and intended by how God has defined it and created it.

John 13:34–35 (NKJV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 4:8 God is love; therefore, He is the author of love, the definer and the source of love. He gives definition of love, expression of love by three means. One is through Himself and that is no greater love Has He than to lay down His life and that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son. There is how God expresses

love. Secondly, He expresses His love through the disciples. He says, by this the world will know your descent, you're my disciples by your love, one for another. And thirdly, He expresses love and defines it and gives a definition to the world through His definition of marriage that we see in the scriptures.

1 John 4:8-11 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

World Will See Definition of Love (Vertically and Horizontally)

People will know what true love is by

- looking vertically at Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- and then people will know what true love is horizontal by looking at the church, loving one another and looking at marriages, loving one another as God is, Jesus is the husband and the church is the bride.

That's why He's starting with unity among the body first, not evangelism, missions and the likes because the people, when they see true love among the church family, they will desire it and believe it is real. Remember if prayer point three of last week, it says to know, and that is to know by experience beyond just knowledge. When people experience God's love, they can take the intangible and it becomes tangible. And when the world sees that love is something that is in the church, then it becomes something tangible.

Ephesians 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Do You See Your Vital Role is this Vital Calling?

Do you see where you are in His picture to this word that is before us? Are you feeling a responsibility? Are you sensing the calling of how important it is for you to have love that is clearly seen and demonstrated in your marriages and here in your church, among your fellow brothers and sisters?

Walk with Lowliness – How do You enter the Room (4:2)

Verse 2 - with all lowliness

A Despised Word in it's Culture

This word lowliness, in the Greek society, Roman society was a despised word because no one ever wanted to be lowly or beneath anybody. And that mindset is still today unfortunately, many people, they're despised by the thought of being lowly to anyone because our society is to lift up and to stand up and to be above all and to actually come in. Lowliness is contrary to our society and hence why so many people still bring in their problems into their relationships or into their church fellowship. And why there's so much disunity is because of that struggle of the mindset, that lowliness is a despised word and place to be in this society that we live.

Christian – How do You Enter a Room

I have a question for you, and that is, how do you enter a room? When you enter a room do you say here I am, or do you say there you are? When you are in conflict, tension with another person, maybe your wife, maybe a parent, maybe a sibling, maybe a classmate or teammate, maybe a brother or sister in the Lord..... how do you "enter the room" if you will, how do you show up for that face-to-face with them? Is it lowly, or is it risen up, puffed up, aggressive, or is it lowly, is it like a lamb?

Walk Lowly – Where are You on Progression Chart

Verse two says, walk in lowliness and that's back to the progression. Where are you on that progression that we studied last week? Now, who was that person this past week or this week that you see coming up where you feel that you may be above them or were you lowly and below them. How you see them, how you see yourself, will surely determine how you enter the room.

- Least of the apostles – (1 Corinthians 15:9) written around 56AD.
- Least of the saints – (Ephesians 3:8) written around 60AD.
- Chief of sinners – (1 Timothy 1:15) written around 62-63AD.

(1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

(1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Jesus Rides in on Donkey / How do You Enter a Situation?

We see Jesus, you talk about a lowliness, He comes riding in on a donkey. There is a picture of lowliness, He didn't come in on the stallion, He didn't come in fire and power and really the way you come in will set the tone from there. Jesus rode in on a donkey, on a stallion and imagine the difference of Him on a stallion. So too, when we come into the room, whatever that situation may be, coming in either on a donkey or a stallion, will set the tone from then on.

Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV) ⁹ "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Paul Comes in Lowly with Chains

Verse one, beseech he pleads, although he has an apostolic authority to charge us with what to do. He pleads, hey, he's still an apostle even if he was number 12 on the list, but he beseeches, and he pleads because his context here's lowliness. And he's coming in lowliness that we might see the example of lowliness. Paul comes in with chains and says be lowly.

(1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Walk with Gentleness – A Bruised Reed We Shall Not Break (4:2)

Verse 2 - with all gentleness

A Bruised Reed He Will not Break

And it says, to walk in gentleness, gentle. Our calling with our spouse, our kids, our sibling, our fellowship, our calling is gentle handling. We're told in the scriptures this bruised reed, he will not break nor smoldering flax He will not extinguish. Jesus comes gentle and imagine we are treating each other in such a gentle way. My touch and handling is so gentle with that person that a bruise reed would still be standing. My speech is so gentle that a smoldering wick would not be extinguished. Oh some people talk with such force, the wind from the force of their voice and breath could extinguish a campfire. When we talk to others, and if they were smoldering ready to be quenched, would our voice be the final breath that extinguishes them? Or, if you ever have you know, a smoldering wick can be brought back to flame, but it is not easy, you have to cup the wick, breath so slightly over the smoldering wick, and you have to be gentle, oh so gentle, but if you are you can have the candle burning again with a radiant flame. This is the calling that is for us.

Matthew 12:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;

Imagine Coming into the Situation Lowly and Gentle

Imagine husbands, wives coming into an argument lowly and gentle, how quick or reconciliation restoration would come as compared to riding into your disagreement on a stallion with a sword strapped to your side. Coming in lowly and treating them as the Lord's anointed like David did to Saul, coming in lowly and treating them as God's gift as David did to Saul. Imagine how that would change the conflict resolution in our home. People coming in lowly.

1 Samuel 24:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁵ Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. ⁶ And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

Walk with Longsuffering – Give God Time to Work (4:2)

Verse 2 - with all longsuffering

Not How Much You can Endure – How Much You Can Love

Verse two says, walk with long suffering. Now as Richard Wurmbrand who spent 14 years in that brutal Romanian prison, beaten, senseless every day, he would still say, [*it's not how much you can endure, it's how much you can love*](#). And he would love his captors even as they beat him. He did more than adored, he loved.

Long Suffering Gives God Time to Work

And that's our calling, to not just endure, but to love with long suffering. And what comes with long suffering and why God calls it to be long suffering is because there is time needed for God to work on them. What comes with short suffering is God's not given the time to change them. What comes with long suffering is time for God to change their heart and your heart too, short suffering, it's not enough time for God to change your heart towards that person, but through long suffering as you continue to pray for them, God starts to change your heart. And I take it back to those four prayers from chapter three of the strengthening the inner man and that Christ may feel at home in their heart. That the person may experience the love of God and the person may be filled with the fullness of God. As you pray for these four things, you'll find your heart being changed for that person. As God says he'll do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can ask. One of those things is he's changing your heart, but if you go short suffering, there's never enough time for God to change their heart and your heart.

- Outline Ephesians 3:14-21:
 - Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)
 - We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15)
 - Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)
 - Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)
 - Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)
 - Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)
 - We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)
 - We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

As You Pray for them to Change – You Are First

And by the way, it's amazing and anyone can tell you who has experienced it, how your heart is exchanged, how it is changed when you find these four things happening in you.

- The inner man is strengthened because God's flowing through you,
- God is at home, God will reveal things about you as you're praying for them and as your heart is praying for them your heart is changed because you are in intimate prayer with Him. You will say, Lord, please fix and change this thing in me. As we talk about the speck in the eye and the beam, we start seeing the beams in our eyes and we say, Lord, these things got to go.
- And thirdly, we experience His love because prayer is a place that we become one with Christ. We're told in Philippians, give us the mind of Christ. Let this mind be in you and as you are praying that they would experience your love, you're experiencing God's loving mind and all the power behind that.
- And then we pray about the fullness of God and that's what happens to us because we are in His presence in prayer.

So as we pray for others and especially in the need to be long suffering, here's the power. It's us who starts to be changed if we pray these things as we studied last week, try it. See what happens in your relationships. Try and see what happens to the people that grind you and annoy you and watch what God does. It's marvelous, it's wonderful.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV) ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Walk Bearing with One Another in Love – Do I Really Love that Person (4:2)

Verse 2 - with all bearing with one another in love

Do I Actually Love Them – or Am Simply Enduring Them

And it says, walk bearing with one another in love. And again, as Wurmbbrand said, it's not how much we endure, but it's how much we love every person when we see them as the least of the saints or the chief of sinners and we start having our hearts move to them. We have to ask yourself, are we bearing with one another in love? Do I have love for this person? And then I asked, Lord, if not, give me your love for them. But there's a simple diagnostic question, do I actually love this person? If not, I would challenge you pray for them for seven days, the chapter three prayer and see what happens. Because you know what? You can be lowly, you can be gentle and you can be long suffering. You can do some of those things in your flesh, but that doesn't mean that you love them or are loving them.

How Should You Bear – As Long as You Want the Lord to Bear You

Verse three, often I get asked, how much am I to bear? Where is the limit? To which I simply say, whatever the limit you asked the Lord to be patient with you, then that is the limit that you can put on that person.

***2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV)** ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Walk in Unity and Peace – The Walk is a Continual Action (4:3)

Verse 3 - endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Endeavoring

Endeavoring means, to give diligence, to labor, study, be forward, make haste! Unity is not just going to happen, it will take a focused labor, and you can be sure it will come with war from the devil who hates to see the believers in unity with each other.

***Psalms 133:1-3 (NKJV)** ¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

Verb Tense - Continually

Verse three, the verb tense is in the present tense, meaning we must constantly work on this. This is something that needs to be continually practiced and reminded of.

The Absence of Verses 1-2 = Absence of Unity

Verse three, absence of lowliness, gentleness, long suffering, bearing with one another will jeopardize Christian unity. It's very clear and easy to see that. Take away these things and unity is very limited and doubtful to happen.

Sometimes Have to Discipline / How? Lowly and Gentle

Endeavor. Sometimes discipline is needed. We see that in Matthew 19 but when having it and having to do it, it needs to be done just as it's called here in our calling with lowliness and gentleness and bearing with love. Meekness means power under control and there's nothing more powerful than truth

You Have to Lead Your Heart – According to Word – Not Emotions

You have to lead your heart, your heart can't lead you. The heart can be deceitful and desperately wicked. You have to take the Word of God, and tell your heart and emotions, this is the way we are going, regardless how we may feel about it.

***Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)** ⁹ "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

Walk in One – The Number for Christianity is Easy, It is One (4:4-6)

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Ephesians 4:6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

No Division / More Spiritual – Less Denominational

Verse four, there's no division. We're heirs of the mystery together, the two are one (Jew and Gentile). And there's no division of denominations which is being spoken of here and it's been rightly said, the more spiritual you are, the less denominational you will be. The number for Christianity is easy, it is the number one, and we are to be one together and with and in Him.

No Civil War in Hell

As we say, there is no civil war in hell, the Devil and his henchmen, are in complete unified agreement..... destroy anything that resembles Christ. Unfortunately, there are way too many civil wars going on in marriages, homes, and churches. As we the believers should be unified on destroying anything that looks like the world, the flesh, or the devil in our lives, we too often are destroying the things that look like Christ instead.

Perfect Unity of the Trinity

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we are given perfect example of what unity is and it gives the unity of the Trinity and what we see in the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy spirit is they never contradict each other. It always works together in unison, they do.

One Body -

One body - The church is, blood bought, born again, Bible believing

One Hope – Don't Trade Truth for Unity

Verses 4 – in One Hope - Verse four says, one hope and it's the only hope, Jesus Christ and Him crucified. If we don't agree on that someone adds works or someone adds some type of works trip to these things, that's when we say, hey, I'm endeavoring to keep the peace, but here's where I can't be one with you, and that's when you change the way and the only way Jesus Christ, Him crucified. We don't trade truths for unity. That's what the world wants for people to do for they don't want Jesus because being the only way else, there's a responsibility to all His truths along with His only way. And people don't want to repent and turn from their sins and give up the throne that they sit on and so there's a call to endeavor to do our best, to keep the unity and it's through that one hope. But we never lay down the only hope, the only way in the sake of unity, because that will never be true unity.

One Baptism

Verse 5 – One Baptism – One baptism takes us to 1 Corinthians 12:13 and it's not water baptism being spoken here, but baptism into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Verse 6 – That is Power / It's a Dimension Outside this World

Verse six says, He's above all, He's through all and He's in you all. Now that's true power, is it not?

Verse six, speaking of above all, of all, above all, through all, in you all, that takes us back to the four dimensions that we studied in chapter three as we live in a three dimension world here, God in chapter three goes and gives a fourth dimension and it's being declared to us. There's the love of God is outside of our dimension that we live in. *Ephesians 3:17–19 (NKJV) ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Conclusion: Keep It Simple – How to Walk at this Very Moment

Called to walk, He called Matthew, James and John's. He said, follow me. Sometimes we make this way too complicated and we miss the simplicity of the Gospel. Jesus says, calls us, hey, come follow me, walk with me.

So many, too many Christians make this way too complicated. They don't walk because they think they have to figure out every detail, endless questions, which are all okay, but too often it stops them from walking what they do know. Jesus saying follow me, and they didn't say where for the where is Jesus. That's the where, not the

destination that He's saying to go. Jesus says, follow me and where we go is simply what He's told us at that moment. We don't have to have the whole plan, it's just Lord, where do you want me to be right now based on what I am hearing. And He says, today to us, walk lowly, gentle, long suffering and bearing with one another in love and keeping unity.

And then from there, as for the disciples, Jesus said, follow me and then at the moment He would say, okay, break this bread and pass it out as they fed the 5,000. Or at the moment He said jump in the boat, let's go over to the other side or He would say, let's go we're heading to Jerusalem for the Passover. To walk worthy in the when and the where is where He's telling us at this moment.

Outline: Ephesians 4:1-6 (How Then Should We Walk):

- Your Identity & Calling – Know It (4:1)
- Walk Worthy – Balance the Scales of Profession and Practice (4:1)
- Walk with Lowliness – How do You enter the Room (4:2)
- Walk with Gentleness – A Bruised Reed We Shall Not Break (4:2)
- Walk with Longsuffering – Give God Time to Work (4:2)
- Walk Bearing with One Another in Love – Do I Really Love that Person (4:2)
- Walk in Unity and Peace – The Walk is a Continual Action (4:3)
- Walk in One – The Number for Christianity is Easy, it is One (4:4-6)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 4:7-10

Title: The Unsearchable Measure of Grace

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from last week's study where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Outline Ephesians 4:7-10:

- The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)
- The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)
- Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9-10)

- Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

How Much Grace Given? – Look at Christ on the Cross to Know How Much

Verse seven says, "You will know the amount of grace that you've received according to the measure of Christ gift that was given to you." And so we go and we look at the Gospel and the promises, such as John 3:16, 1 John 4, Ephesians 3:8, the unsearchable riches, Ephesians 3, the love of Christ and it's four dimensions and what we see is Christ gift is in measurable and unsearchable and finding out it is so vast, thus is how much grace we have been given and His grace is continual than how much grace we are being given right now today.

1 John 4:8-11 (NKJV) ⁸ *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

John 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*

Grace

Grace, what do we get from God that we don't deserve? Love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, favor, adoption, salvation, gentleness, faithfulness.

David Shows Kindness to Mephibosheth

So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." — 2 Samuel 9:7

SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER, David made a covenant with Jonathan, Saul's son. David promised, for Jonathan's sake, that when he came to the throne, he would treat the family of Saul with great kindness. So once David was on the throne and had been blessed and prospered by God, David sought to find one of Saul's descendants that he might show kindness.

In the same way that David sought a descendant to show kindness, God is seeking the lost that He might show the exceeding richness of His love and kindness towards them through Jesus Christ. This is what makes Christianity different from religion. In religion, men seek God. In Christianity, God seeks lost men.

Mephibosheth was actually frightened when he was brought to David, because he didn't know David's intent. So often we misunderstand God and imagine Him as being angry or disgusted with us. We think He's seeking us that He might come down on us with a heavy hand. But we're wrong.

David wanted to bless Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. God wants to bless us for Christ's sake.

It's Not Because We Deserve It— It's Because Jesus Wants Us As His Inheritance.

Just as Mephibosheth dined at the king's table as part of the king's family, we too have been brought into the family of God and invited to come and sit at His table.

Context of Eph 4:1-6

Verse seven. This verse ties back to verses one through six, the grace we have received therefore should be the grace we extend and give to others. Can I ask you a question how gracious, how grace giving are you?

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Christians Miss It So Often on Giving Grace

Here's where I think so many Christians miss it on grace.

- Grace means is getting what you don't deserve.
- Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

For example, man deserves punishment for breaking God's law, but God in mercy doesn't punish them, but Jesus instead takes the punishment. Now, grace is getting what we don't deserve, such as love, forgiveness, and acceptance. So where too many Christians miss it, especially when someone offends or hurts them, they may give the person mercy by not giving the person what they deserve, such as wrap, a tongue lashing, but many Christians won't ever give mercy at that (they just let it fly and lay that person out with a flurry of tongue lashings and stinging words). But the Christian who doesn't, and they give mercy, many still confused that that is enough. They think, I've been merciful, I didn't attack, but they miss is that they didn't give grace. Mercy yes, grace no.

They refuse to give that person what they don't deserve. Grace, they won't give love, forgiveness, kindness, acceptance because they don't feel the person deserves it because what they have done.

Imagine our Christian life if God only gave us mercy saying, "I won't pour out my wrath on you for breaking my command and not honoring me as Lord of the universe." Imagine if he gave mercy yes, but no grace. Imagine no getting what we don't deserve that comes with grace such as love, acceptance and kindness. We can't because for God, mercy and grace are inseparable. They are part of His very being, His very core, who He is. The two, mercy and grace move in perfect unison and conjunction together.

So this great measure of grace given to us, what are we to do with it? We are to use it like God uses it. Philippians 2 says, "Let this mind be in you." Romans 8 tells us, "Being conformed into his image and likeness."

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV) ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Will You Give Grace to Those Who Don't Deserve It?

For you to that person who's offended you or not, but to any person, I'm going to love you even when you don't deserve it. I'm going to be kind. I'm going to be gentle. I'm going to be forgiveness and show you favor even when you don't deserve it because that's what grace does and that's what grace is.

The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

The Gift – Is Eternal Life & Relationship with Jesus

The first gift He gives is the gift of salvation and with that great gift comes the unsearchable gift and that is the gift of His presence and personal relationship with Him.

Luke 4:18 – Sets the Captivity Free

Verse 8, He led captivity captive just as he said in Luke 4:18 His mission statement was to set the captives free.

Luke 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

The First Captives

The first captives set free we saw in Matthew 27 after the resurrection, when the graves were opened and many of the saints who had died rose from the grave (more on that in our next verse).

(Matthew 27:50-53 KJV). Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

2 Cor 2 / The Roman Parade

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Who always leads us in triumph in Christ: Here, Paul takes an image from the Roman world, seeing Jesus as the victorious, conquering general in a triumphal parade. A Roman triumphal parade was given to successful generals as they returned from their conquests.

i. “The idea is borrowed from an ancient Roman triumph, which to the eyes of the world of that day was the most glorious spectacle which the imagination could conceive.” (Meyer)

ii. “In a Triumph the procession of the victorious general marched through the streets of Rome to the Capitol ... First came the state officials and the senate. Then came the trumpeters. Then were carried the spoils taken from the conquered land ... Then came the pictures (billboards) of the conquered land and models of conquered citadels and ships. There followed the white bull for sacrifice which would be made. Then there walked the captive princes, leaders, soldiers, and generals in chains, shortly to be flung into prison and in all probability almost immediately to be executed. Then came the lictors (the city police) bearing their rods, followed by the musicians with their lyres; then the priests swinging their censers with the sweet-smelling incense burning in them. After that came the general himself ... finally came the army wearing all their decorations and shouting Io triumphe (victory, victory)! Their cry of triumph. As the procession moved through the streets, all decorated and garlanded, amid the cheering crowds, it made a tremendous day which might happen only once in a lifetime.” (Barclay)

iii. “That is the picture that is in Paul’s mind. He sees Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop.” (Barclay)

*David Guzik. (2013). 2 Corinthians (2 Co 2:14). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

Nothing Can Stop

iii. “That is the picture that is in Paul’s mind. He sees Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop.” (Barclay)

Nothing can stop our King, and it flows so fitting where we ended last week....

Ephesians 4:6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Victory Parades Today for Sports Champions

We see it today in sports championships, when a victorious team comes home and the city center is packed on both sides of the street, the victorious team is in convertibles, or open trailers, and the team is waving and the people are cheering, and the confetti is flying from the roof tops, and the music is blasting, it is a victory parade. So the image here for us in our passage.

The Triumph Parade belongs to Jesus.

Paul felt Part of the Army of the Lord / We are Too

And, Paul sees himself as sharing in the triumph of Jesus, the Captain of the Lord's Army, and Paul is one of the Lord's chief officers! We are too, as we get to be part of the Lord's army fighting for the souls of men.

But More So – We are the Conquered

But more so, for us, we are the conquered, the captors, who the Lord has won through the war on the cross, we are His spoils, His treasures!

The Victory is "In Christ" and Nowhere Else!

Leads us: Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to realize that he followed his general, Jesus Christ. Paul can almost see Jesus' triumphal parade winding its way through the whole Roman Empire, throughout the entire world. Notice it says "in Christ"; the victory is found and in one place and one place only, "in Christ".

[*2 Corinthians 2:14 \(NKJV\)*](#)¹⁴ *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

The Memory of a Smell

Diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge: Fragrance, in the form of incense, was common at the Roman triumphal parade. In Paul's mind, this fragrance is like the knowledge of God, which people can smell as the triumphal parade comes by.

i. No sense remains in the memory like scent. There is nothing we remember more strongly than pleasant smells, except perhaps unpleasant smells. "Thus the apostle wished that his life might be a sweet perfume, floating on the air, reminding me, and above all reminding God, of Christ." (Meyer)

ii. "A sweet savour of Christ! It does not consist so much in what we do, but in our manner of doing it; not so much in our words or deeds, as in an indefinable sweetness, tenderness, courtesy, unselfishness, and desire to please others to their edification. It is the breath and fragrance of a life hidden with Christ in God, and deriving its aroma from fellowship with Him. Wrap the habits of your soul in the sweet lavender of your Lord's character." (Meyer)

Paul is saying that we, as his conquered, are his victory parade, winding ourselves around the whole Earth. And as we do, there's this diffusion of fragrance everywhere, the aroma of Christ to the whole world. You, Christian, are the aroma of Christ to the world, you are a part of the gift of fragrance that God gives to the world to tell them there is hope, to tell them there's a place that they can be accepted and forgiven and loved and received. You are his fragrance, his aroma. How does that make you feel? What does that make you feel? What do you think of yourself? What have you thought of yourself? If you thought yourself anything less than the aroma of Christ, then you have shortened and short-selled yourself of who you really are. You're the fragrance of Christ, in his victory and victory of love.

Fragrance, you can walk into a room and smell something and be triggered back into the memory of something a year ago, a decade ago, even back to your childhood. There's something about fragrance that locks into our mind and brings us some remembrance. We see it in the marketing of many stores, however subtle it may be, but they put a fragrance in their store for their clothing wear. So that when you smell that as you walk through the mall or smell it some other place, it triggers you to think of their clothing line. And of course, how about fragrance of food? When you smell it, it brings you to a place of desiring that delicacy, maybe the fragrance of certain foreign

smells, and when you smell it again, it reminds you of places that you've been. I can't help but go into an Indian restaurant and be reminded of my trip to Israel. I can't help but go into a Middle Eastern restaurant and be reminded of the smells of Israel and everything else that comes with it.

Always Leads Us – Today He Leads Us

And notice it says, "always leads us." This isn't just speaking of the victorious entry into heaven. It speaks of now, God through the Holy Spirit always leads us and he will always lead us victoriously in power and might. This is what's available to us as we study the Book of Ephesians. This is the gift that has been promised to us, the spiritual inheritance, the unsearchable riches that are in Christ Jesus because the victory, the triumph is in Christ. And this is where the promise comes, and this is something that we can take and live powerfully in our life that he always leads us.

Christian, will you allow him to lead you today? Will you say the victory has been won? You conquered my heart upon the cross and now I yield myself for you to conquer my will and my way and that you would be triumphant and victorious in my life and everything that you put before and in my life.

Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9)

Ephesians 4:9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Where Did He Go

Maybe you wonder, well, where did Jesus's spirit and soul go during those three days after the crucifixion? Remind you, our bodies are not us. They're just the carriers of the real house, the inner man. So Jesus still had a soul spirit, where did He go?

Remember Thief on the Cross - Paradise

Do you remember the thief on the cross who said remember me when you come into your kingdom, and Jesus said today you will be with me in paradise? Well where is paradise?

Luke 23:40–43 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Hades & Paradise (Abraham's Bosom)

Jesus Christ spent 3 days in Paradise after the cross. Hell had 2 parts in it from the time of Abel through the death of Jesus.

1. Hades - where God rejecting people went and still go.
2. Abraham Bosom (paradise). This place was for those who died before Jesus died for their sins, but believed a Messiah would come. No one could/can go to heaven without the shed blood of Jesus. Entrance is only by paid admission. Jesus paid the price, but you still have to get the ticket from Him.

Jesus tells the story of Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. Note, that Jesus doesn't call this a parable, it is an actual true story He is telling.

Luke 16:19–31 (NKJV) ¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

Luke 16:23 (KJV 1900) -23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Hell in the Bible (Hebrew and Greek)

Now in the Bible many times hell is just called hell in the English translation. But in the original Hebrew and Greek, different words are used and give more specific definition of what is being said. So here a summary that.

- Hell (Hades – Greek, Sheol – Hebrew) both are referring to the same place, the place where unbelievers went and still go today, before the final judgement.
- Hell (Gehenna – Greek) is the place of eternal punishment, the final “unresting” place. It is also known and called the “Lake of Fire”, Lake of Fire and Brimstone”, Place of Outer Darkness. This final judgement will come at the end of the end, after the 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom, when God will judge the devil, and what is called the “White Throne” judgement, where every person who did not receive the sacrifice promised and provided (Jesus the Lamb of God) will be judged for their sin of breaking God’s Law, and not honoring Him as God of the Universe.

Luke 16:23 (KJV 1900) -23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Mark 9:42–44 (NKJV) ⁴² “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell (Gehenna), into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

Revelation 20:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:29–30 (NKJV) ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Jesus Proclaimed I Am the One You Believed On

Verse 9, when he descended to Abraham's bosom, He proclaimed, "I am the one you believed on and have been waiting for." To those on the other side, those in Hades, He preached their judgement upon them, saying I am the one you rejected, I am He. To one side it was life, to the other side it was death, and both were eternal for man is an eternal being. He didn't preach for decision when he went to Abraham's bosom. He preached the good news that those who had waited faithfully for Him to come has come. Now, to the other side, He preached their damnation for rejecting the sacrificial system that would cover their sin.

1 Peter 3:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

How Did OT Believers – Believe?

Well, how did they believe the people who believed that there would come a rescuer, a Messiah that they waited for? In Genesis 3, the first mention of the gospel, the picture of the Devil bruising Jesus (bruising His heel), but

Jesus crushing Satan (bruise your head). Then they believed in the sacrificial system for the covering of sin. They believe that the shedding of blood could cover their sin, but They knew there was more to come.

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Daniel 9 clearly says, "Messiah, the Prince. The rescuer would come." Through David, the Messiah would come, was a promise. Many confuse the Messiah to come and deliver them from the oppressor of Rome. They missed that the Messiah was to come deliver them from the oppressor of sin and death.

Daniel 9:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. ²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

Jesus, His mission statement in Luke 4 is prophesied in Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

It's Abraham's bosom because He's the comforter. He was the one who was saying that the Messiah would come. Abraham would know because Genesis 22, Abraham was there for the perfect foreshadow of the picture, and He was the one who said the Lord will provide himself the sacrifice. And when you read through the sacrificial system, it's always been a lamb. You'll read it in Genesis, and Exodus, and Leviticus, and John, and Hebrews.....

Genesis 22:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ *So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.*

When Jesus said it was done, He meant it was complete. Interestingly, the very top of Mount Moriah, the exact place that Abraham would take Isaac to be sacrificed, but then God would provide the lamb. The tip and top of Mount Moriah is the same place as Golgotha where Jesus was crucified and that is 777 meters high. Seven a number of completion.

Leviticus 14:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *And the priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. ²⁵ Then he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering and put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.*

Exodus 12:2-7 (NKJV) ² *"This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Today Israel Still Looks for Messiah / Many People Not Making it to the Top of the Mount

Today, if you ask them in Israel, "How will you know your Messiah?" They say, "He will bring peace." And many of them will tie that to the rebuilding of the temple.

The temple was a picture of foreshadow, hence why it wasn't on the peak of Mount Moriah. The very peak is where sacrifices would be made, but for the temple, David was pointed exactly where to build it because it was only a foreshadow.

People then and today don't make it to the top of the mountain where salvation is found. They miss it. They're practicing a foreshadow that has been superseded. Therefore, it is a voided system.

3rd Temple – Do This IN Remembrance of Me

Interestingly, the third temple will be rebuilt in the last days, and sacrificial system will be re-instituted and the question is why would animal sacrifice be in the third temple. During the millennial kingdom, and the reason is it's not for the forgiveness or covering of sin, but it will be a remembrance of the sacrifice that was made by the final land. It is in essence, communion, as we're told, "Do this in remembrance of me as we break the bread and take the cup." Well, that's what is going to be the animal sacrifice. As we'll always remember, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin and Jesus Christ paid the price completely as He said, "It is done."

Ezekiel 45:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And one lamb shall be given from a flock of two hundred, from the rich pastures of Israel. These shall be for grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them," says the Lord GOD.

Paradise is Empty – Hades still being Filled

The other side of Hell still remains occupied and is receiving people daily sad to say, but not paradise, it is empty. The first captives set free we saw in Matthew 27 after the resurrection, when the graves were opened and many of the saints who had died rose from the grave. But today, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Paradise is shut down. Houdini said he would escape death, so they put a telephone in his crypt so that he would call when he did so, several years later the phone was disconnected. Jesus Christ is the only escape from death.

(Matthew 27:50-53 KJV). Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

God Wishes None Perish

Again, those remaining in the hell side will be resurrected after the 1000-year reign, will stand before God's white throne judgement, and then be cast into Gahanna, outer darkness, where they see nothing, but experience pain, forever and ever. Hell is real, Jesus preached that there is a heaven and hell. But Jesus wishes none should go there.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

You Must Be Born Again

Jesus said unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

1 Thessalonians 5 tells us that we are body, spirit, and soul. Now I am not making a definitive statement, but what it appears to me, and again I acknowledge upfront that I don't know for sure (but neither does anyone else other than God), but it appears to me as I study the scripture that man is born as a body and soul. The body is simply the vessel to carry the soul, and the soul is the person, and the person is an eternal being, as the soul lives on forever. So man is born as a body and soul. Hence why we take such a strong position against abortion, for every child at conception is an eternal being and thus man is deceived to think a child in the womb is simply tissue. So man is born body and soul, and thus they are born once at that point. When He says you must be born again, that is when the Spirit of God enters a person, after they believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin, and as "holy vessels" God now comes at takes up residence in them, and they become new man/woman, and "new" means born again..... a second birth, this one of the Spirit. Have you been born again?

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NKJV) ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

John 20:22 (NKJV) ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

The Victorious King

Verse 10 says, "To fulfill all things." Well, He's fulfilling His mission statement on Luke 4:18. He's also fulfilling the promise that was given, "Until I make your enemies your footstool."

Acts 2:34–36 (NKJV) ³⁴ "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

(Col 2:14-15 NIV) *having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Are You Full?

Christ fulfills all things, and if your life is empty and missing something, then something is amiss in your life, because Christ fulfills all things. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for they shall be full!

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Outline Ephesians 4:7-10:

- The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)
- The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)
- Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9-10)
- Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do a mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End of Study

Ephesians 4:11-16

Title: God's Symphony (His Church – You are Part of His Orchestra)

A Visit to the Orchestra

A man told the story of how he went to the symphony orchestra. He arrived earlier, and watched as a hundred men and women came out from all different wings of the concert hall and each went to their own instrument. They were dressed up in their everyday street clothes, and each tuned-up on their own. He said the sound was horrible; there was no melody or rhythm, just a bunch of noise. They quit and reappeared an hour later, they all came from their different wings again, but this time they were in full dress, white shirts and bowties. Each person went to his or her instrument, but no one dared play it. Then the spotlight went to the side of the stage as it caught the Maestro as he walked out. He bowed several times and there was a thunderous applause. Then he picked up his baton and turned his back to the audience. When he lifted the baton, you could have heard a pin drop in that large auditorium. When he lowered the baton.....what wonderful music came from that orchestra. Every rhythm, every melody, and every note, right on que..... Absolutely beautiful music and melody!

Previous Study 1-Body / Today 1-Body with Many Members – All Coming Together

The previous study we saw how there is one body called to be in unity. In this study we will see how there is one body, yet many members, all different, yet all coming together.

Ephesians 4:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

When Get Bunch Believers on Same Note – It is Beautiful

When you get a bunch of believers, or a bunch of churches, all just doing their own thing, it can be a very sad sight, and sound. But you get a bunch of believers together, all unified for one single cause...and that is to glorify Jesus Christ and bless people.....it has to be the most beautiful sight and sound in the world today.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Outline Ephesians 4:11-16: God's Symphony (His Church – You are Part of His Orchestra):

- The Strength of the Body (4:11-12)
- The Unity of the Body (4:13)
- The Fullness of the Body (4:13)
- The Stability of the Body (4:14)
- The Head and Heart of the Body (4:15-16)

Times Such as This

A message of hope in times (Coronavirus 2020) such as this is surely needed; and I hope to do that in our time together today, but I believe without a doubt a passage that is very timely for us, we the Church, God's symphony. As the world now more than ever needs us to be what we believe, and to speak what we have been told by Him. It's now time to walk..... what we believe.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Strength of the Body (4:11-12)

The equipping (means furnishing, supplying) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (means building up, strengthening, promoting growth). So God has a workout plan to strengthen, build-up the Church. His strengthening will accomplish the purpose of bringing the church into the unity of faith, into fullness, into stability, to be led by Him, and to be like Him.

(Ephesians 4:11 NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

(Ephesians 4:12 NKJV) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

After Ascended Gave Gifts / Any Question He Loves You?

After Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave gifts to men, yes right after he was beaten, spit on, bruised, hung on a cross, separated from the Father, he gave gifts to men. 3 days in Abraham's Bosom, and He gave gifts to men. Is there any question that He loves you? Is there any question that your sins are forgiven?

Ephesians 4:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

We Love to Give Gifts – The Perfect Gift – Gift Know they will Love / Where You Get That From? - Father

We all have given gifts to people we love. We all love it when we give them that perfect gift. That gift that we know they will love and use. It gives us great joy to give great gifts to those we love. Where do you think we get that from? Our Heavenly Father.

Emphasizes the Giver over Gift

The word "gift" here is used in such way that the emphasis is not on the gift so much, but more so on the one who gives the gift. Why is this important to us? Literally, it is God saying, "here John, this person is a personal gift from me, he is the perfect gift for what I want to do in your life." When you can keep that perspective, then you won't find yourself saying negative things about the gift (that person) God has given you, you will be thankful that the Lord in His grace and love is giving you a gift.

Every One of You is a Gift

Every one of you is a gift to someone....., understand that the emphasis is on the giver (the Lord), and not on you, you will minister accordingly. The gift has no word in who it is given to, it has purpose, but not plans. Keep this in your perspective, and you will find yourself saying, "if I am a gift, then I need to act like one - and bless the people."

As I had said a few weeks ago, I asked myself, as I reviewed how I am to the people around me, my home, my church, the workplace..... that (beside my Golden Retriever – haha), who else views me as a gift? Am I living and being the gift God desires to give them?

Verse 11 - some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

some to be apostles

Apostle: one who is sent out – a governing ministry. One with authority, who leads the church in major foundations and truths.

3 kinds of Apostles found in the New Testament:

1. Hebrews 3 – Jesus was sent out by the Father. *(Heb 3:1 KJV) Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*
2. Jesus appointed the 12 apostles – that apostolic ministry does not exist today
3. Holy Spirit appoints apostles – Paul, Timothy, Barnabus, Titus. This ministry still in effect today. God is raising men up every day to send them out, a governing ministry. One with authority, who leads the church in major foundations and truths.

Pastor Chuck

Regarding the 3rd type, I think of Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa as such a man, a man God raised up to start a whole new movement, a vital movement at the time of the Jesus Movement/Revival of the 60's, and establish a ministry that is steeped in the study of God's Word (a style of chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, studying the whole counsel of God), a ministry that didn't shun the gifts of the Holy Spirit, nor over-emphasize and abuse them, a fresh work of God that laid a solid foundation and is still alive and living in power today, as here we are). I see Pastor Chuck as such a

some prophets

Prophets - A guiding ministry – speak the Word of the Lord to people. Not just forth telling the future, but speaking a Word from the Lord.

(1 Cor 14:3 KJV) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Billy Graham

I see Billy Graham in this ministry. He was surely a prophet to the nations, a voice of God to the nations, to the world leaders, I see him very much like a Jeremiah and an Isaiah. I wonder how different the world would be if only man would have heeded to the words he spoke. He was more than an evangelist, he spoke the heart and purposes and intent of God to the whole world. Only Jesus had a greater world ministry than Billy Graham, and it could be argued that Billy's ministry reached farther and wider than the apostle Paul's did.

some evangelists

Evangelist – A gathering ministry. Leading people to Christ and teaching other people on how to lead people to Christ, as we are all called to do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5).

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Ray Comfort

I see Ray Comfort as this. I was a Christian for five years, witnessed many times, but never lead anyone to the Lord. I spent 20 minutes with an evangelist teaching me how to witness, and the first person I shared with gave their life to the Lord. They just have a certain way of presenting the gospel in a clear and easy to understand way, and they can communicate that to others who then can do the same.

some pastors and teachers

Notice that the word "some is not in front of teachers, so pastors and teachers go together. You can be a teacher without being a pastor. But you cannot be a pastor without being a teacher.

Pastor = A Guarding Ministry

Pastors – a guarding ministry. Pastor means, "shepherd". Watching for the wolves, watch over the sheep and caring for them.

Acts 20:27–31 (NKJV) ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Teaching = A Grounding Ministry

Teaching – A grounding ministry. It is the shepherd's responsibility to not only guard the sheep, but to feed and to strengthen them. Peter do you love me, then feed my sheep. Pastors feed their flock the Word of God. Healthy sheep reproduce.

John 21:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

(Ephesians 4:12 NKJV) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Notice – For Equipping

Notice that the above mentioned (apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastor-teacher) are given to the church, to equip (strengthen) the church, so the church does the work of the ministry.

The Great Deception

I think one of the great deceptions in the church today is the deception that the ministry is for the "professional". Not so, the "leaders" as we just discussed are gifts, meant to "equip" the saints who then are the ones who go out and do the work of the ministry. Too many people today say, well evangelism isn't my job, the pastor should present the gospel every week at church, not me. The church should feed the hungry, not me. The Church should go knock on doors and invite people to church. The Church should go do all the hospital visits. And I agree the Church should..... and here God is telling us..... you are the church. But I also say to those men and woman who want to, or have, entered into the ministry, that preaching, evangelizing, visiting, listening, feeding.... Is still the pastors/teachers responsibility because that calling is to every last person of the body.

We Are The Church – Every Member

We are the Body of Christ, the Church is One Body, made up of many members. And, not only are we His body as we go, but He says as we go to them, it is as we have gone to Him.

Matthew 25:34–40 (NKJV) ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Nor is it Inside Church Only

Christian Service isn't just at church. Teaching Sunday school, serving at church is great, but too often that is where we leave it. The church was established so that it would go out and reach the world around them. Ministry happens when you are at the job site, eating out, the gym, the street. You share with people, give to people, help people. Then when you come to church you are there to get refreshed, taught. No ministry should be a burden, nor should it be recruited, or pressured into.

But – The Taught Don't Need Speeches

Now I say all these things because that is what a teacher does; but you know what I have found in all these years of pastoring..... that the people who are grounded in the Word, they just do the work of the ministry. They don't need a speech, or convincing, there is a natural outflowing from them to do the work of the ministry. They want to tell people how to be saved, they want to minister to the hurting, they want to meet the needs of people.

For Such a Time as This

So I encourage you all today, you have been raised up for such a time as this. I see and think of Esther, prepared and put in place in the kingdom of Persia, and a plot came about to kill all the Jews in the land, and Queen Esther herself was a Jew, and she was in the place to go before the king and intercede on behalf of her people. Her uncle would say to her, who knows whether you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this. I know without a doubt, we have the church, a grounded in the Word church, have come into this Nation, for such a time as this.

Esther 4:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

If I Perish – I Perish

But I love the fearlessness of Esther, for going before the king when not being called by him, was punishable by death; but she says I will go to the king, and if I perish, I perish. No fear..... when a person has been called, chosen, by the Lord for the task before them.

Esther 4:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

Very Delicate Statement – We Can't Live in Fear

I have to be very careful, and delicate of what I am about to say..... and that is church we can't live in fear of this virus. We shouldn't live in foolishness of this virus either. The warnings are wise, this virus can kill.... Even the young and the healthy. Hence why I need to be careful on what I am saying. As much precaution as I am taking with such things as being cognizant of the things I touch, washing my hands, keeping a safe distance from peoples oral spray, and all the other precautions..... there is the other side that I live that if I get this virus as it spreads through a fallen world, I will still say, "nevertheless..... Lord now use this as You can to glorify Your Name.

We can't live in fear, the world, our families, our church, now more than ever, needs us to do the work of the ministry.

Luther

"When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death plague (of the 1500's in London), he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now...

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.

If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.

If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above.

See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

**Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess"*

The Unity of the Body (4:13)

(Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Beauty of Unity – The Eternal Purpose (To Know Jesus)

Oh the beauty of unity. And the purpose of the grounding and strengthening as we have just studied is to bring "all of us" into the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The Church Body will be in unity, not when we agree on theological differences such as Calvinism versus Arminianism, or we agree on the whether the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased for today or still applicable for today, whether we should worship on Saturday or Sunday, whether we should baptize full-immersion or sprinkling, and the list goes on and on. All kind of foolish debates are they not in light of today and 1 Billion people in the world, have been told to shelter-in-place, and as of right now over 60 million Americans told to shelter-in-place.

The unity of the faith, is about one thing, the only thing that matter..... the knowledge of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Heart of Worship

I am reminded of the song "Heart of Worship (When the Music Fades):

1. When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Bridge:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus

2. King of endless worth
No one could express how much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath

It's All About Jesus

All that we do as the Body, His symphony, is all about Jesus!

The A-B-C's of Salvation & a D for Discipleship

If you have never given your life to Jesus, here is what you must do to be saved.

Admit

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Believe

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* ¹⁷ *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Confess

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Disciple

Matthew 16:24–26 (NKJV) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Fullness of the Body (4:13)

(Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

Never More Perfect – Than When I am in His Presence

As I see it..... we are never more full of Christ, never experience the fullness of Christ, then when we are in His presence. That is what heaven will be, I will be in my perfection, the perfect man, when I am in heaven, because only perfection can come into His presence. So I see a tie of these two, perfection and His presence. Ahh hence why Psalm 16:11 says in His presence is fullness of joy.

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

But I do not need to wait until heaven to experience perfection. Nor for me to see perfection in you. As I, we, come into His presence through worship, the word, fellowship, prayers, communion..... I experience a glimpse of the perfect man, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Am I still aware of my sinful nature, yes.... But in His presence is fullness of joy because I know His Word, His promises, His finished work, that He sees me spotless and blameless. If I have something to confess and repent of, I immediately do as I come into His presence, as when we are truly in His presence those things cant come with us (Habakkuk 1:13), but then immediately in His presence, clean and forgiven, robed in righteousness..... I am never more perfect than when I come into His presence. And..... When I see you in His presence, you are never more perfect. I don't examine you for all your past failings and faults, I see you in His presence and know that you have been made perfect, and that is how I look upon you, as perfect.

Acts 2:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

The Stability of the Body (4:14)

(Ephesians 4:14 NKJV) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and for and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

All the Above – For the Solid Foundation

The strengthening of the body, the equipping, the unity of the knowledge of Him, coming into His presence..... all leads to a foundation that cant be moved, a Body that is on solid ground.

We Have the Word a Sure Foundation (Who He is – What He Thinks of Us)

We have this Word, and we are sure of it, we study it to know who He is, and what He thinks of us, and when the storms come, nothing can move us.

Story of Man Stranded on Rock in Storm

I am reminded of the story of a man who was surfing off shore near the rocks of the jetty. And then out of nowhere comes a storm that throws him off his board which slams into the rocks and shatters. The man is able to make it to a large rock out in the sea several hundred yards off of shore. And as the storm rages and the waves get higher and higher, and it tosses him and beats upon him, he holds on to that rock, and does not go under the sea. And finally, when the storm ceases, he makes his way to shore, which all the bystanders come running to him, we had watched him get beaten and tossed about by the waves. And they said to him, wow, you were being tossed and beaten out there as you were hanging onto the rock. We thought for sure you were going to perish under the rages and height of those waves, to which the man said how true the waves were raging.....but did you notice that the rock never moved.

Jesus our Rock, His Words, are our sure foundation to which nothing can move us! No storms of life, no ill reports from the doctor, no virus that has the whole world on edge..... nothing can move us, nothing can toss us, no devil and his lies, no man and his deception, no feel-good pastors..... for those feel-good messages can only last so long as feel is good, but our Rock and His Word, will establish us regardless of any storm that comes raging against us.

The Head and Heart of the Body (4:15-16)

(Ephesians 4:15 NKJV) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ; (Ephesians 4:16 NKJV) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

God is Love

God is love, and love sets man free.

1 John 4:7–11 (NKJV) ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:34–36 (NKJV) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John Has Quote

Therefore, faithful Christian, seek the truth, listen to the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, tell the truth, defend the truth even to death. - John Hus

God is the Heart & Head of the Church

And so here we are told, the “heart” of the church is love (God is love – therefore the heart of the church is God), and Jesus is the head of the church. So..... in everything we say and do, is to be with the heart of God (love), and the mind of God (His Word). And there will be a strong body!

When Get Bunch Believers on Same Note – It is Beautiful

When the Maestro comes out, and we are in our white shirts and bowties, and he lowers the baton, there is nothing more beautiful in this world.

When you get a bunch of believers, or a bunch of churches, all just doing their own thing, it can be a very sad sight, and sound. But you get a bunch of believers together, all unified for one single cause...and that is to glorify Jesus Christ and bless people.....it has to be the most beautiful sight and sound in the world today.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Communion

I want to do a beautiful place of unity and oneness as we close, and that is to break bread together, have communion, which means “oneness”, as we have oneness with Him, and each other.

But first let’s examine ourselves, and get right before Him so we can fully come into and enjoy His presence

1 Corinthians 11:27–32 (NKJV) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. ³⁰ For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Do this in remembrance of Me

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Outline Ephesians 4:11-16: God’s Symphony (His Church – You are Part of His Orchestra):

- The Strength of the Body (4:11-12)
- The Unity of the Body (4:13)
- The Fullness of the Body (4:13)
- The Stability of the Body (4:14)
- The Head and Heart of the Body (4:15-16)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)

- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 4:17-21

Title: Living the Life of God, by Walking the Way of God.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Doctrine & Duty / The Word of God in Our Hand Today

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:17–21 (NKJV) ¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Summary of Today's Study

Verse 17 is a call to a new walk, a walk that is different from the world. Now more than ever the world needs to see the emptiness and vanity of the world and all it esteems as great, for God calls it empty and void. So it has been a few weeks but I never told you the story of 2 weeks ago I got run over by a truck, yeah a truck. You ever wake up in the morning and say I feel like I got run over by a truck, well I woke Friday morning and said that, then I said oh that's right I did get run over by a truck. The Angel of the Lord grab me and pulled me out from the front of the truck to just be hit on the side, and when I hit the ground the truck ran my feet over. I laid there on the ground after it was all over and start feeling my body, saying ok your alive that's a good thing, but next was how bad is this. Then after a few seconds I go, Praise the Lord, only thing wrong is my foot is broken, this is a good thing, I know how to fix a broken foot, I just got out of my soft cast from the foot that was broken a few months ago. Hey I already got the walking boot and everything. Now my foot is in a lot of pain today, but I know I will be running again soon, because I know what to do to get walk back up and running (pun intended). Well in our passage today, I believe the Lord is going to speak to each of each in our own way, to make sure we walking, and then running, as we live the life of God, by walking the way of God

Title: Living the Life of God, by Walking the Way of God.

Outline Ephesians 4:17-21

- Living the Life of God – by Walking on Solid Foundation (the Whole Truth & Nothing but the Truth) – (4:17)
- Living the Life of God – by Walking the Life of Jesus (4:18)
- Living the Life of God – by Walking out the Mission Statement of Jesus (4:18)
- Living the Life of God – by Walking out the Life of Prayer (4:18)
- Living the Life of God – by Walking with Feeling (4:19)
- Living the Life of God – by Walking on Solid Foundation (the Whole Truth & Nothing but the Truth) – (4:20-21)

Living the Life of God – by Walking on Solid Foundation (the Whole Truth & Nothing but the Truth) – (4:17)

Ephesians 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

Definitions

Verse 17. Gentiles here is a general reference to the world.

Verse 17. Futility means emptiness and vanity, not of substance nor weight, another good way to put it is “shifting sand”.

What's it Therefore

Verse 17 says, "Therefore." What is it therefore? Anytime we see therefore we go, "What's it therefore?" He's taken us back. He's talking about building His body, the church, building it up, edifying it, strengthening it. He's taking us back to verses 1 through 16 of this chapter four and he's being very specific in verse 17 about what was said in verse 14 about being tossed to and fro. He compares the thinking in ways of the world to the thinking and the ways of the Lord. The world is futile and empty. God is full, and weighty.

Ephesians 4:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Paul Testifies

"Testify in the Lord," Paul says, like a court hearing is what it relates to and Paul says, "I swear to tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth." Here's the truth of the world's thinking and here is the truth of God's thinking. Let me declare what the facts are, what I was told by the Lord, what I saw from the Lord.

Ephesians 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Ephesians 4:19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Futility of Mind Looks Like Something

Verse 18 and 19, this is what futility, empty mind, emptiness of minds look like and does,

1. understanding that is darkened,
2. alienated from the life of God,
3. ignorance that is in them,
4. because blindness of heart,
5. past feeling,
6. given over to lewdness,
7. and walking all uncleanness with greediness

And here we have seven things that is the futility of the mind and seven is the number of completion and what is being said here is completely empty and futile.

Indictment of Way World Thinks / As Man Thinks Therefore He Is

Verse 18, indictments of the way the world thinks in their mind and walks in their way and we're told for as a man thinks therefore, he is. Our thinking determines how we walk and here we've been told to walk worthy of a calling that God has for us.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

Notice the Life of God

Verse 18. Notice the word there, "the life of God." There is a definitive life of God that can be lived. Man has a choice to live it or not. Living the life of God looks like something.

Living the Life of God – by Walking the Life of Jesus (4:18)

Live life of God – by Looking at Jesus

"the life of God." There is a definitive life of God that can be lived. Man has a choice to live it or not. Living the life of God looks like something. It is definable and learnable, we will see, and it is found in the life of Jesus for Jesus is God. Therefore, the life of Jesus, the life that He lived is a clear communication to us what a life of God looks like.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

What does the life of God look like? You only need to look at Jesus. How can I live the life of God? Look at Jesus, study his life through the four gospels. Can I encourage you who do the read through the Bible in a year, that "let's say 10 months", is too long to be out of the Gospels. You may read the Gospels in 2 months, then 10 months before you get back to them again as you read through the rest of the Bible. Put the Life of Jesus, into your daily read, even if it is just averse or two, but the life of God, is most clearly declared and seen in the Life of Jesus.

Living the Life of God – by Walking out the Mission Statement of Jesus (4:18)

His Mission Statement

We know his mission statement as He declared it in Luke 4:18.

Luke 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

I Can Live His Mission Statement – Therefore Live the Life of God

Therefore, I can do that same mission that Jesus did, not as God but as the servant of God,

1. and we see that it all began with the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus. Everything Jesus did He did through the Spirit, not the flesh. So too, that is what we learn of Jesus, that we do not do the work and the life of God in the flesh. We do it through the Spirit. So we need to ask for the Spirit. Can I ask you, Christian? Have you asked for the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Baptism means to be supplied. The Holy Spirit is God. It's not something mystical that we're asking. We're asking to be supplied of God and by God to do the work of God and the life of God. It's really quite simple and we make it more complicated than it is. All we have to do is simply ask, we're told, and it will be given to us and then we can live the life of God that we've been called to walk worthy of here in Chapter 4.
2. Speaking of the mission statement, I too can preach the gospel to the poor.
3. I too can heal the brokenhearted, those whose heart are wounded from walking in this world.
4. I too can proclaim liberty to the captives. I can tell the people who are bound up in addictions and some stronghold that there is a liberty that can be had and his name is Jesus Christ.
5. I can give recovery of the sight to the blind. That's the spiritual blindness that we can tell people and open their eyes to a God that loves them and has a plan for them.
6. I too can set at liberty those who are oppressed. I can help lift them up who are downtrodden, and I too can proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord that He's coming back for his church and He's going to wipe all things clean and He's going to make all things new.
7. I can do the same mission statement as Jesus Christ. I can live the life of God.

Living the Life of God – by Walking out the Life of Prayer (4:18)

Giving Over to Lewdness Please Be on Guard with/of Your Mind

Verse 18 and 19 says given over to lewdness. I say to everyone today, "Oh, please, my brother and sister. Be on guard. I plead with you to be on guard about all this downtime you may have based on this current situation in the world." We're told in Ephesians that we'll study redeem the time for the days are evil. We read in Ezekiel that the sins of Sodom was that they had too much time on their hands and they forgot the poor. I know that the call of the church is 2 Chronicles 7:14, but are we really doing it? Are we really praying and seeking the Lord and turning and repenting? I will be the first to admit it is way easier to spend hours upon hours reading articles about COVID-19 and then spend mere moments in praying about it and praying for the people and praying for the nation.

Ephesians 5:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Ezekiel 16:48–50 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ *"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. ⁴⁹ Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.*

The Life of God was Life of Prayer

The life of God, Jesus was a life of prayer. We see that in Luke 22:39. It was as is his custom, we're told. What that means is that was his lifestyle, and we see that people knew where Jesus was and they knew where to find him. That's why it was easy for Judas to find him on that night of betrayal because he knew Jesus would be in the garden praying.

Luke 22:39–40 (NKJV) ³⁹ Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰ When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

As Was His Accustomed

Speaking of that phrase, as was his custom, equally could be said “the life He lived”.

- In Luke 4:16, we read that it was his custom to read the word of God. As I say, the best bible study that you can ever have is simply to read the word of God.
- Then we read in Mark 10:1 that as was his custom, He taught the people the word of God.

Luke 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Mark 10:1 (NKJV) ¹ Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.

People who Modeled Life of Jesus (as Accustomed)

We see people in the scripture who modeled the life of God as it was their custom, their way of life.

- In Acts 17:2, we see it with Paul
- and in Daniel 6:10, we see it with Daniel.

Acts 17:2–3 (NKJV) ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

Daniel 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Ephesians 4:19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Life of Gentiles Empty / Life of God is Full

Verse 18 and 19. The life of the gentile is empty and void. Lots of motion and emotion, but no substance in it. The life of God, now that's weighty. It's heavy. There is something there. There's something deep. There's something that is in that life, and that life we know is more abundant as we're told in John 10:10. If you compare John 10:10, compare Satan, the prince of the world, and he comes to kill, steal, and destroy, that's the life of the evil one. Then if you compare it to the life of Jesus, he comes to give life in that more abundant.

John 10:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Let Me Be Direct – Turn to the Light

Verse 18. Because of blindness, let me just be really clear and direct. If you have not repented and turned from your sin, you will die in your sin and be eternally separated from God in outer darkness. You have not come to Jesus Christ because you want a sign, you say, or because you are researching scientific and archeological truths or you are a person who checks all the facts before you commit to something. The bible is real clear in John 3. You don't come to Jesus because the blindness, the darkness of your heart because you love darkness more than light because you love your sin, whatever that sin may be whether it's a physical sin that you find pleasure in your body or it's something else in your heart such as pride that you won't admit that you're a sinner in need of a savior, that you won't humble yourself and say that you're not a perfect person and that you need help. Whatever it may be, you will die in your sin unless you do something about it. What you need to do is Romans 10:9. You need to confess with your mouth to Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and you will be saved.

John 3:15–21 (NKJV) ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Past Feeling – Not You Because You Still Listening

Verse 19. Being past feeling, if you're listening, you are not past feeling. If you're past feeling, you wouldn't be listening, and you would not be dialed in here online today and you wouldn't be caring what the word of the Lord says. So you are anything but past feeling.

Living the Life of God – by Walking with Feeling (4:19)

Believers Need to Be on Guard about Past Feelings /

But even a believer needs to be on guard about being past feeling. It is so easy to get numb to all these pains of the world, all the noise, all the information. The volume of what we process is exhausting hence why we need to guard against too much information. Everyone is giving their opinion and giving their report on this COVID-19. Everyone's an expert, yet nobody has the answers. Following all that information is exhausting. Then following the tens of thousands of friends you have on Facebook and what they're doing is exhausting. The information overload can be numbing.

Soften My Heart with Oil

I repeatedly have this prayer to God especially when I begin to or look and realize my heart is numb and becoming numb. I ask the Lord soften my heart with oil. Lord, just take your anointing oil with your gentle hands and massage my heart to make it soft again, tender to you, and then the things of God start to come flooding back into me. I start having a heart for the lost in the world and the hurting people in the world. Everything with the mission statement of Jesus in Luke 4:18 begins to flood over me and become part of my very being. Then I find just a sweet fellowship with the Lord.

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NKJV) ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Luke 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Then I Come to the Heart of Worship

As I come back from that numbness and the Lord has anointed my heart with oil, He brings me back to the heart of worship and I find myself that it's all about him. I find myself revived in him and strengthening and just filled with peace that passes understanding

Futility Doesn't Worship Creator

Verse 18, Romans 1:22, the futility of mind comes when man doesn't worship He who created them.

Romans 1:18–25 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Want Heart of Worship – Worship in the Word

But let me tell you, you want to worship and worship well and you want the word that you read to have power,

- worship, while and during your reading and studying this word, not just read through it and know about Him, but read through and stop and experience Him and stop everywhere and continually along the way in the worship in the word as you read it. Come to a passage and you say, "Lord, I thank You because You are," and maybe you come to another place and you say, "Lord, I praise You because You have," and you go on and you say, "Lord, You say to be holy as I am Holy. Lord, then I turn and I repent from," and you fill in the blank.

- Remind yourself why we do obey and apply the word and praise Him for it and you'll find as you are in the word and worshiping in the word, you're going to find power like you've never experienced before.

Ephesians 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ,

Ephesians 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Living the Life of God – by Walking on Solid Foundation (the Whole Truth & Nothing but the Truth) – (4:20-21)

You Have Not So Learned

Verse 20 says that you have not so learned (which is referencing back to the futile thinking and learning the ways of the world not the ways of the Lord). Jesus would say, "Learn of Me."

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

As Accustomed

Verse 20, that word have learned means habit of, accustomed to.

Learn of Him – Just Like I learned Aerodynamics to Fly High

There is a learning of Him, just like I had to learn aerodynamics to get in jet engine technology to become an aircraft mechanic. If the plane or rocket was ever going to fly, I had to learn these principles. So too we have to learn his principles if we're going to fly high. There is a learning of Him and Jesus says, "Come and learn of Me."

All Truth is In Jesus

Verse 21 is where we pick up the next study here but end with the truth is in Jesus. There is no truth apart from Jesus.

- The truth of atomic energy cannot be found apart from Jesus even if science may argue that, but you'll never fully understand atomic energy if you don't understand Jesus who says He holds all things together.
- The truth of medicine will never be fully understood the depths of the truth apart from Jesus because it says He formed and fashions man in the womb and try to figure it out apart from His genius and you'll never be able to come to the depths of this incredible human body that He created. When man tries to figure out medicine apart from the truth of Jesus Christ, they'll come to the wrong conclusion and can I say anything more clearly than the futility of a mind regarding that life begins when it begins, where it begins and who ordained it to begin, God Himself.
- And there's a truth of why you were created. Revelation 4:11, by His will, all things, the universe and you were created for His good pleasure. Man was created to have fellowship with God and an enjoyable fellowship and you take that truth away and people lose that truth and not understand that truth then the life has no meaning and no bearing and becomes so meaningless and empty and futile.

Ultimate Truth – It's All About Jesus

The ultimate truth was spoken in verse 13 of chapter four. When everything fades away, there's only one thing, only the one thing that matters and will matter. It's Jesus Christ. That is the truth.

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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been a few weeks but I never told you the story of 2 weeks ago I got run over by a truck, yeah a truck. You ever wake up in the morning and say I feel like I got run over by a truck, well I woke Friday morning and said that, then I said oh that's right I did get run over by a truck. The Angel of the Lord grab me and pulled me out from the front of the truck to just be hit on the side, and when I hit the ground the truck ran my feet over. I laid there on the ground after it was all over and start feeling my body, saying ok your alive that's a good thing, but next was how bad is this. Then after a few seconds I go, Praise the Lord, only thing wrong is my foot is broken, this is a good thing, I know how to fix a broken foot, I just got out of my soft cast from the foot that was broken a few months ago. Hey I already got the walking boot and everything. Now my foot is in a lot of pain today, but I know I will be running again soon, because I know what to do to get walk back up and running (pun intended). Well in our passage today, I believe the Lord is going to speak to each of each in our own way, to make sure we walking, and then running, as we live the life of God, by walking the way of God

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Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 4:20-24

Title: Do You Want to be Made New?

Do You Want to be Made New

I am reminded of the story in John 5 when Jesus came pass a lame man, a man who had been lame for 38 years..... and Jesus said "Do you want to be made well?" The man gave excuses of why he couldn't walk, why he couldn't be made well, but that was not the question that Jesus had asked him? Jesus had asked him, do you want to be made well (whole and healthy). Then Jesus simply told him rise take up your bed and walk in immediately that is what the man did. Well Jesus is offering something even greater today he is offering to any man do you want to be made new do you want to be set free from the old man and the old ways the old habits and the old bondages do you want to be made brand new, He's not asking us why we can't he started here today and asking us the simple question do you want to be made new? He's even asking us something greater than do you want to be made well He is asking I can make you bring a new. Our Study today is for both those who have given their life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and as we will see in our passage today the same question is given to those who have NOT received Christ as Lord and Savior. The question is asked because even as even for those who have received Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, the "New Life" is still a choice, thus still a question, "do you want to be made new?".

John 5:1-9 (NKJV)¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" ⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Maybe You Say I'm Good

Maybe you may say right now, I'm good, no changes needed for me. If that is you, you need to hear this message in its entirety today. For some people, they don't even know they are not well.

But the God News

But the good news for any all today, I, we, can be a new man (woman) today, and every day, and God is able to do it, and will do it, if we say yes..... I want to be made new.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling

- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:17–32 (NKJV) ¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. ²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Revelation 4:8 (Holy, Holy, Holy)

We read the scene around the throne in heaven, 24/7, there are four living creatures that do not rest day or night saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! They don't say, love, love, love, which He is. They don't say, grace, grace, grace, which He is gracious. They don't say, mercy, mercy, mercy, which He is merciful. They say, holy, holy, holy. Holy means, perfect, pure, unspotted, uncommon, like no other. The triple repeat of “holy” is to amplify the meaning... literally “the most holy one”.

Revelation 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

We in Midst of Greatest Pandemic of Lifetime – This is Our Passage

We are in the greatest pandemic of our lifetime, and today we come to this passage of Scripture, to which I say, “truly perfect passage and timing”. There has been lot of quoting of 2 Chronicles 7, I even see an uptick in prayer among the church, but there are two pieces of that word and promise that God gives to a Nation who professes God is there God, and that second piece is to “turn from their wicked (meaning sinful or evil) ways”.

2 Chronicles 7:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Not Preaching to a Nation – But a People Called by His Name / Purified & Unified

So today I am not preaching to a Nation, but a people who are called by His Name. What will He find when He comes for His Bride? The Church here in America and around the world, is preaching “rapture” sermons; the doctrine that of the rapture is Jesus grabbing His church in a twinkle of eye and bring them into heaven, before the Great Tribulation here on the earth when the whole earth in upheaval and chaos. I too am waiting, and believing, that soon and very soon we are going to see the King! When He comes..... what will He find? Some time ago you may remember me speaking, teaching, and praying..... in which I said when the Lord comes for His Church, I prayed that He would find here (CCAAC) a unified church, and a purified church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Walk Worthy

Walk Worthy..... what type of walk will be walking when He comes for His Bride

[Ephesians 4:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Outline

Outline: Do You Want to be Made New

- The New Man – Walks Not, Thinks Not, as the Way of the World, but God (4:17-19)
- The New Man – Is Taught Not by the World, but by Christ (4:20-21)
- The New Man – Is by Choice, not by Compulsion (4:22-24)
- The New Man – Walks Different, Thinks Different, Speaks Different, Because he is Different (4:25-32)

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

[Hebrews 4:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The New Man – Walks Not, Thinks Not, as the Way of the World, but God (4:17-19)

Ephesians 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

Ephesians 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Ephesians 4:19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Futility of Mind Looks Like Something

Verse 18 and 19, this is what futility, empty mind, emptiness of minds look like and does,

1. (World - understanding that is darkened,) -
2. (World- alienated from the life of God,)
3. (World - ignorance that is in them,)
4. (World - because blindness of heart,)
5. (World - past feeling,)
6. (World - given over to lewdness,)
7. (World - and walking all uncleanness with greediness)

And here we have seven things that is the futility of the mind and seven is the number of completion and what is being said here is completely empty and futile.

Walk in Unity / Walk Not in Emptiness / Walk in Purity

Not only are we to walk in unity as we finished verse 16, but Paul goes on to say we are to put away vanity, or “empty-headedness,” and walk in purity. “Create in me a clean heart,” David prayed because he couldn’t create a

clean heart in himself. We don't have the power to change our hearts. But we do have the power to change our minds. If I stop justifying that activity or that habit—if I change my mind, God will change my heart. But He won't change my heart until I change my mind.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Psalm 51:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

The New Man – Is Taught Not by the World, but by Christ (4:20-21)

Ephesians 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ,

Ephesians 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Futility of Mind Looks Like Something

Verse 18 and 19, this is what futility, empty mind, emptiness of minds look like and does,

8. (World - understanding that is darkened,) -
9. (World- alienated from the life of God,)
10. (World - ignorance that is in them,)
11. (World - because blindness of heart,)
12. (World - past feeling,)
13. (World - given over to lewdness,)
14. (World - and walking all uncleanness with greediness)

And here we have seven things that is the futility of the mind and seven is the number of completion and what is being said here is completely empty and futile. But what Jesus teaches us is literally the complete opposite of the world.

The world and its teachings. The world tells us how we are to dress, what is the definition of success, what is life and what is not (speaking of abortion), what is marriage and what is not, what is morality and what it is not. It is not that Christ's teaching are opposite of the world really, it is the world is opposite of Christ, because Jesus is standard not the world.

World does What Told to Do

This virus has brought so much clarity to so many things. I see one of the things, the way the world tells people to think and the world listens. My case in point, is the world, the so-called experts, they all say, "Don't wear mask. Mask are bad and dangerous, and they will explode this virus." And then they go on to say, "The mask should only be worn by those who are sick, so they don't spread the disease." Of course the mask is needed for the healthcare workers treating the people with the virus so they don't get sick.

Those two statements totally contradict the first statement, that the mask can't protect you because they're saying they're needed for the healthcare professionals, so they don't get sick from the sick patient. Now, I'm in absolute agreement that the surgical mask should be prioritized to the healthcare workers. But a healthcare worker does need to wear a surgical mask with a clean level on it, so not to infect the patients. But the rest of the society can simply wear scarves or something of that nature. They don't have to wear these surgical mask or these special industrial mask the world says, it will reduce the transmission. But two weeks ago, four weeks ago, everyone was told not to wear a mask. And so everybody, and I hear it as I walk around, people go, "No, they're saying don't wear a mask. We shouldn't wear a mask. Masks are bad."

Well here, as the virus exponentially grows every week, how right are they? And here now, you can see they're starting to back walk on that statement that maybe they're wrong. Well, as I made the point two weeks ago, everyone should be wearing masks because no one knows who sick, and therefore if you're wearing a mask, you don't know that you're sick, it will reduce the transmission because you're going around living life like you're not sick. And six foot social-distancing is not enough with this virus.

Which by the way, I project in two weeks or less, you will hear the health experts and the world government, this United States government, saying, "Wear something, cover, something to reduce catching it and to reduce spreading it." So if I'm wrong, you can all point out how wrong I was. But I'll go on record just like I did two weeks ago to say don't wear a mask. Absolutely makes no sense, but that's what the world says. And then people get on it, buy into it, believe it because that's what they've been told how to think.

As a Man Thinks in His Heart

The world does what the world tells them to do. As a man thinks in his heart, therefore he is says the Scriptures; [Proverbs 23:7 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

We Have Learned the Complete Opposite

Christ and His ways and teachings are not just contrary to the worlds way of thinking and doing, but completely opposite

As a Man Thinks in His Heart

As a man thinks in his heart, therefore he is says the Scriptures;

[Proverbs 23:7 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

The New Man – Is by Choice, not by Compulsion (4:22-24)

Ephesians 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Lust – Always Promises but Never Delivers

Lust it always promises but never delivers. It promises satisfaction but always leaves the person unsatisfied, and always wanting more.

Ephesians 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Romans 12

Romans 12:1-2 sums this thought up perfectly. Sums up the high calling that is upon us.

[Romans 12:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

People Need to be Renewed

Now we come to the positive aspect of the process. because the Christian life is not a void, people need to be renewed. This phrase comes from a **present passive infinitive**.

- It is present because it is a continuous process.
- **It is passive because God accomplishes the work only as believers yield to the Holy Spirit.**
- It takes place in the spirit of your mind probable reference to the fact that the will is involved in causing the process to continue.

People need to be renewed, and it is a choice, not compulsion.

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Walk Worthy

When we're called to walk worthy, here's what walking worthy is. It's so different from the way the world walks, but this is putting shoe leather to our faith of what we truly believe. Now we're really getting down to the walk that God considers worthy, and what He says is our calling. So may we walk worthy.

Now the new man isn't just created as an upgraded version of the old man, but something totally and completely brand new; and created in a foundational basis of "true righteousness and holiness".

Revelation 4:8 – holy, holy, holy – we have been created in a way to come into His presence holy.

Brand New Man

Isn't this wonderful, we get to be a brand-new person. We get to change our identity; we get to be a whole brand-new person. Romans 6 speaks of this new person, this new identity. When a garment was changed from one color to another, say white to purple, they would take the garment and place it in a tub of a dye solution. And when they would, they would say I am going to baptize this. That is a perfect picture of baptism that the Lord does to a person when they come to Him and give their life to Him, and turn from their sin. God says I am going to baptize this person, I am going to change their identity, make them a whole brand-new person.

Romans 6:1–14 (NKJV) ¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

The Legal Transaction

But maybe you say doesn't that happen at salvation? Well let me explain.....

The exchange that happened when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior for the forgiveness of sin, that was and is a legal transaction. It was the literally the legal transaction of adoption, and under Roman Law at the time, as a great picture-perfect illustration, it was illegal to disown or unadopted a person once they were adopted. They gained full legal right and protection under the Law to be co-heirs with the adopted Father.

Galatians 4:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Now even though the legal work of Salvation had taken place in their lives it was necessary for them to discard completely the old way of life. This passage contains one of the greatest paradoxes of scriptures because after explaining the legal work of Salvation God had performed in their lives, Paul went on to appeal for an experiential casting off of sin. The same verb appears in Colossians 3:8 with the same basic idea of putting off a former way of life. A person does this by denying the craving of the sinful nature.

Colossians 3:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

The Legal Transaction of the Gospel

Now we can think of a legal transaction as something with no emotional attachment, but not even close when the transaction is adoption. The word used in the scripture for this legal transaction that seals our security of adoption, is the word "propitiation", and was used to mean the satisfying of a debt owed.

(Romans 3: 23-25 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

1 John 4:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

When Jesus died on the cross, His last words were “it is done” – which another way to put it, “Paid in Full”.

John 19:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Now Here is What “New” is Not to Do

Now here is what the new man is to do:

- (v25) - Put away lying / And speak the truth to his neighbor
- (v26-27) - Not to let anger cause to sin, and not to let sin go on your wrath (anger) / nor give the devil a foothold to work
- (v28) - Not to steal / but work honestly and give to help those in need
- (v29) - Let no corrupt word proceed from mouth / but only speak word that build up and bless others
- (v30) - Not to grieve the Holy Spirit
- (v30-32) - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor (loud quarrelling), evil speaking, and malice be put away / but be kind and tenderhearted towards each other, forgiving one another.

Outline

Outline: Do You Want to be Made New?

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- The New Man – Is Taught Not by the World, but by Christ (4:20-21)
- The New Man – Is by Choice, not by Compulsion (4:22-24)
- The New Man – Walks Different, Thinks Different, Speaks Different, Because he is Different (4:25-32)

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 4:22-24

Title: 3 Men (2 Dead and 2 Alive) – No That is Not a Typo

Summary:

- In our passage today, an Easter message, Pastor Ray will walk us through “the Old Man”, the God-Man (Jesus Christ), and the “New Man”; as we go from the cross, to the grave, to the resurrection..... and the promise of God to make all things New through His finished work on the cross. Join us for this special Easter message which is perfect for any season of life you are in.

Outline:

- The New Man
- The God-Man
- The Old Man
- The God-Man
- The New Man

Introduction

Exodus 12:22 (Shelter in Place)

Well as we are doing Easter remotely, as we are “sheltering in place”, this is not the first time the body of believers sheltered in place for what we today in the English language call “Easter”, but in the Bible it was and is called “Passover”. And this is our first celebration of Easter/Passover sheltering in-place in our homes, and approximately 3,400 years ago was the first Passover there in Egypt, and the body of believers were told to “shelter-in-place” – Look at Exodus 12:22

Exodus 12:22 (NKJV) ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

The Full Context of Exodus 12

The full context of Exodus 12 is the sacrificing of the Passover lamb.

Exodus 12:21–24 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. ²⁴ And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.

1st Passover was a Shadow

That first Passover was just a shadow of the Passover to come, who would not be a covering over the door of our homes, but the door of our hearts.

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Interesting – Even in Slavery & Poverty there was a Lamb Available

I find it so interesting that the children of Israel are slaves in Egypt, they are living in poverty, yet they all still had a lamb or could get a lamb.... Even in slavery and poverty. But the same is still true today, that regardless of social standing, financial means, free or slave, there is THE LAMB available to all who will say I need THE LAMB.

Our Passage Today

Ephesians 4:20–24 (NKJV) ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

3 Men / 2 who have Died – 2 who are Alive

Today I want to talk to you about 3 men, two who have died, and 2 who are alive; but wait you say, you said three, but have counted four, and that is true, and that is glory of the Passover/Easter story. Let's pray and get into the glorious promises and celebration of the Passover/Easter story.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The New Man

I Start with Good News as we Celebrate – We have Been Made New

I start with the good news as we celebrate Easter, and that is we have been made new:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Thrown Away / Bolla's Brothers – The Great Treasure Hunters

I love spring, I love the newness of spring, I love the grass turning green, the flowers coming out, the leaves reappearing, and the coldness of winter giving way to the warming of spring. But.....Oh I remember it like yesterday, it was always one of the most exciting times of the year for me and my brother, "spring pickup" on the little rural road we lived on in Western Pennsylvania outside of Pittsburgh. Spring Pickup was one day out of the year, and you could place anything you could get to the curb out in front of your house, and the County would pick it up for you and take it to the dump. If you could drag it, if you could muscle it, push-pull-shove it, they would take it. People loved it of course because this was there opportunity to get rid of their junk, their trash, their broken things, things that they felt had no use to them anymore. But for me and my brother, oh it was treasure hunting day. In fact, we would start walking up and down our street every day for the whole week leading up to collection day, just hunting through each pile. Every day we would go back out to see if there was something new thrown away. We just couldn't believe what people would throw away, toss aside, abandon, consider junk, unusable, broken beyond repair, or just not worth their time to try to fix. But to me and my brother, we would hunt through a pile and pull stuff out and say jackpot, can you believe they through this away, why with a little work we can make this brand-new. We would pull old bicycles out and say all these needs is a new chain and a fresh coat of paint and this bike is brand new again ready to be ridden and enjoyed again. We built a fort out in the woods, it was actually an underground fort (that was totally cool), and we would find stuff and go jackpot, we got carpeting, we got lights now, we are waterproof. It was always amazing to us what people would throw away, push aside, toss aside and say this is broken, can't be fixed, it isn't worth the effort. To me and my brother we were not junk collectors, we were treasure hunters.

Jesus the Greatest Treasure Hunter / He Pulled Me from the Pile - Jackpot

We thought we were the great treasure hunters, but later in my young adult life, I would find there was a greater treasure hunter, Jesus Christ, and he would actually consider me a treasure. I would at a young adult age feel broken, tossed aside, unfixable, just another thing eventually for collection day, no purpose, little value. But the Great Treasure Hunter, Jesus Christ, came and hunted through the pile, pulled me out, and said "jackpot", oh I can

make this new, not just repaired but brand new, something that He could enjoy and have great pleasure in, and use for His purposes, thus giving me a purpose.

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

God Love You!

Metamorphous – Same Word used of Butterfly

The word that best describes what happens is the word “metamorphous”, the same word we use regarding the metamorphous of the butterfly. From the worm, to the cocoon, to the beautiful butterfly.

3339 μεταμορφῶ [metamorphoo /met-am-or-fo-o/] v. From 3326 and 3445; TDNT 4:755; TDNTA 607; GK 3565; Four occurrences; AV translates as “transfigure” twice, “transform” once, and “change” once. 1 to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure.

- Strong, J. (1995). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Bible Cross-References - Metamorphous

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The God-Man

How Made New? / Hidden in Him – “In Christ”

And how does all this glorious wonder happen, by us “being in Christ”. We are in Christ, hidden in Him

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The Ark – We are In Christ

We’re in Christ Jesus, folks. That’s the key. The Lord said to Noah, “Rooms shalt thou make in the ark and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch” (Genesis 6:14). The word “pitch” is the same word used in the Old Testament for “atonement,” so the ark is a perfect picture of our salvation, for when the rain began to fall, the Lord shut Noah and his family in (Genesis 7:16).

He didn’t say, “I’m going to put eight pegs on the outside of the ark, Noah. You and your family are to hang on for dear life, and as long as you hang on, you’ll make it through.” No, He said, “I’m going to put you in.” And the same is true of us. It’s not a matter of holding on, hoping that if we can keep from sinning, we’ll be okay. No, our Ark is Jesus Christ; and we are in Him. Therefore, there is no condemnation. No matter how rough the seas might be or how heavy the rain comes down, we’re sealed, safe, and secure.

Genesis 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

Genesis 7:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Those Sinfully Delicious Ice Cream Bars – Are Buried In Me / As I/We Are Buried in Christ

So here is what cannot be in our home, and that is Doritos and Oreos. Now, if you’ve ever read the ingredients on the side panel of the bag and box, you know they’re sinful. When they do come into the house, they don’t last long. And yet that sinfully delicious chips and cookies are now hidden and buried in me. You no longer see it.

So, too—you are in Christ—with all of your sinful tendencies, calories, and fat grams. Thus, when the Father looks on you, He doesn’t see you with all of your failings and shortcomings. No, He sees you robed with the

righteousness of Christ Jesus (Isaiah 61:10). He doesn't see you in your sin; He sees you in His Son. Therefore, there's no condemnation whatsoever. Regardless of where you've been or how badly you've failed, regardless of who you are or where you are, there is no condemnation.

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

How Made New? / Hidden in Him – “In Christ”

And how does all this glorious wonder happen, by us “being in Christ”. We are in Christ, hidden in Him

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

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The Old Man

Maybe You Never Heard This – Asking How

Now maybe you are just seeking out the things of Jesus, the things of God, and you are saying this sounds great, but “how does this work practically, how am I in Christ, why do I become in Christ, am I born in Him when I came into this world”? Good questions, and one every person should ask.

The Question

But let me ask you, if you were to die today, would you be sure you would go to heaven, and if so, based on what reason?

Need to be New Man – For You are Old Man

Well let me start with, you need to be “the New Man”, the old man cannot come into the presence of God.

Adam – The Day You Eat You Die

Adam, means “man”, and Adam was given one command, do not eat the fruit of this tree, For the day you eat it, you will die. Well we know that Adam ate the fruit but he did not die immediately, so we see there is a deeper meaning to what death meant, and that is that Adam who was created in perfection, now will begin to die as he is no longer in the perfected state. It is what we call “The Fall”, and it could be also said, the fall from the perfect state. But with that fall from perfection also came the spiritual death. Spiritual death is the separation from God. Maybe you have wondered what does this all mean to be “born-again”, well it means you are born into this world once, but then die when sin, and if you are going to come into God's presence, dead men can't, they have to be born-again, and follow through with me and I will tell you how you can be.

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Maybe You Say I Didn't Eat the Fruit – Adam Did - It was a Choice

Well I didn't eat the fruit, why am I condemned with Adam? Well again Adam means man, and Adam represented the best man had, perfect environment (living there in the garden), perfect government, perfect parent, but he still chose to disobey God. The fruit was a choice, and Adam choose that he knew better than God, that what he wanted to do was what he wanted to do, regardless of what God said was best. The fruit was simply a choice, not necessarily that the fruit was sinful. Adam only had to keep one commandment, and he couldn't even do that, and he sinned and brought sin into this world and the whole world fell with him..... the ultimate Adam-Bomb.

Romans 5:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Romans 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NKJV) ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

No Blame Shift / The Law of God

So that no man can blame shift, as Adam tried to blame Eve. God gave mankind a set of Laws to follow, His holy laws, His perfect Law. They were given to Moses as the children of Israel left Egypt (Exodus 20). We call them the 10 Commandments. Now we are told in James (2:10-11) that if you are guilty of one of them, you are considered before God guilty of them all, and what God is saying is that He doesn't rank sin, as man does, that any sin is an offense to Him, and the day that you sin you shall die. God uses the Law to show man the condition of their heart (Romans 3:19-20). Jesus will even say that your thoughts are as equally guilty as your actions (Matthew 5). Now you really see how perfect and pure and holy God is, and how guilty we all are before Him, and God makes it clear that every person is guilty before Him..... and the day you eat of it (sin) you shall surely die (Genesis 2:17 & Rom 6:23).

James 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Matthew 5:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27–28 (NKJV) ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

10 Commandments

So what are the 10 Commandments?

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3).
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6).
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7)
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11)
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17)

Have you ever stolen anything, regardless of value? Have you ever told a lie, regardless how big or small? Have you ever use the Holy God's Name in vain, as a curse word? Have you ever lusted in your heart? Have you ever dishonored your parents?

You have sinned against the Holy God, and you will die in your sin if you don't do something about.

What Must You Do?

What must you do you ask? Romans 10:9-10 tells you what to do, simply follow His directions to be forgiven of your sin, to be born-again, to pass from the Old Man, into the New Man.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Back to the Passover

What does that look like, well back to the shadow of that first Passover. They were to get a lamb, slay the lamb, and put the blood over the door of their home, and then when death came it would see the blood and “pass over” the home. All a foreshadow of the Final Lamb, Jesus Christ who would be the Final Passover Sacrifice.

1. Agree with - As established in the Law of God (Leviticus chapters 1-5), when you sinned you were to take your hand and place it on the head of the lamb, and confess your sin, and it was symbolic of transferring your guilt and shame on to the innocent sacrifice. Confess (Romans 10:9) means to agree with, and you are agreeing with God that you have broken His Holy Law.
2. Only through Jesus - The Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9) is to agree that you need a Savior, and that there is no other way, no pegs to hold on to the ark, you have to get inside (Jesus – the ark of salvation); and hanging on pegs would be like works, something you earned, and God is clear good-works can’t save you, for you have broken God’s Holy Law. And then what happens from there is the wrath and judgement that was due you for committing the crime of breaking God’s Law, is passed on to Jesus, and His blood is sprinkled over you, just like it was placed over the door of the home on the first Passover, and death will pass over you.
3. The Resurrection Trade - And notice, the backend of Romans 10:9, and believed that God raised Him from the dead! And that is the Passover/Easter story, the picture and promise of the resurrection. The resurrection proves that God accepted the “substitute” the trade, for had He not Jesus would still be in the grave, but God did accept the trade, and just as Jesus rose from the grave, walked out of the dead man’s grave.... So too will you. Hence why we have joy unspeakable as we celebrate Easter.
4. Repent/godly Sorrow- And with the same power that rose Jesus from the grave, we are told will be given to us (Ephesians 1:19-20), because we will be (remember) “in Him”. And with that power we can turn from sin when it comes knocking, that is what repentance means “to turn from”, and not have to live a slave as we did as the old man, because we have become the new man. I pray as I have been sharing that your heart has been pierced, that you are sensing just what your sin has cost, and what God was willing to pay to buy back.... His only Begotten Son (John 3:16). The Passover lamb in Exodus 12, and all the years to follow, were brought into the home and lived in the home for 4 days prior to being sacrificed. The purpose was to inspect the lamb for blemish, and secondly it was to attach the person to the lamb, the innocent animal who was to take their sin. As my son said this week as they remembered the Passover they placed a scarlet scarf over the door of the house as a symbol and remembrance of the Passover sacrifice. And my son said to me as I woke up, thank God we didn’t have to sacrifice Faithful (our golden retriever) to cover the door and our sins. He hit it right on the target, the sacrifice was meant to be personal, the sacrifice was seen as innocent, as they slayed the lamb to cover their sin they would feel a sorrow for slaying the innocent (2 Corinthians 7:10 – godly sorrow produces repentance)..... Jesus took your sin, He made it personal. Without repentance, the turning of sin, there is no forgiveness of sin (Acts 3:19).

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Romans 10:10:

Romans 10:10 says you do it with your mouth.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Your prayer from your mouth (with your heart) would be as simple as this:

- Lord I know that I am a sinner, I have sinned against you by breaking your holy commandments,
- I know that I can't save myself and I need a Savior, and I accept you as my Lord and Savior
- Lord I am sorry for my sin, and I turn (repent) from my sin, and put my trust in You to save me from my sin.
- Lord I ask you to be both my Savior, and my Lord.
- In Jesus Name – Amen!

The God-Man

Only through the God-Man

This can only be done through the God-Man. He is our mediator, our bridge between sinful man and Holy Father. And He makes it clear there is no together way, except through Him to the Father. And we praise the Lord today..... that there is a way. Some people call it narrow, what you say only 1 way..... to me, a simple man, I see it wide.... Wide open, that even a sinner like me can come!

1 Timothy 2:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For *there is one God and one Mediator* between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus,* ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

3 Men / 2 Died & 2 Lived

So as I had started with, we were going to speak of 3 men today (the Old Man, the God-Man, and the New Man). The Old Man will die in his sin, but Jesus died for his sin. The New Man whose sins are forgiven is alive, because Jesus the God-Man is alive and the New Man is in Him who is alive!

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The New Man

And the Great News – We Get New Bodies

And this new man, when his days have come to past here on earth, we get new bodies, fold up these tents, our sojourning and camping, and passing through this world will be over, and we step into heaven, the celestial eternal city, with Him, in TOTALLY NEW BODIES!

2 Corinthians 5:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Sherlock Holmes & Watson Go Camping

It reminds me of the night Sherlock Holmes and his trusty assistant Dr. Watson went camping. Around midnight Holmes nudges Watson awake and tells him, “Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.” Watson says, “Well, I see God’s glory. The heavens truly declare His handiwork... I’m also reminded of God’s sovereignty. He

orders the orbits of all heavenly bodies, and rules the universe... Certainly, the night sky tells us of our own smallness. We're sitting on a tiny planet amongst millions of stars... And finally, a cloudless night informs us a beautiful day tomorrow..." That's when Watson asks Holmes, "And what do you see?" Sherlock answers, "Someone stole our tent."

Someday we will put off this old tent, fold it up, and we will be giving new bodies that death, disease, war, or any virus can touch!

Taking on Flavor of the Container

This week I was putting some boxes away in the closet downstairs and came across a few cases of water I had put down there, to which to which looking at the date on the expiration, I must have put down there in January 2018. I checked a health website to see if water expires, which it says the water distributors recommend using within two years, but to answer the question they said no there is no expiration on water. So I said well let me taste and see, and I can verify the water is still good, but I did notice something, that after 2 years of resting inside the bottle, the water had a taste and flavor of the bottle, the container. And so the beauty of this new life we have, as we are "in Christ Jesus", hidden in Him, and as we are "in Him" we take on the flavor, the taste, of the "Container". That is awesome news to celebrate today for Easter, and for our studies to come in the Book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 3:3-4 (NKJV) ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Conclusion/Communion

Communion – That 1st Passover of the New Covenant

Before Jesus would go to the cross, He instituted what we call communion, which means "to commune together", oneness. As the Lord makes us one with Him through His sacrifice.

Matthew 26:26-29 (NKJV) ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 4:25-32

Title: Do You Want to be Made New?

Do You Want to be Made New

As we finish our study of Ephesians 4:25-32, we started part one with the story of the paralytic in John 5; when Jesus came past a lame man, a man who had been lame for 38 years..... and Jesus said "Do you want to be made well?" The man gave excuses of why he couldn't walk, why he couldn't be made well, but that was not the question that Jesus had asked him? Jesus had asked him, do you want to be made well (whole and healthy). Then Jesus simply told him rise take up your bed and walk immediately that is what the man did. Well Jesus is offering something even greater today he is offering to any man do you want to be made new do you want to be set free from the old man and the old ways the old habits and the old bondages do you want to be made brand new, He's not asking us why we can't, He here today and asking us the simple question do you want to be made new? he's even asking us something greater than do you want to be made well he is asking I can make you bring a new. The question is asked because even for those who have received Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, the "New Life" is still a choice, thus still a question, "do you want to be made new?"

*John 5:1-9 (NKJV)*¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" ⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Maybe You Say I'm Good

Maybe you may say right now, I'm good, no changes needed for me. If that is you, you need to hear this message in its entirety today. For some people, they don't even know they are not well.

But the Good News

But the good news for any all today, I, we, can be a new man (woman) today, and every day, and God is able to do it, and will do it, if we say yes..... I want to be made new.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually.

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:17–32 (NKJV) ¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Revelation 4:8 (Holy, Holy, Holy)

We read the scene around the throne in heaven, 24/7, there are four living creatures that do not rest day or night saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! They don't say, love, love, love, which He is. They don't say, grace, grace, grace, which He is gracious. They don't say, mercy, mercy, mercy, which He is merciful. They say, holy, holy, holy. Holy means, perfect, pure, unspotted, uncommon, like no other. The triple repeat of "holy" is to amplify the meaning... literally "the most holy one".

Revelation 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

We in Midst of Greatest Pandemic of Lifetime – This is Our Passage

We are in the greatest pandemic of our lifetime, and today we come to this passage of Scripture, to which I say, "truly perfect passage and timing". There has been lot of quoting of 2 Chronicles 7, I even see an uptick in prayer among the church, but there are two pieces of that word and promise that God gives to a Nation who professes God is there God, and that second piece is to "turn from their wicked (meaning sinful or evil) ways".

2 Chronicles 7:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Not Preaching to a Nation – But a People Called by His Name / Purified & Unified

So today I am not preaching to a Nation, but a people who are called by His Name. What will He find when He comes for His Bride? The Church here in America and around the world, is preaching "rapture" sermons; the doctrine that of the rapture is Jesus grabbing His church in a twinkle of eye and bring them into heaven, before the Great Tribulation here on the earth when the whole earth in upheaval and chaos. I too am waiting, and believing, that soon and very soon we are going to see the King! When He comes..... what will He find? Some time ago you may remember me speaking, teaching, and praying..... in which I said when the Lord comes for His Church, I prayed that He would find here (CCAAC) a unified church, and a purified church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Walk Worthy

Walk Worthy..... what type of walk will be walking when He comes for His Bride

[Ephesians 4:1 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Outline

Outline: Do You Want to be Made New

- The New Man – Walks Not, Thinks Not, as the Way of the World, but God (4:17-19)
- The New Man – Is Taught Not by the World, but by Christ (4:20-21)
- The New Man – Is by Choice, not by Compulsion (4:22-24)
- The New Man – Walks Different, Thinks Different, Speaks Different, Because he is Different (4:25-32)

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

[Hebrews 4:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The New Man – Walks Different, Thinks Different, Speaks Different, Because he is Different (4:25-32)

(v25) - Put away lying / And speak the truth to his neighbor

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Therefore

Verse 25. There's the therefore to which we say, "What's it, therefore," and as we will continue on, it is to examine all these things that we are going to read in light of the true righteousness and judgment.

Let's be honest, because we move so fast, but imagine the power to stop, slow down, and examine every thought and every action in light of the righteousness and holiness of God. Oh, the power that would be in that very action. And I pray the Lord stirs us during this word to start thinking as such, a new way of thinking, God is continually stirring up. Don't think like the old man. You're a new man, so now think like the new man.

So here we have a therefore and it's pointing us back to verse 24 of putting off the old man and putting on the new man and the reason being that we're going to do that is because of verse 21 we've been taught at the truth of Christ.

Verse 25 Starts with What Put off

Verse 25 - starts to list of what parts of the old man where to put off and the parts of the new man were to put on. And so we're told first to put off lying and to put on truth to which I find it interesting that's the first that Paul is going to tell us; but now for clarity he's not racking and stacking these things by importance and we know from the

Lord's economy that He doesn't rack and stack sin, as He considers all sin equally offensive to him and you can see that in James chapter 2 verse 10.

James 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Paul Starts Off with Lying

But it doesn't surprise me that this is where Paul starts because Paul is writing from prison and what's he imprisoned for, well basically he is imprisoned because of a lie and not the truth as false charges and accusations were brought against him by his countrymen. And then as we read about early in his ministry as we see his dealings with the church during Corinth even that church is lying about him and these are some of the very people that first would never have heard the gospel if it wasn't for Paul and then Secondly they would never have a church to go to and find other brothers and sisters to gather around themselves to then tell a lie about Paul if it wasn't for Paul planting and establish clean the church so imagine how painful that is for Paul these lies that were spoken about him.

Paul knows the pain of the lies and the destructions lies cost especially in the church and especially when Christians lie about Christians.

The first let me say if you're lying about another brother sister in Christ or if you're even lying about your neighbor I'd be very concerned if I was you because God's word is very clear that he calls that's in and it is an offense and as it's always been said know this your sin will find you out even if you get away with it with man you will not get away with it with God and there's always a price to pay for sin.

but let me talk to you my brothers and sisters if you're the one that's being lied about and what I want to remind you encourage you of today is see here is living proof that a lie cannot defeat the truth even when it seems like the lie is winning and people are believing the lie. Satan continually lies about the love of Christ but people were continually being drawn to the love of Christ and then there's the lie of evolution but it's continually being crushed in defeated by the gospel of Jesus Christ and here we see people lying about Paul but now here we are 2000 years later reading the life of Paul the one who God lifted up before us and says here is the man of truth that I chose to convey my truth and here we are 2000 years later we know the name of Paul and the words of Paul but whoever these liars were they have all perished and have no legacy and they have no heritage to be remembered except that they were defeated by their own lie.

The man Paul endured the lies and Christian we're being told to put off lying and to put on truth and what I want to share with you in power today is that you have to put off the lie that's being told about you that people are putting onto you and don't wear their lie about you but you put on the truth that God speaks about you because too many people let the lies that people speak about them be their whole life and they then become burdened underneath of the lie and God is speaking to you today to put off lying and put on truth because Christian the new man is in Christ and the new man is created in true righteousness

Ephesians 4:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Satan is father of Lies

And just remember this when lies come your way and people tried to put the garment on you remember who is the father of all lies and so remember where this lie is being birthed from even if the lie is coming from people who profess to be born again Christians they can still be deceived into buying the lie themselves so I say again to you put offline don't let people and there lies burden and wear on you cast him off and put on the new man who is in truth and be set free because the truth will set you free.

John 8:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

People Lie – because they are Lying to Themselves about Something

I think ultimately the reason people lie about other people because they're lying to themselves there's something that they don't want to recognize in themselves whatever it may be in so they can lie about someone else they can divert what they don't wanna own up to whatever that is

(v26-27) - Not to let anger cause to sin, and not to let sun go on your wrath (anger) / nor give the devil a foothold to work

Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Place to Say Timeout

Verse 26 says to be angry and do not sin. And so there's a place of wisdom in heated conversations, and I speak in relational matters, husband and wife, to take a time out to identify that with each other and then to withdrawal and say, "You know what? I just need a timeout." Because when you can't get out, you have nothing left to do but defend in many ways. And the person goes on the defensive and then everything escalates, and then it just continues on and the fuel is just getting thrown onto the fire. Wood, by the cords of wood, being put on the fire, but then here comes the gallons of gasoline to just explode this fire. So we take a time out and say, "Let me just have a time out, let me have a break."

But a key to that, is you have to set a time to return. So you can't just take a timeout and make it an indefinite. Anytime in a football game there's a timeout, there's a limit to the timeout, and then the person gets to go and make determination what they want to do, what's the situation, how best to handle the situation. Hopefully, in our case, how to let things simmer and come back to what we started with in the beginning of this Chapter Four, about lowliness, and gentleness, and peacefulness, and looking for unity. But then we come back after a timeout, just like in football, and then we pick back up and play this thing out.

But I'll just add to that, you don't have to play to win. You don't have to look to win every argument. You don't have to think that if you didn't win the argument that there's a great defeat and life's never going to be the same. There's a time to be where you just say, "It's better to reconcile than be right. How important is it for me to be right about this thing? Is this thing even important?" And many times when the timeout happens, you come back and go, "I don't even know why we got into this. This is so insignificant."

Ephesians 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

Don't Give Devil Foothold

Verse 27 says don't give the devil a place, foothold, to get in and do a work. And you know, anger can just be fuel to the fire, and the devil just needs to fan the flame to make it burn even more. I find it interesting that it's been calculated and observed that a person drives 20 miles an hour faster when they're angry. And so there's a physiological thing that's going on inside the body that makes the body run even higher and faster, and it wasn't meant to be used in such a way for relationships and people who love one another.

Sometimes it's just better to say, "You know what? I'm just going to forget it." And it's really what we're going to be called to do, to forgive, even when we're right, and just to let it go for the sake of unity. If two people do it, then you have two people who are building sweetness in unity. I believe God honors absolutely the person in the relationship who will take the low road. And you may feel like, "I always take the low road, I'm always the one who is yielding." God sees that and God will bless you and God will reward you because I believe what you're really doing is acting like Jesus, and He's going to honor you for such actions.

I'm reminded as it's told when these narrow trails in mountainous areas such as Peru, one person's coming down on a mule and the other person's coming up on a mule, they're leading the mule, and when they meet in the path, there's not enough room to go around. You've got a mountain on one side and cliff on the other. The way the impasse is solved, is one of the mules bows down onto its knees or belly, and the other mule walks over it to get past.

And sometimes that's just the place in relationships where we go, "You know what? I'm just going to bow down and I'm going to let the person, yeah, walk over me." But when you do it in a Christian marriage, and when you do it in Christ's love, God's going to be involved in it, and God's going to use it and work mightily through it. So take the low road, bow down. You may feel like you're getting walked over, but in reality, you're the one who is getting lifted up because the Lord's going to lift you up and He's going to honor you and He's going to protect you.

(v28) - Not to steal / but work honestly and give to help those in need

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Times Such as This – Who Can Help

Verse 28. We're going to talk more about work in Chapter Six. But definitely how fitting at times such as this, that those who are working and the opportunity to bless those who aren't. There's no rhyme or reason why this person is still working and this person's not. I just look at it as blessings of the Lord, those who are still working and then God gives opportunity. How do I bless my brother and sister who aren't working? How do I help them?

For many, as we watch this tribulation, any tribulation, it brings out the worst in many people, and it just, we see greed and futility at its max, but at the same time, it brings out the best in people. It's just an opportunity for people to exercise what's in their heart and they're like, "Where and how can I bless somebody?" And that's just the life of Christ that we talked about, looking to bless people.

Not Just Stop Stealing – but to Become Generous

Here's the effect Jesus has on a person. He doesn't just stop him from stealing, but He encourages him to be generous.

(v29) - Let no corrupt word proceed from mouth / but only speak word that build up and bless others

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Speak as Foreigners / Not Just What Don't Say – But Say (Gracious)

When I speak to people when I am in other countries, it doesn't take long to identify me as a foreigner. So too should our speech make us foreigners in this world. A Christian should be identified by what comes out of his or her mouth!... And not just that we refrain from gossip or profanity, but that grace covers our speech Do your words build up or tear down?

Some people like to take vulgar words and reformat them into a dumbed-down version of the original vulgarity, but all that truly happens is the Christian uses the derivative of the original, and feel like they are not cursing, but truly when the person hears the word they reinterpret the word back into the original vulgar word, and thus the Christian deceives themselves into thinking they are not speaking coarse or corrupt language.

New Man Speech is not Corrupt

Verse 29. This new man, the speech is not corrupt, it's perfect and pure. And some people, they find justification that they'd been hurt and they want to go tell others and they have their groups and they rally and they're saying, "I've been hurt. Let me tell you what happened." And then they talk about someone else, and so-called what they'd done, but really, they're not trying to gain a comfort or counsel over their hurt, what really they're doing is they're trying to destroy the person that hurt them, and they're going to try to tell as many people as possible.

T-H-I-N-K

In verse 29 we always use that word, "Think before we speak." Is it truthful? Is it helpful? Is it inspired? Is it necessary? Is it kind? We should be thinking this. It should be locked in our mind every time we think before we speak, and if it can't be all of those things, then we need to just say nothing.

Edification

Verse 29. Edification. If you recall, God gives the gifts for the equipping of the saints, for the edification of the saints, for the work of the ministry. So edifying builds up, but what corrupt speech does, it tears down.

Mercy & Grace Infused

Mercy and grace are infused together throughout the Scriptures. We're to impart grace back to the past study. People confuse being merciful with being gracious, and if you recall that study, we said some people can be merciful and say, "I'm not going to give you what you deserve." That's what mercy, it doesn't give what is deserved. But then that's where people end, and they don't give grace. God's always tying mercy and grace together. And grace is getting something that you don't deserve. So many people, "I'm not going to give you what you deserve. That's my wrath. That's my sharp tongue," and we can feel good about that and even spiritual, but then we miss that we're not being gracious. We're not going to give someone something that they don't deserve. A kind word, a loving word, a forgiving word that says, "It's okay."

Are you a grace-giver? Because if you are, grace edifies, and grace builds up. Do that in your home.

(v30) - Not to grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Don't Grieve – Points Back and Forward

Verse 30. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. This passage points back and forward. We are grieving the heart of God as we look back at these things of the world and of the old man, but it also looks forward to what grieving the Holy Spirit does, and that's Verse 31.

Quenching versus Grieving

Quenching the Spirit avoids doing what the Holy Spirit prompts you to do. Whereas, grieving the Spirit is the opposite - it's doing what God told you not to do.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

(v31-32) - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor (loud quarrelling), evil speaking, and malice be put away / but be kind and tenderhearted towards each other, forgiving one another.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

God Says Put it Away

Verse 31. Grieve the Holy Spirit: by bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking. All these things we justify when someone hurts us. Look, these things come out when someone hurts us, but these aren't the things that God intends us to be in the new person or to be grace-givers.

Malice

Verse 31. Malice is wishing, hoping, that something bad happens to the person. And when something does happen, many times people say, "See? God gave them what they deserve." We can feel good that some bad thing happened to them, and we can even justify it in the spirit saying, "See? God did it." Whereas we should grieve when bad things happen, when a brother and sister hurts. Because that's our brother and sister.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Psalm 133

Verse 32. When the brethren dwell together in unity, it's Psalm 133, how beautiful it is.

Psalm 133:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

From Mouth – Condition of Heart / Turn Over the Bottle

With social distancing we may be distant from many people but then with self-isolation we are now crammed into spaces it had no place to distance. And so many times when I find my heart irritable or my words sharp it's easy for me to justify it by saying it's because then but what the Lord says from the mouth precedes the condition of the heart so even with all of my justification I can look see what is being revealed is truly what's in my heart.

Matthew 15:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. ²⁰ These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

If I was to take a bottle or a container of something that was covered and I cannot see into it there's no telling what is inside the container until it is turned over till it is upset from its standing position that's what happens when things turn us over it's only revealing what's truly within us.

Paul's Up Ante – Just as Christ Forgave You

And there would be no problem if the verse ended here. O we should forgive! But look at Paul's qualifier... "just as God in Christ forgave you." That ups the ante! We should forgive one another as fully and freely as Jesus has forgiven us.

Verse 32. It's real simple. Why do we forgive? Because we've been forgiven.

2 Husbands - Historical

Two husbands were talking one day. One says to his buddy, "when my wife is mad she gets historical." His friend corrects him, "you mean hysterical". He said, "No, I mean historical. She dredges up the past."

Hey, Jesus forgive and forgets. He holds no grudges. Let's forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us.

And if you've never been forgiven by Jesus, understand how easy it is... you need to ask...

PTL for Upset Bottle – Now Great Physician can do Surgery on Me

When I am upset and turned over, and I see that what comes out is not gracious, kind, loving, forgiving, I am now face-to-face of who I am really am, and I give thanks to the Lord for the situation to upset and turn me over, so I can see there are things in me, that need to come out of me, that the old man is still living and having too much say in my life, and I can say ok Lord..... looks like I need to get into the Great Physicians' office and have You do some Holy surgery, so here I am, the diagnosis is clear, now what is the prescription for this. I need a revelation of a problem, I need a diagnosis of the problem, so to see a need for some Holy surgery. God has never failed to tell me directly here is what you need to do, not do, to address and correct this.

Conclusion / Every Revival – Prayer & Repentance

I like to study revivals of the past, and it is always noted that each revival was steeped in prayer, that prayer just became the natural outcome and byproduct of the revival; but read all revivals closely and you will see something else that was equally synonymous with prayer and that was repentance of sin, and a turning towards holiness.

2 Chronicles 7:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Outline

Outline: Do You Want to be Made New?

- The New Man – Walks Not, Thinks Not, as the Way of the World, but God (4:17-19)
- The New Man – Is Taught Not by the World, but by Christ (4:20-21)
- The New Man – Is by Choice, not by Compulsion (4:22-24)
- The New Man – Walks Different, Thinks Different, Speaks Different, Because he is Different (4:25-32)

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Chapter 5

Study Summary

Passage: Ephesians 5:1 – 7

Title: “You Have Been Bought with a Price – Therefore Glorify God in Your Body”

Summary: In our passage today we see one of the clearest callings in all the scripture of the calling upon the Christian; to imitate God, to love as God, a life offered up to God, and a life that glorifies God with our body (every word, every thought, and every action). Enter into this study only if you dare, for there will be no hiding from the clear calling that God put upon all those who say they are His!

Outline: “You Have Been Bought with a Price – Therefore Glorify God in Your Body”

- Glorify God by – Being Imitators of Him as dear Children (5:1)
 - Glorify God by – Walking in Love (5:2)
 - Glorify God by – Being a Living Sacrifice (a sweet-smelling aroma to Him) (5:2)
 - Glorify God by – Living in His Kingdom Today, with Him on the Throne (5:3-7)
- =====

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Today's Passage

Ephesians 5:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Title: "You Have Been Bought with a Price – Therefore Glorify God in Your Body"

Summary: In our passage today we see one of the clearest callings in all the scripture of the calling upon the Christian; to imitate God, to love as God, a life offered up to God, and a life that glorifies God with our body (every word, every thought, and every action). Enter into this study only if you dare, for there will be no hiding from the clear calling that God put upon all those who say they are His!

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Outline: "You Have Been Bought with a Price – Therefore Glorify God in Your Body"

- Glorify God by – Being Imitators of Him as dear Children (5:1)
- Glorify God by – Walking in Love (5:2)
- Glorify God by – Being a Living Sacrifice (a sweet-smelling aroma to Him) (5:2)
- Glorify God by – Living in His Kingdom Today, with Him on the Throne (5:3-7)

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Glorify God by – Being Imitators of Him as dear Children (5:1)

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Therefore

Verse one, we see a, "Therefore," that makes us ask that question, "What's it there for?" And it's pointing back to verse 32 of chapter four where we're told the heart of God. And the things to imitate would be the very things that we saw in verse 32, and that is kindness, tenderhearted, and forgiving. The very things that God is and does and gives is what we are to be and to extend and to give to others.

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV) ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Imitation Highest form of Flattery

Remind you that imitation is the highest form of flattery. And this isn't flattery to boost an ego because God doesn't need an ego boost, but it's a flattery in that we are saying, with honor, "Lord, I really want to be like you, just like you." That is honoring to the Lord. Have you ever considered how your life honors the Lord in your imitation of his heart and his ways and what he is like, not just to you, but onto others too.

As Children – Keep it Simple

Verse one. "As dear children," it says, "kids love to imitate their parents." So this is displayed so simply for us as we're told, unless you become as a little child, you cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Imitation is simply as the simplicity of a child. God keeps it so simple for us so we don't complicate it. We think somehow as we age we should become more complicated. But God is simply saying the opposite, "Just keep it simple." Always just keep it simple and you don't need to complicate it.

Christian – Means Christ-Like / Meant to Be Slur – Became Badge of Honor

Christian means Christlike. At the time of the writing, Paul's writing here, it was actually a mocking word as they would call. "Oh, aren't they little Christs?" That's what Christian meant, and it was a slur. It was a slapdown. It was disrespect. But when the believing Christians would hear them being called Christians, it became a badge of honor to them as it is today, if we truly hear it, as people say, "They're Christians." And people would carry it as an honor. "You mean, you think I'm like Christ? You think I'm acting like Christ? Wow. What a compliment." And we go away saying, "Wow, this is awesome," not in an ego boost or self-righteousness. We go away feeling full of honor. "Wow. Someone thinks that I'm acting like Christ. They see some resemblance of Christ in me. This is awesome."

We Often Wonder – Am I growing Spiritually?

So often we seem to struggle with how I am doing spiritually. Am I growing in Christ? Am I maturing, and we get three real quick cross checks that I can easily and quickly see how am I doing spiritually? Am I on course? Am I maturing in Christ or am I not maturing in Christ? And the three quick cross-checks are, am I kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving?

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV) ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

So how am I doing:

Kind. There's a kindness of God that we're to imitate, and it's a beautiful thing. And we're told in the scriptures, "It's your kindness that leads me to repentance," and I think that's true in relationships too. And if you're wondering why people aren't turning and responding to you, you have to look and go, "Am I being kind? Am I being tenderhearted?" That takes us back, the think before we speak. "Is it truthful? Is it helpful? Is it inspired? Is it necessary? Is it kind?" But it's the kindness that leads to repentance. Repentance means to turn and follow.

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Tenderhearted - I do want to just dwell on the, "The tenderhearted." That means literally the opposite of hardhearted. It means that we're a softhearted people. And when you experience God's tenderness and the tender heart of God, so soft and so sweet, anything but hard towards us, when you fully experience that, it makes your heart tender. And you become tenderhearted, and you start seeing people with a view of having compassion on them rather than a hardness towards them for what they've done and what they haven't done. But you just start to imitate God because you're just taking on the very nature of God when you see his tenderness. And all of these things, we can never be or have apart from experience them first and foremost and personally with God himself.

And I think in many relationships, because both aren't tenderhearted and both aren't being kind, it only can do one thing and that's produce and propagate the continual hardheartedness and the unkindness one towards another. But when one person will turn and just be kind and tenderhearted towards another, the other people will literally, especially in marriage relationships, they'll just melt. They'll be melted by the warmth and the love that's being

shown to them and the forgiveness that's extended to them. And I would say, "Try it. Try it for 30 days and see what happens in your relationship."

I'm reminded of the story of a pastor friend saying that a woman came into counseling, and he and his wife did the counseling. He said, "What I'd like you to do is, for the next 30 days, just do nothing but give love and kindness and tenderness. Don't say a harsh word. Don't respond with any type of hardness, and let's just see what happens. And then come back in 30 days, and then we'll talk about what you're saying here on this, that you want to separate and divorce." And so 30 days had passed and then 40, and then the pastor called and says, "Hey, I was expecting to hear back from you and to have our discussion about separation and/or possible divorce," to which the woman immediately said to him, "What? Are you out of your mind? We are absolutely madly in love. Why would we ever even consider separation or divorce?" To which the pastor and his wife just walked away from that call with such joy because they knew it really only took one to then open the floodgates of the love and the warmth.

It only took one to just be quiet and one to just love, and then the other started to respond. And then they started to connect again, and they started to be communing and being one together again. And God will do the same for you, but who will be the one that says, "You know what? For 30 days, I'm just going to be kind. I'm going to be tenderhearted, and I'm going to be forgiving"? Go ahead. Try it. I dare you. I know it is a cute and warm and even funny story.... but truly the calling right now for those who are hearing this study, as the Lord speaks to both of you (husband and wife), is that both of you need right now, to be kind towards each other, and tender (not hard hearted), and thirdly.... Forgiving.

Forgiving - And we forgive because we're forgiveness. Forgiveness means to send away. Yet in God's economy, forgiveness separates something. But in God's economy, the amazingness is then it unites. And only in God's economy could you send something away, separate and divide something that then would cause this sweetness and this unity and forgiveness. When we forgive one another and we send that offense away and don't claim it again and don't relive it again and make it a historical fact for the next argument, when we just send it away and let it be sent away from our heart, it's an amazing thing is it makes us one with that person. And that's only in God's economy.

Maybe Take For Granted – But we Forget

And again, before I move on, we know that God is forgiving, but maybe we take that for granted. We know that God is kind, and maybe we take that for granted. But when was the last time you considered how tenderhearted God is towards you and that person next to you? How long has it been since you really sat and go, "He is so tender towards me. He is so gentle. He is so warm towards me"? And if you can just dwell on that, you will be filled with a warmth and a compassion and a love that will be unspeakable when you consider how tenderhearted he is and how you move his heart. And of course, we need to consider that his tenderheartedness towards that brother or sister to the left or right of us in our real life and relationship, but his tenderness, it will make us tender, and as we become tender, we imitate him. As we imitate him, we bring him this total absolute honor by imitating him. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." You'll never be more like Christ than when you forgive by the way.

Glorify God by – Walking in Love (5:2)

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Walk in Love – And You will Imitate Christ

Back in chapter 4:1 we were told to walk worthy, and here in chapter 5 we are told what a worthy walk looks like, and that is to walk in love. God is love (1 John 4:8), and thus when we walk in love we are walking like (imitating) God. Jesus said I did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17), and Galatians says we fulfill the law when we love one another. Want to be like Jesus, want to imitate Jesus, walk in love, love your neighbor.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Matthew 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Galatians 5:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Glorify God by – Being a Living Sacrifice (a sweet-smelling aroma to Him) (5.2)

Sweet Aroma

A "sweet-smelling savour" refers to Leviticus 1–5, wherein we see the burnt offering, meal offering, and the peace offering—all called sweet-smelling offerings because their aroma was sweet to the Father. We all love the smell of BBQ, there is something about that smell that we say oh do you smell that, I love it. So, too, when you choose to follow Jesus' example by sacrificing your rights, by walking in love, the scent is sweet to the Father.

God gives us something physical, a word picture, to describe something spiritual. As we become living sacrifices, it is as a sweet incense rising up before Him, a sweet smell, an aroma that fills the whole throne. A sweetness that rises up to God and He says ohh do you smell that? That is my favorite smell.

As We Imitate Him – It Becomes a Sweet Aroma

Verse two says, "A sweet aroma and the way we imitate Christ comes up as a sweet aroma to him and imagine him as we're pleasing, as we're imitating, as we're honoring." It just comes up to him and it's that smell of sweetness and that's what the ultimate smell God's looking for, the sweetness because it's a fragrancy Christ gives off that brings life. How would you answer this question, my purpose for living is? And how you answer that question will determine how you'll live out verses three through seven the rest of our study today. But when you answer the question, "I live," and in First Peter 5:10, "to glorify Christ," when you make that your sole purpose for living, not to be the greatest Evangelist, not to be the greatest worker, not to be the greatest pastor, or you fill in those other areas, but when you say, "My sole purpose is to glorify Christ," then that will determine how the importance of other things will be in your life. Verse one says be imitators and it just makes me think of 1st Peter 5:10. My whole life has one goal, to bringing glory and I'm bringing glory by imitating him.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Peter 5:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Glorify God by – Living in His Kingdom Today, with Him on the Throne (5:3-7)

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Don't Let These Words be Named

Verse three through seven, we've got these words that they are directing Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit speaks very directly and he says, "These words of fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or coarse jesting, these type of things," he said, "don't even let them be named among you." Not even a hint. Let there be no gray in your life about these areas.

No More Gray

When I was in Bible college, the Lord laid it on my heart. "I want you to share the Gospel with every last person that you know." And it started out of doing it because of my passion for the lost, that they would know Christ. And that was a good reason, and it always is a good reason. And it must be a calling, "Go make disciples," must be a calling for us to do the work of an evangelist.

But as I wrote my letter and as I organized and brought it all together of what I was going to say, and it took me weeks if not months to put together the whole flow of what I wrote, and you can pretty much read that on our webpage today if you go and look at What is the Meaning of Life? That's pretty much the exact letter that I wrote

25 years ago to everyone that was in my life, family, friends, coworkers, people that I hadn't seen in years, but I had a connection with.

As I wrote it and brought the clarity of the gospel, one of the things that came to my revelation as I was doing it, and then it became my campaign name, if you would, I called it No More Gray. I said, "When they get this letter, there will be no more gray. There will be no doubt exactly who I am, what I think, and what I'm living for."

It was also a place for me, there is no going back. Once you send this letter, it's going to divide a lot of people. They're going to think you're a nut. They're going to think you're a religious fanatic. Some of them are going to think you are over the edge with all of this Jesus stuff. That would be no more gray, for sure. But the other part is, the no more gray would be, there could be no more gray in my life. There would be no, "Well, he says this, but I'm noticing he's doing that." When I went out and I made that public declaration and I made that campaign of No More Gray, it was also a very clear statement for myself, you cannot live in any type of compromise. You can't even give a hint of anything that would resemble it. If there's anything that's even close to it in your life, you need to totally get on the other side so nobody can sit and go, "I thought he said ... " So he gives us these words that aren't even to be mentioned, not even a hint, not even a scent of them in our lives

Bought with Price

Beloved.....You have been bought with a price, and you no longer own your body, and therefore it is not for you to give away, or take for in sexual union except what the Lord says is permissible, and that is in the bounds of marriage, between a man and a woman.

*Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)*²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Same for Abortion

And let me say this, for those Christians who say abortion is up to them because it is their body and it is for nobody to tell them what to do with it. It is not your body, you gave up your body when you asked Christ to take ownership of you. This isn't my opinion, that I am stating, it is the word of God.

*1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NKJV)*¹⁸ *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.* ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* ²⁰ *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Sexual Language

The filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting here in verse 4 are related to the fornication, uncleanness, and coveting of verse 3. Anyone watching culture knows that what once caused people to blush is now nothing but a joke because our culture has become totally desensitized.

Dirty Talk – Throw Mud on You – Stain You / Plants Thoughts in Mind

Filthy language, or you get an email that turns out to have a dirty joke behind it, when I hear it is like someone threw mud on me, I feel dirtied by it. Foolish talking, filthy talking, coarse jesting.... Does not edify but diminishes. Those jokes and words plant thoughts in the mind of the hearer that should just not be planted. For those thoughts are seeds that can take root and grow, and rather build up and strengthen, they tear down and diminish, even destroy.

*Ephesians 4:15–16 (NKJV)*¹⁵ *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Give Thanks

Verse four says to give thanks.

- Do you want a deliverance from covetousness? Give thanks. That's a cure for it. He's telling us what not to be, but he's also telling us the cure for it. If you struggle with pornography, which is coveting, you're not content with where you're at, give thanks for your spouse and watch how you have a new passion for

them. As you give thanks for what you do have, God will give you a passion for what you do have. Then you'll find that you'll not want something other than what God has gifted you, and you'll be thankful for having it. If you're not married, let it not even be mentioned among you these things such as pornography. That's what fornication, the root word is pornography. It doesn't just have to be a physical act, it's very well what's going on in the mind or in the movies before the eyes. But it's not even to be mentioned among you. But if you are living in fornication, if you are living having relations before marriage, if you're living together and you even say, "But we're not having relations," well, the world looks and says, "Yeah, sure." Because the world's going to put you in their category. It's not to be even mentioned. No more gray, not even a hint of it. The Bible tells us to abstain from all appearances. Anything that even looks like evil, we're to abstain from it.

- But you want power, you singles? Abstain and give thanks. I know it's hard to do. I know it's hard to be single, but give thanks and say, "Lord, you know what? Thank you for giving me this opportunity to honor you with purity. May it come up to you as a sweet smelling aroma unto you. I will deny myself and make myself a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1,2 for you," and you give thanks for having the ability to be in a position to abstain, to be put in the position of being a single man, a single woman, and to live pleasing unto the Lord. And as you do, you're going to find power in it, by giving thanks for being single and in this position.
- Are you unhappy with your job, your income, and you're coveting for more? Give thanks for the income that you do have. Give thanks for the money that you do have, the roof over your head, and you'll find yourself not being discontented at work and carrying it over into the workplace. You'll walk into the workplace, if you're fortunate enough to have a job as 30 million Americans now don't because of this coronavirus, if you've got a job, you can walk in and say, "Thank you for giving me this employment, Lord. Let me earn my pay and let me be a sacrifice, a living sacrifice that the world can look and see a man who is working as unto the Lord." As we studied last week, and then give thanks for the ability that you can help others who don't have.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

No Inheritance in the Kingdom of God

Verse five, we see cross-references in Galatians and 1 Corinthians 6, that God says what he means and he means what he says, and those who habitually live in this lifestyle will not inherit the kingdom of God. Period. You can argue day and night over doctrine. You can go and get onto the foolish talk about these things of once saved, always saved or elect and chosen and predestined and all those type of things, but God comes here, and he shuts all those arguments down, and he simply comes and says, "Don't be deceived."

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Corinthians 6:15–20 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "*the two*," He says, "*shall become one flesh.*" ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Kingdom is Where the King Is

The Kingdom of Heaven is now and so hence the great confusion that people are always looking forward to some day after death. The Kingdom of Heaven is always where the King is and the King is walking among us. And not just among our church, but walking among our very being as he promised to take up residence and live within us. So the Kingdom of Heaven living is living it now, not later.

Luke 17:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

In fact, God's word is so clear and so blunt that it says, "If you're not living for the Kingdom of Heaven now, you will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven then."

5:1-7 Set base for (Marriage – Children – Work – Warfare)

These things that we cover in this passage today, if we fail in them, we will fail in these areas. They get so much more focus than this passage does in the Book of Ephesians. Your marriage will not prosper if you fail in this area of today's passage. Your child rearing will not prosper if you fail in this area of the passage today. And chapter six, the most quoted spiritual warfare passage, you will not fight in power if you are failing in this passage today, because fornication and pornography robs marriages. And covetousness will rob work because you will not be working unto the Lord, but working unto a selfish desire, and you will not go into the battle of spiritual warfare with power when you are living in compromise. We cannot ignore the things we put into a compartment and justify and then think that those compartments will not affect us in the big picture. They will. They do. And that's why today's passage is so vital.

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Confirmation – Don't be Deceived

Verse six and seven confirms that. "Don't be deceived with empty words."

Everyone Jesus Called – He Said Follow Me

Everyone Jesus calls, he says to follow me. Look through all the gospel accounts and say, follow me. That's synonymous now as we follow him as a Lord, we follow him by imitating his desire as King. The English word *mimic* comes from the Greek term for "followers" (mimetai). When Jesus says follow Me..... He is saying also... imitate me.

Matthew 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 9:9 (NKJV) ⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

Concluding Prayer

Outline: "You Have Been Bought with a Price – Therefore Glorify God in Your Body"

- Glorify God by – Being Imitators of Him as dear Children (5:1)
- Glorify God by – Walking in Love (5:2)
- Glorify God by – Being a Living Sacrifice (a sweet-smelling aroma to Him) (5:2)
- Glorify God by – Living in His Kingdom Today, with Him on the Throne (5:3-7)

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 5:7-21

Study Summary

Passage: Ephesians 5:7-21

Title: “3 Simple Steps to Imitate God”

Summary: The word walk means, as applied here in our context is, “the manner of living, the state in which one is living, the way of behaving, conducting oneself, how moving about, and it was even used at the time of this writing to mean “how occupying self”. So here in our passage today, the Lord tells us how those who follow (mimic – imitate Him) are to walk, conduct, occupy themselves. So the question before we begin is..... How much and to what degree do you want to mimic/imitate God, how closely do you want to imitate Him, be like Him, conformed into His image.

Outline - “3 Simple Steps to Imitate God”

1. Walk in Love (v2)
2. Walk in Light (v3-14)
3. Walk in Wisdom (v15-21)

=====

Today’s Passage

Ephesians 5:1–21 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them. ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴ Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven

- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Here in chapter 5 we have three callings on how we are to walk,

Outline - “3 Simple Steps to Imitate God”

1. Walk in Love (v2)
2. Walk in Light (v3-14)
3. Walk in Wisdom (v15-21)

But first lets refresh where we were in our last study, that vital and foundational passage of verse 1. Make Ephesians 5:1 a life verse, a foundation for your Christian life, and you basically have a summation of the calling of how the Christian life is to be lived.... Daily.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Everyone Jesus Called – He Said Follow Me

Everyone Jesus calls, he says to follow me. Look through all the gospel accounts and say, follow me. That's synonymous now as we follow him as a Lord, we follow him by imitating his desire as King. The Englis word *mimic* comes from the Greek term for “followers” (mimetai). When Jesus says follow Me..... He is saying also... imitate me.

Matthew 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 9:9 (NKJV) ⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

The calling here to be imitators of God as dear children just keeping it real simple childlike in the calling comes with three ways to walk will see in this study today

Outline - “3 Simple Steps to Imitate God”

4. Walk in Love (v2)
5. Walk in Light (v3-14)
6. Walk in Wisdom (v15-21)

The word walk means, as applied here in our context is, “the manner of living, the state in which one is living, the way of behaving, conducting oneself, how moving about, and it was even used at the time of this writing to mean “how occupying self”. So here in our passage today, the Lord tells us how those who follow (mimic – imitate Him) are to walk, conduct, occupy themselves.

So the question before we begin is..... How much and to what degree do you want to mimic/imitate God, how closely do you want to imitate Him, be like Him, conformed into His image.

First of all because He is worthy to be honored by living as He calls us to live, and to which He is not requiring us to live any different than He lived, as He showed us and declared to us it can be done. My will is to do the will of the Father. And secondly, when we walk it out, there is a joy that is ours that comes with it. Many Christians are joyless, many are stuck where they have been for 5-10-15-20 years never treading into the joy that is promised by God (regardless of life and world circumstances), and..... For those who have and are tasting and enjoying the joy of the Lord, there is still more to be had. Remember Jesus' first miracle, it was at a wedding (how fitting as every marriage needs a miracle at some point), but what was the miracle, he turned water into wine, and the point to be seized..... He saved the best until last. There is still so much joy to be had, and we can have more today than yesterday, and so we need to answer the question before we begin, so our hearts are open to hear and receive this word today

John 15:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

And really walking is something is easy in the sense, that we simply walk by putting one foot in front of the other. Walking is a step-by-step thing, therefore I have three easy thoughts with every step that I take, with every step I can ask myself am I walking in love, am I walking in the light, and am I walking in wisdom.

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Walk in Love (v2)

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

An Offering – To So Give We Will do Whatever it Takes for Him – To be Pleasing and Like Him

v.2 An offering and a sacrifice is something that is totally given and set apart for someone else. Something that is set apart to please another. To imitate God, then is for us to imitate Christ, thus In this chapter and these verses God will call us to give of ourselves so freely that we will do whatever it takes for Him. Sanctification means to be set apart,

When we pray, asking God to sanctify us, are we prepared to measure up to what that really means? We take the word sanctification much too lightly. Are we prepared to pay the cost of sanctification? The cost will be a deep restriction of all our earthly concerns, and an extensive cultivation of all our godly concerns. Sanctification means to be intensely focused on God's point of view. It means to secure and to keep all the strength of our body, soul,

and spirit for God's purpose alone. Are we really prepared for God to perform in us everything for which He separated us? And after He has done His work, are we then prepared to separate ourselves to God just as Jesus did? "For their sakes I sanctify Myself . . ." (John 17:19). The reason some of us have not entered into the experience of sanctification is that we have not realized the meaning of sanctification from God's perspective. Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the nature that controlled Him will control us. Are we really prepared for what that will cost? It will cost absolutely everything in us which is not of God.

John 17:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Are we prepared to be caught up into the full meaning of this verse – to be imitators of God? Are we prepared to say, "Lord, make me, a sinner saved by grace, as holy as You can"? Jesus prayed that we might be one with Him, just as He is one with the Father (John 17:21-23) The resounding evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is the unmistakable family likeness to Jesus Christ, and the freedom from everything which is not like Him. Are we prepared to set ourselves apart for the Holy Spirit's work in us? (1 Thessalonians 5:23). "May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely . . ."

John 17:20–23 (NKJV) ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Story of Giving Blood – author unknown: Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies, needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liz." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and he looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood.

Walk in Light (v3-14)

Next – Clarifying Difference Between Love and Lust

So the Lord is going to clarify and make very clear and differentiate the world's definition of love and his definition of love therefore what we will have here is the difference between love and lust. This is very fitting and applicable that this is discussed first before we get into the discussion of relationships that lead to marriage as God intended marriage to be and that is a marriage based on love.

We are called to Walk as children of light

We will look at 2 things that Light does, so that we may walk as "children of light."

1. Light Divides
2. Light Displays

1. Light Divides

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Signs / Detour – Keep Us From Imitating God

God is talking to believers: When we see the sign that says road work ahead, expect delays, we do whatever it takes to avoid that road. The reason we go around is because we don't like to wait, we don't like the delay, we don't want to be delayed from our final destination. God is telling us here are detours that we keep us from being imitators of God, and walking in the light. God is speaking to us that the Light is to reveal what we need to divide from, and separate from.

What to Do When in Trouble (Climb – Communicate – Confess – Conform)

Remember forgiveness? God forgives, don't let past failures keep you from becoming all that God wants you to be. What do we do when we blow it? In aviation pilots when they encounter trouble, they are told to do four things. ***Climb, communicate, confess, and conform***. Gain altitude, the higher the safer. Communicate their problem to air traffic control, they have a picture of the whole sky, while they only have a picture of what is in front of them. Confess, I need help, this is no time to be prideful. Conform, adjust your heading to two, zero, niner.....altitude 30,000,.

Climb: Remember we are seated in the heavenlies.

Communicate: Papa I need you.

Confess: If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive them (1 John 1:9)

Conform: Repent, I was wrong, your word is a lamp unto my feet. Lord help me to walk in your ways.

Walking in light means God wants to separate us from the world, sanctify us, set us apart. To do so, He will use light. The light proves things, it makes known what is acceptable.

Navy Seals (Decisiveness, Aggressiveness, and Ruthlessness)

I read an article regarding an elite military strike force, and they said they have a 3-word battle plan, 3 words they live by. Decisiveness, Aggressiveness, and Ruthlessness. They know the plan, and there is no changing it once they enter into the battle. They will be on the offense, and they kill or be killed, no prisoners.

Decisiveness – you have to decide now. God said it, that settles it. Why we have to think anymore about it is foolish. Don't prayer about repenting.....repent. This is where you have to take your thought life into captivity. You have to decide I am not going to let this in my life anymore, and as soon as the thought pops into your mind, you say I am not going to entertain this thought for one second. (2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV) Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

Aggressiveness – you have to deal with it in an aggressive, offensive manner. Christians for some reason want to be defensive. So then we are always reacting to the attacks. Reacting leaves us as the responder. In all military battles an offensive is always the battle plan. We went into Afghanistan with an offensive plan, had we waited who knows how much more damage they would have done on this country. Be aggressive, don't wait another day.....Today.

When you are sick of the sin, then God can deal with it. But as long as you still enjoy it.....there is nothing God can do cause He will not violate your free will. The second plague upon Egypt was frogs. The word said that frogs covered the land. This plague was directed at Pharaoh and the Egyptian people for enslaving the children of Israel. The hard heart of the Pharaoh would not let them go. But finally Pharaoh called Moses, and said all right, enough, ask your God to take them away. Moses said I will intercede for you, tell me when. Then Pharaoh said one of the most amazing quotes in the Bible, "Tomorrow." Basically.....give me one more night with the frogs, let me be in charge, the King of my land, one more night, even though I'm just king over the frogs.

Exodus 8:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ *Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."* ⁹ *And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in*

the river only.”¹⁰ So he said, “Tomorrow.” And he said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.

Ruthlessness – Ruthlessness, a word you won’t hear much in the church. With all of our “Jesus Loves you, and God Bless you”, we get too wimpy and weak-kneed, sometimes Christians are too nice. When it comes to sin, we are not called to be nice. Sin cannot be negotiated with, nor compromises made. It has to be utterly wiped out. Also, if there is someone in your life that is bringing you down into sin, this isn’t the place to worry about hurting his or her feeling. This isn’t the place to worry what people are going to think about you.

If you see the power in you, then nothing can overpower you and defeat you. If you are in bondage to anything it is not that you need more power, but that you failed to use the power already available to you. You don’t need a program, you need the person – Jesus Christ

(Ephesians 3:20 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Again, you don’t fall into purity, you have to purpose it. Do you want a fresh work of God in your life. Purpose to meet God in the morning and not leave until He speaks to you. Unfortunately we have competition, laziness and unbelief. Get up in the morning and spend time in the word and prayer.

2. Light Displays

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Ephesians 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

We Called Into the Marvelous Light / Christmas – Put on the Light Show

(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Light Show: stringing lights on Christmas. We don’t do all that work to not plug them in. That certain house at Christmas where everybody slows down to look at them.

(Isaiah 60:1 NKJV) Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

(Isaiah 60:2 NKJV) For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

(Isaiah 60:3 NKJV) The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Ephesians 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Expose - Reprove

(Expose – Reprove) - elegecho, el-eng'-kho; to confute, admonish:--convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.

Not only are we not to go along with them – partakers – we are to turn the tables on the situation, and give God glory. If they are believers they need to be corrected, back to last study on telling truths. Chuckling at a dirty diddy is going along with it. Do what the Lord is telling you to do. Don’t worry about being popular, cause you are not as popular as you think you are. Do what the Lord is telling you to do and you’ll find that you will gain respect. There has to be a balance, we can’t be judgmental sin sniffers, but also can’t let it go unchecked.

In the work place, at the ball field, with the unsaved. Get up and walk away from the dirty joke or conversation. People ask me if I heard this joke, I always say will it hurt my ears....that usually stops it there.

If something is blurted out in conversion that is crude I turn the table. I'll say that reminds me when I was in the mission field, or I'll say I am so glad for my wife, or God has been so good to me, I'd probably be dead by now if I continued as I was several years ago. I let the light shine/display when someone tries to cast darkness upon me.

Ephesians 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

Awake You Sleeper – Too Many are Slumbering

Wake-up, quit sleeping we are slumbering in these last days. There are so many men, who could have radically changed the world around them, but they fall into a slumber of the world, they become infected with the things with the things we have talked about...joking, jesting.

Walk in Wisdom (v15-21)

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Looking Around / Precision & Accuracy / Can't Leave Christian Life to Chance

Circumspectly. Circumspect comes from two Latin words which mean "looking around." The Greek word carries the idea of precision and accuracy. See that you walk "carefully, with exactness", is the meaning. Watching where you walk, looking for stumbling blocks. We cannot leave the Christian life to chance. We must make wise decisions and seek to do the will of God.

Awake, don't be sleep walking, don't miss out on all the opportunities before us.

Not as fool, but wise - When a sailor does not know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind. An associated word for circumspectly, is circle, we need to be looking all around as we walk. Look at prophecy's of Israel, look how close we are. Look at all the people around us who are a part of our daily lives. Watch, look around the days are evil

Ephesians 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Evil Days

Verses 16 - because the days are evil - Evil days, at the time Paul writes this Israel is under and in just 10 years Jerusalem will be utterly wiped out by the Roman army. Titus will take the Roman Army and encircle the city, so no one could escape, then go in slaughter the Jews to what one historian said made the streets flow with blood.

Redeeming the Time

Verses 16 - redeeming the time - Time, our most valuable resource.

"All my possessions for a moment of Time" Queen Elizabeth 1, last words.

We haven't the time to take our time - Eugene Ionesco.

We only have so much time left to make an impact on our children. We only have so much time left to love one another, why waste it on petty bickering and arguing. I remember what my football coach in high school said, if it is not going to affect your life five years from now, don't worry about. I think that is good advice when we get upset, ask ourselves, what effect will this have on my life 5 years from now.....in most cases that should put things in perspective on how small the issue really is.

We only have so much time left to tell loved ones, and those around us that it is appoint unto man to die once, then comes the judgment.

The days we live in are evil.....just look around - walk circumspectly.

God's Will for Us – Is to Be Filled with the Spirit

Here is God's will for our lives.....be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit is a command here, and He expects us to obey.

First notice the contrast, he puts two things in opposition, one to another. Drunkenness with wine, and filled with the Spirit. The point here isn't about drinking so much, rather it is about being controlled by anything other than God. He could have said do not be filled with lust, or chase after money, or seek power. In the Bible "filled with" means "controlled by."

- They were filled wrath (Luke 4:28) means they were controlled by wrath and for that reason tried to kill Jesus.
- The Jews were filled by envy (Acts 13:45) means that the Jews were controlled by envy and opposed the ministry of Paul and Barnabas.
- To be filled with the Spirit means to be constantly controlled by the Spirit in our mind, emotions and will.

Filled with Word = Filled with Spirit

It seems that today in the church we have over-complicated the whole matter of being filled with the Spirit. So much so that many people have given up, thinking they could never or will never be filled with the Spirit. Being filled is simple: we ask (Luke 11:11-13), and then..... Colossians, chapter 3: 16.

Turn to the Epistle to the Colossians, chapter 3: 16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Notice the effect there of the Word of Christ dwelling richly in the soul. Then turn back to Ephesians and read these verses again. Do you observe that you get the exactly the same results in Colossians when the Word of Christ dwells in you richly that you get in Ephesians when you are filled with the Spirit? What then is the inference? There is an old rule in mathematics that "things equal to the same thing are equal to one another." If to be filled with the Word is equal in result to being filled with the Spirit, then it is clear that the Word-filled Christian is the Spirit-filled Christian. As the Word of Christ dwells in us richly, controls all our ways, as we walk in obedience to the Word, the Spirit of God fills, dominates, and controls us to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, if you would be filled with the Spirit and you know of anything in your life which is contrary to the Word of God, if you are tolerating anything in your private life which is contrary to the Word of God, if there is anything in your outward associations, in your behavior before the world that is contrary to His Word, go into His presence, confess your sins, sins of omission, sins of commission, deal with it all before Him, and when everything has been uncovered and faced in His presence, dare to believe that He means what He says when He declares, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1: 9). And now, seek grace from Him to walk in obedience to His truth, cry out from the depths of your heart as the Psalmist did, "Order my steps in Thy Word" (Ps. 119: 133), and as you walk on in obedience to the Word of God, you will be filled with the Spirit.

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 119:133 (NKJV) ¹³³ Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Paul doesn't say anything about speaking in tongues or raising the dead. But gives us three evidences that we are filled with the Spirit. Verses 19-21, the Spirit filled believer will be joyful, thankful, and submissive. It is all three of these that will bring harmony into every relationship. Apply these to your marriage, your child upbringing, and employment, and God will do a great work in every area.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Speaking to One Another

Oh the power of the tongue and the way we are to speak to one another.

Foolish Talking

Foolish talking in this passage is related to and tied to sexual context. But this word "foolish" as it is used elsewhere in scriptures is worth discussing here.

Verse four, talking the foolish talk makes me think of Titus 3:9, also the foolish disputes that are talked about. The church is greatly divided over so many things that no one can truly answer, that people want to argue doctrines in the scriptures that even the scriptures themselves don't absolutely say a verse that says what the arguments about. You'll never find a verse in the Bible that says once saved, always saved. There's not even a verse that says you can lose your salvation. Lose means to something comes by accident. Yet for 2,000 years, church has argued back and forth and disputed, divided, friendships have ended. Churches have been divided. Some churches have even found themselves imploded and that they didn't survive the division that happened.

Ephesians 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Titus 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

Yet there's not one verse that clearly held the position and yet people fought it and held it like it was. They quoted things as if they were quoting scriptures, but there's no scripture specifically to say such a thing. The church argues over and over and over and the very thing that they can argue about, election, salvation, predestination, justification, all these words that are meant to bring salvation, oneness, communion, end up bringing division and destruction, totally opposite what the word very is intended to mean.

But here's Paul in our passage today, he is preaching and teaching to build a united body of Christ and a purified body of Christ, and that's individually for each individual and corporately for each church. This is what Paul is doing in this conversation, in this teaching, and hence one of the things of the foolish talking that I'm talking about is the foolish disputes.

It's not that the topic is foolish because those topics aren't foolish. If you're following my thread that I'm building here, it's not that the topic is foolish, it is the division that people allow them to become that is foolish. Foolish as in the devil has found the foothold and he has made it a point of division and the people who have bought into it have played the fool, and therefore that's what makes the talk foolish. Because we can find ourselves playing the fool pulled by the puppeteer, the devil. As I say, if in the end you were right but it destroyed a relationship, a family, friendship, even destruction to the body of Christ, was it worth it to be right? Was your point that worth it to be right?

While there is never lacking of things for the church body to dispute and maybe the church isn't disputing and arguing over doctrines of the election and justification and predestination and the likes, but today the mask or no mask, it's the flu or it's not the flu, it's the faith over fear or wisdom with works and it goes on and on. Here we are. Everybody thinks they know everything about what's happening, but so many things, like we have said, scratches of surface for the depths of something that is beyond even the greatest scientists in the world, and yet here again, my case that I make is it's foolish talk.

Churches, families, Christians are being divided over the topic. Meet or not to meet, masked or not or masked. All of these things, Satan once again has said, "Okay, well they're not arguing about doctrine right now, but I'll get them to argue over this and as long as they are divided, they won't be united. As long as they're not united, they'll never be able to conquer anything that they're trying to battle." But when a church is united and a church then goes out and that's when a church conquers, that's when the church goes and shows its power and that's the same whether it's relationships or churches or marriages.

What I say about that, especially in these conversations talking about foolish talk is we're all guilty of it. Everybody thinks they know everybody. So people speak at, but not to people. People hear a few statements from someone then they build a whole house out of it thinking they know every detail of the room of the house of that person, and really all they have reached is the front door of the house. The door's just been open. They don't know anything else that's inside the house, but because they are in the house and because they got a few statements, they feel like they know everything about that person.

So then they don't even hear anything that the person says. They've already preconceived, prejudged and predetermined what that person thinks, where they are and all that's going on in their mind and that's whether with the coronavirus or whether it's with some doctrine or some relationship, but you know what, when the door's open and someone allows you in, the next thing is can I come in and can I sit down in your living room and can I have a cup of coffee with you, and ask you what do you think about this and why. I'm not here to judge you. I'm not here to correct you. I didn't come to tell you something that I think you should believe because you need to believe what I believe because I know better than anyone.

What we need to do is simply come and say..... Sso where do you think and stand on this? Okay. I think there's a place where we go, "I'm not here to judge and challenge. I mean, obviously we all have our own opinions and thoughts on the matter, but I do like to hear yours and, but in the end we'll let God prove himself out. So the things that we fully don't know about, we'll trust the Lord in." But then we just sit and we ask them, just speak. Because you know what? You might find out stuff that you totally misread and misconceived from that person because you never really knew their heart. You heard a couple of statements and then you build a whole house out of it and that's not the house that person's living in.

I think that applies to every area of our life and I think has a place in our marriages that are so important and vital is we need to be curious and we need to be curious about the person, about the way they think, what's going on in their life. Again, you can make some assumptions about people, it could even be your spouse, but if you're not curious, they go, "Why do they think the way they think or even stop to just consider maybe I don't even know how they truly think?" And you just sit and you have a conversation and then you find out that some of the things that's going on in their life is because of things that happened in the past, or things that are happening in the person's life you don't even know about right now. You don't know the situation of their family dynamic or what's going on in their life financially or what's going on in their life from a health standpoint, and of course, what's going on in their life are relational and those things will determine very much their way of thinking. There's just a place to be curious and stop being the talker and to be a listener and hear the person's heart. That would reduce a lot of the vision and foolish talk because Satan just goes, "If I can get people to buy it and especially the church, I'll conquer them. They'll never be united with the strength that conquer me."

And see what ultimately comes out of sitting and hearing people's heart and saying, "Tell me what you think. What's your thought process on the matter?" What ultimately comes out is you've given respect to the person and when you give respect to the person you're giving value to the person. When you're giving value to the person, then the person feels honored and they feel equal and then what you have here is just where we go, this tender hearted, warmth, communion together.

But what happens in foolish disputes, division most likely, most often, and the person whether we realize it or not, the person feels disrespected or at the minimum devalued. And for us we can come with my opinion is superior, therefore, you are inferior, lesser for me, and then that starts to carry over into all the relationships again where people elevate themselves. And by doing so that means they put people under them and there won't be a united union together.

The danger of devalue in someone is you look at them and go, "They don't have the faith that I have. They don't have the wisdom that I have." But here's what seems to be for sure. They probably don't have the love that you have, because love is patient and love is going to be kind and love's going to look to elevate and not separate and diminish.

But ultimately, in and all and through it all, everybody's looking right now, this is a sidebar note on solutions to all these questions, answers to all the problems. And that is true, but as we read Job and his life and the trials that he went through and he's getting quoted maybe more than any other book of the Bible for the last six weeks here in this country and world, Job didn't get answers when God finally spoke. What Job did get was he got a person. And though God didn't answer one of Job's questions, Job came to peace because Job met the person. And for us the answer isn't always what to do and how to do it, the answer is always the same answer for every question. Jesus is the answer. And when we get to Jesus then the other stuff will come into place. But Jesus has to be the answer first then everything else will make it sense along the way.

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Spirit Filled – Will be Givers of Thanks

A Spirit-Filled believer will be a giver of thanks.

How does a grateful heart promote harmony in the house? For one thing the sincerely grateful person realizes that he is enriched because of others, which is the mark of humility. The person who thinks that the world owes him is never thankful for anything. The thankful heart is a humble heart, a heart that gladly acknowledges God as the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

James 1:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Marriage Key – Thanks Givers / Stop Focusing on Negative

Giving Thanks is a marriage key. We have such a tendency to focus on the negatives, and we rob ourselves of all the positives, and all the blessings to be thankful in our marriage.

We need to make giving thanks a habit and lifestyle. Everyday acknowledging to God the reasons to be thankful. Giving Thanks daily, will ward off being ungrateful.

How often we focus on the 1 negative, rather than giving thanks for the 99 positives. We always think that one negative if changed will make everything perfect. But the fact is that soon enough we will find another negative. When I can focus on the positives, when I think of reasons to be thankful, my spirits are always lifted because I see how rich I truly am in Christ, and all the blessings He has given us. This takes us all the back to Ephesians 1:3 and the whole theme of this Book...(Ephesians 1:3 NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

The Word Dominates Our Actions

Here we are all called to submit one another, but then the next verse wives are called to submit to husbands. Very IMPORTANT..... This verse differs from the next in this manner: A Spirit-Filled, Word-Filled Christian is always to be subject to the Word of God. In all of our dealings with each other, the Word dominates what are actions are to be....it doesn't matter who is in authority. Husband/wives, parent/child, employer/employee, the word dictates what is correct. The next verse, wives submitting, is the order of the home as established by God.

Conclusion

Outline - "3 Simple Steps to Imitate God"

1. Walk in Love (v2)
2. Walk in Light (v3-14)
3. Walk in Wisdom (v15-21)

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 5:22-24

Title: Submitting to One Another in Love

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 5:18–33 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

To Many Jump to Marriage Chapter 5 / Missing 1:1 – 5:21

Well unfortunately many churches, many marriage conferences start their marriage teaching and counseling at verse 22 (wives submit to your husbands), and then goes to verse 25 (husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church), all the while the problem being that if you do not know, have not made it part of your very being (chapter one verse one, all the way to chapter 5 verse 21, you cannot and will not succeed and prosper in Ephesians 5:22-33.

To succeed and prosper in your marriage regarding the teachings of 5:22-33, the husband must know chapters 1-3, who is God and what does He think of me, and the wife must know chapters 1-3, who is God and what does He think of me.

And maybe you are single and happy to be, and you say this passage has no application for me, on the contrary the word the Lord has for you today speaks a word that before you say "I do", you need to be willing to make the necessary sacrifice of all that is being asked of you for marriage, and say "I will".

Also let me just say that every last person, regardless of age and circumstance, and that is that marriage between a man and a woman is a picture of God's relationship with those who will say "I do" to His offer, and hence why it must be protected at all cost. As I spoke about "hills to die on" last week, the definition and picture of marriage that God has established in His Word, is "a hill to die on". Regardless what is popular in culture, regardless of how the world and society is leaning, we as followers of Jesus Christ, must not compromise, nor waiver, on God's definition and requirement for marriage. For literally, the Gospel is at stake.

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Ephesians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:18 NKJV) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

God's Will – Be Controlled by Holy Spirit

Here is God's will for our lives.....be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit is a command here, and He expects us to obey.

First notice the contrast, he puts two things in opposition, one to another. Drunkenness with wine, and filled with the Spirit. The point here isn't about drinking so much, rather it is about being controlled by anything other than God. He could have said do not be filled with lust, or chase after money, or seek power. In the Bible "filled with" means "controlled by." They were filled wrath (Luke 4:28) means they were controlled by wrath and for that reason tried to kill Jesus. The Jews were filled by envy (Acts 13:45) means that the Jews were controlled by envy and opposed the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. To be filled with the Spirit means to be constantly controlled by the Spirit in our mind, emotions and will.

Only Way to Live in Harmony – to be Controlled by Holy Spirit

The Lord will tell us, the only way to live in harmony with each other is by being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can walk in harmony as husbands and wives, parents and children, and employers and employees.

(Ephesians 5:19 NKJV) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

(Ephesians 5:20 NKJV) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

A Spirit-Filled believer will be a giver of thanks.

Grateful Heart – Produces Harmony in the Home

How does a grateful heart promote harmony in the house? For one thing the sincerely grateful person realizes that he is enriched because of others, which is the mark of humility. The person who thinks that the world owes him is never thankful for anything. The thankful heart is a humble heart, a heart that gladly acknowledges God as the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

Giving Thanks is a marriage key. We have such a tendency to focus on the negatives, and we rob ourselves of all the positives, and all the blessings to be thankful in our marriage.

We need to make giving thanks a habit and lifestyle. Everyday acknowledging to God the reasons to be thankful. Giving Thanks daily, will ward off being ungrateful.

How often we focus on the 1 negative, rather than giving thanks for the 99 positives. We always think that one negative if changed will make everything perfect. But the fact is that soon enough we will find another negative. When I can focus on the positives, when I think of reasons to be thankful, my spirits are always lifted because I see how rich I truly am in Christ, and all the blessings He has given us. This takes us all the back to Ephesians 1:3 and the whole theme of this Book....**(Ephesians 1:3 NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

IF I KNEW - written after and for those who died in the September 11th Tragedy.

If I knew it would be the last time
That I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time
that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word,
so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time,
I could spare an extra minute
to stop and say "I love you,"
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.

If I knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow
to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance
to make everything just right.

There will always be another day
to say "I love you,"
And certainly there's another chance
to say our "Anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong,
and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
and I hope we **never forget**.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
you'll surely regret the day,

That you didn't take that extra time
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss
and you were too busy to grant someone,
what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today,
and whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
and that you'll always hold them dear

Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes,
you'll have no regrets about today.

Remind Others Blessings they Have

As we counsel others we need to help them see the blessings they have, and the thankful things they have.

(Ephesians 5:21 NKJV) submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Fear = Respect

The word for fear here means reverence and respect. The fear is to displease the Lord, to disobey His Word, to not do His will. We can simply start with Ephesians 4:1-6 (go back and relook at that study), and say this is the core message for every marriage. If I speak roughly, am not gentle, am not bringing unity in my words and actions in my marriage, then I should fear that I am being displeasing to the Lord in my marriage. But in every context of my marriage, if I apply and do what is within in my part of Ephesians 4:1-6, no matter what the other person is doing, their willingness or lack of to honor and please the Lord, I can rest in the peace that I am doing what the Lord has called me to do in accordance to His Word and will.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Spirit-Filled & Word-Filled ALWAYS Subject to the Word of God / The Word Dominates Our Actions

Here we are all called to submit one another, but then the next verse wives are called to submit to husbands. Very IMPORTANT..... This verse differs from the next in this manner: A Spirit-Filled, Word-Filled Christian is always to be subject to the Word of God. In all of our dealings with each other, the Word dominates what are actions are to be....it doesn't matter who is in authority. Husband/wives, parent/child, employer/employee, the word dictates what is correct. The next verse, wives submitting, is the order of the home as established by God.

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18-19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Divorce Rate

We all know the divorce rate in America is 1 in 2. Divorce rate among professing Christians is not much better. But I read a statistic that married couples that Pray together, read the Word and share it with each other, and attend church together, that their divorce rate is 1 in 1072!. Why? Because in those three things, the Word of God and the Spirit of God and the Will of God are preempt, priority, the guide to the person and the marriage.

Wives Submitting to the Husband:

(Ephesians 5:22 NKJV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

(Ephesians 5:23 NKJV) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

(Ephesians 5:24 NKJV) Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Marriage – Nothing Make You More Like Christ

The marriage section: Nothing will make you more like Christ, than marriage. Nothing will make you have to die to yourself more than marriage and children. I was so much more spiritual and godly before I got married (haha); marriage showed me just how selfish and self-centered I really was 😊

Harmony Based on Key Component - Submission

Harmony with the spouse is based on a key component - Submission. It is a key to marriage; we don't need volumes of books, seminars, but to submit to one another.

Notice verse 22, it all must be in the context, husbands you are to lead, but verse 21 says you are to submit to her also in terms of treating her as the Word of God commands you to.

Submit – Not Popular but godly

The message of submitting isn't a very popular one, but it is a godly one, especially when put in the context of Ephesians 4:1-6.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Louis Talbot

Louis Talbot, preaching at a mega-church in Los Angeles called the "Open Door", in the early 1900's. he taught on wives submitting to their husbands. After the service he was greeting the people and a rather large lady in a flower dress with a big hat on got right up in his face and said, "your message was disgusting...wives submitting to their husbands in everything." She said if you were my husband, I'd put poison in your tea, he said maam, and if I was your husband...I'd drink it.

Submit – Military Term

This word submit was used as a military term when this was written. The soldiers were all fighting the same battle, side by side, and each knew their role and responsibility in the battle to win. A modern example would be this: We go to war against the Taliban, each military division (Army, Navy, etc) gives its counsel to the war planning board. The Navy says we can launch Tomahawks from sea, the Air Force says we have studied their defenses and feel we can knock out their missiles, the Army and Marines say we can't fight conventional, we need to do commando raids at first, then massive ground battles.....everybody gave their input based on their experience and strength. The Commander - in - Chief and his advisor then came up with the Final battle plan. He then passes it down to his troops, and everybody knows what their role and responsibility is. They submit to the final plan, trusting that leader has planned it carefully. Imagine as ridiculous as it sounds, but the Army saying we don't like that plan, we are going in alone.....our own bombs would be dropping on our own men. Each military branch performed as directed, fought side-by-side, and the resultant was victory. That is how it is to be applied in marriages. Husbands you need to listen to your wives advice and wisdom, and then you need to go off and make a plan that we ensure success, and wives even if you don't agree with the plan, you need to perform your role and responsibility.

Husbands you need to listen to your wife before you make a decision, not just for wisdom, but to let her speak, let her share her heart, don't talk at her, but with her. You will learn something about your wife, she will be comforted to know you love and respect her enough to listen to her. If and when she feels valued and respected, you will find her following you is way easier than you commanding her, telling her "submit". Be curious to hear what is in her heart, and it will change everything on the way you lead.

Something Always has Been Missing in Man – Since the Garden

Wives maybe you think you husband is a fool, he is not all there. Ever since the garden something has been missing (a bone from the side). As God took something from the man, then He was able to complete him. Wives understand your role of importance in being the completer of man. Men don't get it cause because they are not all there. Husband you need to understand that the women has never been alone. Ever since the garden man was always there. She needs you to keep her from that loneliness.

Wives – Your Husband Can't Meet Your Great Fulfillment – Only Christ Can

Submit, how can you submit to him who does this or that. No guy can meet your expectations, only Jesus. It is in Jesus that you will find deep deep fulfillment. In talking with Him, walking with Him, loving on Him you will find that deep deep fulfillment. If you look to the husband to meet that need you will always be frustrated. You will put pressure on him to be something he cant be because he is missing something, he is not all there. When you draw from Jesus you are fulfilled, so when you get together with your husband you won't push him to get all your needs met, and won't frustrate him to the point where he wants to run away from you. When you love the Lord, and look to him for all your fulfillment, you take the pressure off your relationship. Man won't wonder is she going to be depressed, angry, frustrated....what will it be today, I don't want to go home. But if you spend time with the

Lord that day you will be at peace, and your husband will be drawn to you. Matt 6:33, all these things will be added unto you.

Wives God Will Protect You – For You are Submitting to God Ultimately

Trust that if you submit, the Lord will provide for you regardless of your husband's stupid actions. Now I do caveat that with, not going against the Word of the Lord, because ultimately every one must submit to the Word of God, in fear and reverence.

Ephesians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

Story of Sarah

I am reminded of the story of Abraham taking his wife to Egypt, a very stupid move, and then putting her in harms way, yet she yielded to him, and God supernaturally protected her.

Genesis 12:10–20 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." ¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. ¹⁵ The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷ But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way." ²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.*

Submission – In Accordance with the Word

But let me say this, again a Spirit filled Christian is a Word filled Christian, and all we are controlled by is in accordance to the Word of God. So, submission is not in accordance with anything that is contrary to the Word of God. That has been twisted, either by the man, or the woman, that submission is to do whatever the husband says, and being a good submissive wife is to yield to his every word, but that is not true, every one of us must yield to the Word of God first. So wives you are not to do anything that is illegal, contrary to the Word of God.

War Room

I am reminded of that movie "War Room", and encourage every couple to watch it. A powerful part of the movie was when the wife came to the place, that Jesus has to be here all, as she would say, "I am His first". And when a wife, a man, does not put all the expectations on their spouse to fulfill them, but find their fulfillment in the Lord above all things, whether that be their career, their marriage, their children, their recognition, they can come into this beautiful and wonderful rest.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End of Study

Ephesians 5:25-33

Title: Husbands Love Your Wives

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 5:18–33 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

To Many Jump to Marriage Chapter 5 / Missing 1:1 – 5:21

Well unfortunately many churches, many marriage conferences start their marriage teaching and counseling at verse 22 (wives submit to your husbands), and then goes to verse 25 (husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church), all the while the problem being that if you do not know, have not made it part of your very being (chapter one verse one, all the way to chapter 5 verse 21, you cannot and will not succeed and prosper in Ephesians 5:22-33.

To succeed and prosper in your marriage regarding the teachings of 5:22-33, the husband must know chapters 1-3, who is God and what does He think of me, and the wife must know chapters 1-3, who is God and what does He think of me.

And maybe you are single and happy to be, and you say this passage has no application for me, on the contrary the word the Lord has for you today speaks a word that before you say "I do", you need to be willing to make the necessary sacrifice of all that is being asked of you for marriage, and say "I will".

Also let me just say that every last person, regardless of age and circumstance, and that is that marriage between a man and a woman is a picture of God's relationship with those who will say "I do" to His offer, and hence why it must be protected at all cost. As I spoke about "hills to die on" last week, the definition and picture of marriage that God has established in His Word, is "a hill to die on". Regardless what is popular in culture, regardless of how the world and society is leaning, we as followers of Jesus Christ, must not compromise, nor waiver, on God's definition and requirement for marriage. For literally, the Gospel is at stake.

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Ephesians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:18 NKJV) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

God's Will – Be Controlled by Holy Spirit

Here is God's will for our lives.....be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit is a command here, and He expects us to obey.

First notice the contrast, he puts two things in opposition, one to another. Drunkenness with wine, and filled with the Spirit. The point here isn't about drinking so much, rather it is about being controlled by anything other than God. He could have said do not be filled with lust, or chase after money, or seek power. In the Bible "filled with" means "controlled by." They were filled wrath (Luke 4:28) means they were controlled by wrath and for that reason tried to kill Jesus. The Jews were filled by envy (Acts 13:45) means that the Jews were controlled by envy and opposed the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. To be filled with the Spirit means to be constantly controlled by the Spirit in our mind, emotions and will.

Only Way to Live in Harmony – to be Controlled by Holy Spirit

The Lord will tell us, the only way to live in harmony with each other is by being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can walk in harmony as husbands and wives, parents and children, and employers and employees.

(Ephesians 5:19 NKJV) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
(Ephesians 5:20 NKJV) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

A Spirit-Filled believer will be a giver of thanks.

Grateful Heart – Produces Harmony in the Home

How does a grateful heart promote harmony in the house? For one thing the sincerely grateful person realizes that he is enriched because of others, which is the mark of humility. The person who thinks that the world owes him is never thankful for anything. The thankful heart is a humble heart, a heart that gladly acknowledges God as the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

Giving Thanks is a marriage key. We have such a tendency to focus on the negatives, and we rob ourselves of all the positives, and all the blessings to be thankful in our marriage.

We need to make giving thanks a habit and lifestyle. Everyday acknowledging to God the reasons to be thankful. Giving Thanks daily, will ward off being ungrateful.

How often we focus on the 1 negative, rather than giving thanks for the 99 positives. We always think that one negative if changed will make everything perfect. But the fact is that soon enough we will find another negative. When I can focus on the positives, when I think of reasons to be thankful, my spirits are always lifted because I see how rich I truly am in Christ, and all the blessings He has given us. This takes us all the back to Ephesians 1:3 and the whole theme of this Book....

(Ephesians 1:3 NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Remind Others Blessings they Have

As we counsel others we need to help them see the blessings they have, and the thankful things they have.

(Ephesians 5:21 NKJV) submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Fear = Respect

The word for fear here means reverence and respect. The fear is to displease the Lord, to disobey His Word, to not do His will. We can simply start with Ephesians 4:1-6 (go back and relook at that study), and say this is the core message for every marriage. If I speak roughly, am not gentle, am not bringing unity in my words and actions in my marriage, then I should fear that I am being displeasing to the Lord in my marriage. But in every context of my marriage, if I apply and do what is within in my part of Ephesians 4:1-6, no matter what the other person is doing, their willingness or lack of to honor and please the Lord, I can rest in the peace that I am doing what the Lord has called me to do in accordance to His Word and will.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Spirit-Filled & Word-Filled ALWAYS Subject to the Word of God / The Word Dominates Our Actions

Here we are all called to submit one another, but then the next verse wives are called to submit to husbands. Very IMPORTANT..... This verse differs from the next in this manner: A Spirit-Filled, Word-Filled Christian is always to be subject to the Word of God. In all of our dealings with each other, the Word dominates what are actions are to be....it doesn't matter who is in authority. Husband/wives, parent/child, employer/employee, the word dictates what is correct. The next verse, wives submitting, is the order of the home as established by God.

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Divorce Rate

We all know the divorce rate in America is 1 in 2. Divorce rate among professing Christians is not much better. But I read a statistic that married couples that Pray together, read the Word and share it with each other, and attend church together, that their divorce rate is 1 in 1072!. Why? Because in those three things, the Word of God and the Spirit of God and the Will of God are preempt, priority, the guide to the person and the marriage.

Wives Submitting to the Husband:

(Ephesians 5:22 NKJV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

(Ephesians 5:23 NKJV) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

(Ephesians 5:24 NKJV) Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

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Husband Submitting to the Lord

(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Again it is so simple. God doesn't want to complicate it men, love your wife. How? As Christ loves the church, as Jesus loves you. Christ submitted to the Father sacrificially and unconditionally so that the bride may be presented.

Sacrificially

Sacrificially – he gave himself, all of himself. He poured out His life. Men you must die to your plans, wishes, and dreams. We are to watch out for them and over them at whatever the cost is to us.

The passengers on the bus watched sympathetically as the attractive young woman with the white cane made her way carefully up the steps. She paid the driver and, using her hands to feel the location of the seats, walked down the aisle and found the seat he'd told her was empty. Then she settled in, placed her briefcase on her lap and rested the cane against her leg. It had been a year since Susan, thirty-four, became blind. Due to a medical misdiagnosis she had been rendered sightless, and she was suddenly thrown into a world of darkness, anger, frustration and self-pity. Once a fiercely independent woman, Susan now felt condemned by this terrible twist of fate to become a powerless, helpless burden on everyone around her. "How could this have happened to me?" she would plead, her heart knotted with anger. But no

matter how much she cried or ranted or prayed, she knew the painful truth her sight was never going to return. A cloud of depression hung over Susan's once optimistic spirit. Just getting through each day was an exercise in frustration and exhaustion.

All she had to cling to was her husband Mark. Mark was an Air Force officer and he loved Susan with all of his heart. When she first lost her sight, he watched her sink into despair and was determined to help his wife gain the strength and confidence she needed to become independent again. Mark's military background had trained him well to deal with sensitive situations, and yet he knew this was the most difficult battle he would ever face. Finally, Susan felt ready to return to her job, but how would she get there? She used to take the bus, but was now too frightened to get around the city by herself. Mark volunteered to drive her to work each day, even though they worked at opposite ends of the city. At first this comforted Susan and fulfilled Mark's need to protect his sightless wife who was so insecure about performing the slightest task. Soon, however, Mark realized that this arrangement wasn't working—it was hectic, and costly.

Susan is going to have to start taking the bus again, he admitted to himself. But just the thought of mentioning it to her made him cringe. She was still so fragile, so angry. How would she react? Just as Mark predicted, Susan was horrified at the idea of taking the bus again. "I'm blind!" she responded bitterly. "How am I supposed to know where I'm going? I feel like you're abandoning me. Mark's heart broke to hear these words, but he knew what had to be done. He promised Susan that each morning and evening he would ride the bus with her, for as long as it took, until she got the hang of it. And that is exactly what happened. For two solid weeks, Mark, military uniform and all, accompanied Susan to and from work each day.

He taught her how to rely on her other senses, specifically her hearing, to determine where she was and how to adapt to her new environment. He helped her befriend the bus drivers who could watch out for her, and save her a seat. He made her laugh, even on those not-so-good days when she would trip exiting the bus, or drop her briefcase. Each morning they made the journey together, and Mark would take a cab back to his office. Although this routine was even more costly and exhausting than the previous one, Mark knew it was only a matter of time before Susan would be able to ride the bus on her own. He believed in her, in the Susan he used to know before she'd lost her sight, who wasn't afraid of any challenge and who would never, ever quit.

Finally, Susan decided that she was ready to try the trip on her own. Monday morning arrived, and before she left, she threw her arms around Mark her temporary bus riding companion, her husband, and her best friend. Her eyes filled with tears of gratitude for his loyalty, his patience, his love. She said good-bye, and for the first time, they went their separate ways. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday... Each day on her own went perfectly, and Susan had never felt better. She was doing it! She was going to work all by herself!

On Friday morning, Susan took the bus to work as usual. As she was paying for her fare to exit the bus, the driver said, "Boy, I sure envy you." Susan wasn't sure if the driver was speaking to her or not. After all, who on earth would ever envy a blind woman who had struggled just to find the courage to live for the past year? Curious, she asked the driver, "Why do you say that you envy me?" The driver responded, "It must feel so good to be taken care of and protected like you are." Susan had no idea what the driver was talking about, and asked again, "What do you mean?" The driver answered, "You know, every morning for the past week, a fine looking gentleman in a military uniform has been standing across the corner watching you when you get off the bus. He makes sure you cross the street safely and he watches you until you enter your office building. Then he blows you a kiss, gives you a little salute and walks away. You are one lucky lady." Tears of happiness poured down Susan's cheeks. For although she couldn't physically see him, she had always felt Mark's presence. She was lucky, so lucky, for he had given her a gift more powerful than sight, a gift she didn't need to see to believe - the gift of love that can bring light where there had been darkness.

God watches over us in just the same way. We may not know He is present. We may not be able to see His face, but He is there nonetheless! Be blessed in this thought: "God Loves You - even when you are not looking."
Husbands we are to do the same for our wives.

Unconditionally

Unconditionally – He doesn't love us if we tithe, pray or do devotions. He loves us unconditionally. We are not to love her if she, does the dishes, pleases me, lets me do my thing. I am to love her period. Take this Scripture at face value, lay down your life and love her unconditionally. The women will have no problem submitting and following. All the women wants is to be secure in knowing that you love her...always. If she doubts your love, then she will become insecure.

Straight from the Hip / What it Like to Submit to You

And, let me be a straight shooter to those men listening whose favorite Bible verse is "wives submit to your husband"; how would you like to have to submit to you? Trading places with you wife, how would you like to have to submit to you? Would it be something joyful, securing, loving (because it was coming from sacrificial love and unconditional)? How would you feel, if her only Bible verse was, "was husband's love your wife as Christ loves the church".

Pastor Romaine

A guy came to Pastor Romaine (Pastor Chuck's Assistant Pastor) seeking sympathy. He said my wife is leaving (all weeping), and Romaine said what, "what happened? She get sick of you loving her as Christ loves the church and had to leave? -- Go home and love your wife." My first question to husbands who tell me their wife is unhappy in the marriage is..... are you loving her like Christ loves the church (sacrificially and unconditionally)?

(Ephesians 5:26 NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (Ephesians 5:27 NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Husband's Your Job to Wash Her with the Word

Look at these verses, sanctified, washed, presented. Jesus is preparing us. Husband it's your job to prepare your wife. Husband if you don't like your wife it is because you have been doing a poor job preparing her.....you have to know your responsibility, and take blame.

1 Corinthians 11:7 - but the woman is the glory of the man..

The woman is the glory of the man. Glory means reflection. Women is the reflection of man, the wife reflects the problem of the man.

Definition of Cleanse

The word

- **cleanse** means "to purify, to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin, to purify internally by renewing of the soul."
- And the word **washing** means "to pronounce clean in a levitical sense."
- The **word** is the Word of God (for He is faithful to keep his word).
- The word **present** means, "to stand beside, to at hand."
- **Glorious** means "splendid. (fig.) noble:--glorious, gorgeous, honorable.
- The phrase **without a spot** means "without a stain or blemish, i.e. without defect, disgrace, spot."
- The word **holy** means sacred, without blame (blemish, fault, spot), faultless, unblameable.

Husbands – Keep Her Clean by Not Bringing up Her Past Failings and Dirt

Jesus is committed to washing us up, cleaning us up. Husband when was the last time you washed your wife with the word on a regular basis. Husbands don't make your wife feel dirty by bringing up the past, or all her faults and failures. Cleanse her.

Forget the thought, she stinks I'm gona find someone else. You will stink the next one up too. It is your job to cleanse her. Husbands most important, don't keep bringing up your wife's past, or past failures.....clean her, make her feel clean.

Water into Wine

It's funny Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding. Marriages need miracles. He took stone pots, filled them to the brim with water. He said do it, trust me. As the water was poured out of the vessels it turned into wine - fine wine. Jesus came as the servant of all, husband you are to serve. You can say all the romance is out of the marriage, the fine wine is gone, the wine of joy, happiness is gone. We are to fill up our own vessel (we are earthen vessels) with the water of the word. Get back into the word, study, meditate, join men's bible studies, and then as the servant take what you have learned and serve that to your wife, and it will turn into fine wine.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Wives you can't be oversensitive and think that the husband is preaching to you, but see that God is working in him first, and now serves it to you. Husbands share in humility. Redeem the time we are told, do you want a miracle in your marriage, we are giving a miracle making way right here in this chapter, by speaking the word, bringing worship, giving thanks for one another..... and watch the Lord turn the water into wine in your marriage.

Ephesians 5:15–21 (NKJV) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

And you can have you best life, and wife, today!

John 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

(Ephesians 5:28 NKJV) So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

(Ephesians 5:29 NKJV) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Everybody – Loves Self / Take a Photo – I did I look

This verse is God's word and He says everybody loves himself or herself. This low self-esteem stuff is junk, a lie. Everybody loves himself or herself. They may be insecure, but not low self-esteem. Take a group picture, and the first person we look for is ourselves.

Reminds me of the wife who said one morning she awoke to hear her husband saying, "you are so beautiful in the morning, I can't take my eyes off of you", and with a great smile coming across her face, she opened her eyes..... only to see her husband standing in front of the mirror talking to himself. Haha, everyone loves themselves.

Interesting article in the USA Today. Men who stayed with their wife have a lower rate of ulcers, heart attacks, and cancer.. You are loving yourself if you chose to love your wife. It is better than going to the gym, jogging...the best thing you can do for your body is to love your wife.

Husbands – Divorce will Rob you

Husbands if you want to divorce your wife because you see something better, you will miss out in the later years. You will miss out on the one who will give you the greatest passion and understanding of Jesus. Jacob got tricked into marrying Leah, he didn't like her. Leah means hurt my eyes. Jacob loved Rachael's looks, and that was his first attraction, but look how his relationship with Leah developed over the years. Rachael was buried in Bethlehem, Leah was buried in McPealah. When Jacobs dies he wants to be buried next to Leah. Leah birthed Judah who was the lineage of Jesus. Husbands if you want to divorce your wife because you see something better, you will miss out in the later years.

Genesis 49:29–33 (NKJV) ²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave that *is* there *were* purchased from the sons of Heth." ³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

(Ephesians 5:30 NKJV) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

(Ephesians 5:31 NKJV) "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Genesis 2:21–25 (NKJV) ²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

How Love Sacrificially & Unconditionally / Must Leave & Cleave / Cleave = Glue

You may say how do I love her sacrificially and unconditionally. You leave the closest to you, that is your mom, dad, old flames and cleave to your wife and you will be one. It is an equation, leave and cleave equals one. That word cleave is used for gluing. It is permanent. Divorce is never a thought or option.

900 Years of Marriage – No Competition

Adam and Eve were married close to 900 years. Think about this either never had any competition Adam never had any one to compare Eve to. They had a perfect relationship. Perfect body the perfect the mind perfect relationship with God they had a love of innocence. The minute anyone thinks they have an option their marriage is in trouble. When Satan came to Eve with the option, saying you can have more than you have, you can be like God and be above Adam. When the option came, trouble came.

Let me say this too..... if you have photos of old flames..... why? If your spouse sees them, what are they to think? They will think the old flame was a memory for you worth keeping. Old flames need to be burned away. And, let me say this..... if you are following old flames on Facebook, why? Don't kid yourself that memories won't be stirred, and don't kid yourself that those memories don't affect your relationship with your spouse. Don't worry about offending the person on Facebook, block them. Let someone else "reach them" with the Gospel if that is your so-called reason for following them on FB. Redeem the time, and give no foothold for the Devil.

[Ephesians 5:15–16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

[Ephesians 4:27 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

People are asked would you marry them all over again if so what would you do differently. Adam and Eve would've thought of this question they would have gone back to the garden and said we never would have put God second in our lives.

(Ephesians 5:32 NKJV) This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

(Ephesians 5:33 NKJV) Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Wives – Don't Fall for Liberal Position / Give Your Husband Respect

Respect: phobos, (to be put in fear); alarm or fright:--be afraid, exceedingly, fear, terror. Same word used in verse 21..Fear the Lord. Women don't fall for the liberal theology of today. Respect your husband as the leader of the house. Husband love your wife as Christ loves the church.

[Ephesians 5:21 \(NKJV\)](#) ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

When Husbands Love & Wives Respect

When the husband loves the wife, and the wife reverences the husband, the world will see it is how Christ loves the church.

Picture of Christ Love & Relationship with His Bride

And here, to every marriage, you must see the vital necessity of what your marriage represents to the world, and that is the picture of Christ's love for His Church!

This is why we must defend the definition of marriage, and die for our marriage, because they are to the world the picture of Christ and His Church. He is the groom, and the church is the bride.

[2 Corinthians 11:2 \(NKJV\)](#) ² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

[Matthew 25:1–5 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

[Revelation 19:7–8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The Gospel

Here is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the marriage proposal He makes to you, which is a calling to leave all others, and commit you life to Him.

PERSONAL:

Jeremiah 29:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

PROBLEM:

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

PENALTY:

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PROVISION:

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

PROFESSION

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

What does "Believe" mean?

- Recognize - You are a sinner and in need of a Savior, you can't save yourself.
- Repent - of your sins, repentance means to turn and follow.
- Receive - the Lord, simply what is being said here in Romans 10.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Chapter 6

Ephesian 6:1-4

Title: Walking Worthy - In the Home

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV) ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Summary of Study

Verse 5:18 started this section of being filled with the Spirit, and submitting to one another in the fear (respect) of the Lord. It ends at verse 9 of chapter 6, before we go into spiritual warfare. The three areas it covers are

1. husband/wife,
2. parent/child,
3. and employee/employer.

All three are unique, yet not one stands alone. You see if any one is bad, it will affect the other two. Have a bad marriage and the kids suffer. Children have split husband and wife up, and a bad work situation can carry over into the household. We therefore have to hear and apply all that the Lord has to say in each area. We have tried education, legislation, and every other approach but nothing seems to work. Divorce continues to rise, children are rebelling against their parents, and employee and employers still battle. God's solution is not another program, but regeneration, a new heart from God, a new submission to Christ.

Ephesians 5:17–21 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Outline: Walking Worthy - In the Home (Ephesians 6:1-4)

In the Home (6:1-4)

- Be Clear
- Be Caring
- Be Consistent

Prayer – Lord This Child is Yours

So let's pray, and let me remind every parent, God loves your child..... even more than you do. God fashioned your child in the mother's womb. May this encourage us, and empower us, in that we can rest in that God is deeply in love with them, and desires to equip us to teach them and lead them, if only we yield ourselves to Him and say Lord help me. Maybe you forgot the power that is available to you, maybe you forgot the intimacy of love the Lord has for them, and maybe you have been struggling and feel like you are going this all alone, maybe you are single parenting and feel the weight all upon you.....before we pray, know in your heart the Lord is hear to lift the burden, and say cast all this upon Me, you do not have to do this alone, let Me have your child fully.

Psalms 139:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

See many parents struggle parenting, not just because they forget to ask the Lord to help raise the child, but because you haven't fully given your child to Him. You are holding on, trying to control, trusting that you know best, and you haven't come to a place of simply trusting, and entrusting your child to the Lord. You can't rest because you won't rest in Him. There is a power and rest when a parent says Lord, this child is yours, on loan to me, entrusted for me to raise in the ways of the Lord, and Lord I dedicate this child to you, I give this child fully to you, I entrust this child fully to You, and now Lord take this child for your glory, and help me to raise this child for your glory. That is what Hannah did with young Samuel, and God wholly took that offering and did wonders through the child, and then as the child became a man.

1 Samuel 1:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Parents, if you pray that, give your child to the Lord, then you will be able to rest when your child is doing well, or not so well, when you child is honoring the Lord with their life, or even when the child is prodigal (wayward/wasteful), when your child is healthy, and yes even when your child is sick unto death.

I remember when my Camden was in the NICU (children's ICU), gasping for breath and air to breath, 2 weeks, and how my heart gripped me, but I can remember the moment that I said Lord this child is yours, yes even saying the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. And the peace that came upon me, was a peace that passes all understanding. Regardless of your child's age, whether 5 or 55, you can pray that prayer to the Lord.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 questions. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

In the Home

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Teknon

Children, teknon, means any child that lives under the parents' house. If you are 5 or 50 and still live at home, then this applies to you.

Parents Remember There is a War On for Your Children / Only 1 Thing that Lasts Forever

Parents we are in a war for our children's mind. Satan wishes to draw them to himself, and the Lord has called us to do battle for them, and beside them. Satan is throwing it all out in these last days. Look at what is on TV, in the movies, on these video games, in the magazines.....this is war. The stakes are high. Man has created amazing flying machines that can land on the moon, impressive buildings and bridges, technology that moves at the speed of light, but there is only one thing man creates that lasts forever, and that is life.

Be Clear – Be Caring – Be Consistent

These four verses breakdown into 3 C's for us to remember as we raise our children - Be Clear, Be Caring, and Be Consistent.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

Ephesians 6:3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Be Clear.

Verse 1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Be clear in giving directions to your child, they want to know the difference between right and wrong. Take time to explain what you want and why. How can they obey if they do not what is expected of them. That is why we have to teach them the Word, so they can see where our principles are derived from. This ties in with verse 4, **but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.** Notice the "In Christ". Parents you can't expect your child to obey if we don't obey the Lord. If God is not in the picture, then there is no order. There is no system of submission, no order of submission. If the child doesn't see you obey, then they won't see the need to obey either. As we say, more is caught than taught. They are watching you.

I am reminded of the story of the father who as the snow was pouring down like rain, to which he knew he was going to be snowed in for days, said I better walk down to the liquor store and get my supply before it closes. So he suited up and started to walk to the store, and then he felt a presence behind him, to which he turned and there was his young 5-year old who unbeknown to him, put on his snow gear and came after him. As the father watched the son, the son was taking big steps in the snow, trying to put his feet in the footprints in the snow of the father. The father said son what are you doing, to which the son said I am trying to follow in your footsteps daddy. To which the dad came and picked up his son, and they went home, and the father said I will never drink again. Folks, more is caught than taught.

Not Just It is Wrong/Right – But Who Says it Is Wrong/Right // Authority & Power

Parents it is vital not just to say something is wrong or right, but who says it is wrong or right. “The Lord Jesus” says thou shall not steal. When we say it is the Lord Jesus who says, we now not only put authority behind it, but power too.

- The reason is not because we say so, but because the Lord says so. We establish a black/white line/boundary, that has a foundation to it. When a challenge or argument comes of why we say what we say, we have a clear place to point and say/show, Because the Lord says. Then we explain to them, everything God says for us, He says because He is infinitely wiser, and everything He says is for our good, and everything He says is to protect and provide for us. He wants to protect us from the things that will harm us and others and provide for us the things that will bless and supply us that are good for us.
- With “The Lord says”, comes with Power because you know what, when we say “because the Lord says”, it comes with a build in power, as we are reminded that what we are telling them is sure and true, and there is infinite power when we say, “The Bible” says, “The Lord” says, because in every Word of God, comes the power of God!

PTL God Doesn’t Leave Us Alone in This

It has been said that parenting doesn’t come with a manual, to which I would have to disagree. Praise the Lord God has left us an instruction book, and then comes and joins us in the instruction.

Teach Them is a Commandment

Parents teaching our children the word of God, and that they are to obey Him, is a commandment, and has been from the beginning. For 3,500 years (since Deuteronomy) it has been a “CLEAR” command, to “Be Clear” on what the Word/Commandments of God is that are to be followed. Commandments, not suggestions.

Deuteronomy 6:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ “Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰ “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, ¹¹ houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—¹² then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹³ You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

Verse 2- Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

A Command – not Suggestion / Obeying Parent is Obeying the Lord

So as for the child, the command is to “honor father and mother”. So it is a command not a suggestion. To obey them is to obey the Lord. That goes all the way back to 5;21, where the submission to one another, is the submitting first and foremost unto the Lord, the fear of displeasing Him and dishonoring Him by not keeping His commands.

Ephesians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

Obey – Soldier Going into Battle / Wrong Place – Wrong Time

Obey is the idea of a soldier about to engage in a battle, listening carefully to their orders of his commanding officer, realizing that if he doesn't follow the orders correctly he could be at the wrong [place at the wrong time and it could cost him his life, and the life of his fellow soldier. This is what the word obey means, listen intently like your life depends on it.

Verse 3 - "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Comes With a Promised Blessing

Verse 2-3 promises the child, a blessing, if they obey. Days are long. The rabbi's teach "long" means "rich". Your days will be rich, abundant if you obey your parents children. Now today, your days could literally be short if you disobey and drink and drive, sexual sins of Aids, drug sin can and will kill. Number 1 killer for ages 18-35 is AIDS, #2 killer is accidents.

Exodus 20:12 (NKJV) ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

(Proverbs 22:6 KJV) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Jukes - Edward

I am reminded of two families born in Colonial times,

- Max Jukes did not believe in going to church. From him came 1026 descendants from the Colonial times to 1980. 300 were imprisoned, average sentence 13 years. 190 professional prostitutes, 680 became alcoholics. The State of New York which the Jukes family resided in spent an estimated 4 million dollars rehabilitant, incarcerating, Max Jukes direct descendants.
- The same year Max Jukes was born another man was born named Jonathan Edwards. Who later preached the sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God. The great Awakening Revival came through him in Colonial America. He was adamant and insistent on family church and study. From him came 929 direct descendants. 430 went into full-time ministry. 86 became university professors. 13 became university Presidents. 75 were noted authors, 7 were Congressmen, 1 was a Vice President of the US. They cost the state 0 dollars in rehabilitation.

Both Born Same Year / Parents Ignore Those who Say You are Legalistic – Results Speak

Both men were born in the same year, one was insistent on obeying the Word of God, the other didn't. Parents ignore those who say you are being legalistic; the results speak for themselves.

The Garden

I am reminded of the man who visiting a friend who was an avid gardener and they were in the back yard discussing their children, and the man said (to the gardener) I really don't agree with forcing all this Jesus stuff on to my kids, I believe let them grow up and decide for themselves. To which the man said I would like to show you something, and as they walked thorough his beautiful garden, they came to the back gate of the fenced in yard, and walked out of it, and behind it was overgrown, overrun area fill with thorns and weeds. It looked hideous especially compared to the garden they just walked through. To which the man said, here is what a garden looks like when it is left to grow as it chooses.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Be Caring.

Father Encourage – God Always Encourages

Verse 4 - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath. What does it mean to provoke your children to wrath? Colossians 3:21 gives the amplification when it says, "Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." To provoke your kids to

wrath means to make them discouraged. How? By loading them down with expectations. Don't bring them to a place of frustration, that they feel everything they do is under your scrutiny, or judgement, or high expectation. Be caring, not provoking. God always encourages, not discourages us...we are to imitate our Father.

Colossians 3:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Parents Don't Live Through Your Kids

Parents don't try to live your life through your kids, try to correct your failures through your kids. Don't try to make them something that you are not, something you always wanted to be. Don't torture them with expectations. Your child is not to be the football hero you weren't.

Wise Parent will Ask Lord – How Did You Design this Child

The wise man will ask the Lord how you designed this child, help me to get behind and help along what you have designed.

When Child Says – I Hate You

Parent, when your child says "I hate you". When a child says those words a parent can't help but shiver. But a child's mind, hate can mean anything from hate and anger to frustration, disappointment or annoyance. Don't back off from setting limits because you fear that your child will say that he/she hates you. Remember that it's normal for young children to feel frustrated, and that feeling will pass quickly.

Avoid Coming Down – Validate their Feeling / Help/Teach Them how to Express Themselves

Avoid coming down on your child for having those feelings. Instead, try to validate them: I can understand why you are angry with me right now. You still have to do your chores though. If your child is using "I hate" statements often, he may be having trouble expressing himself. Help him learn a range of emotions, and encourage statements like, "I wish", "I hurt", or "I'm frustrated" so that he can identify how he really feels.

Dad They would Rather You – Than Big Pool

Fathers you are to be there for them. They'd rather have you than a pool and a big house. In an elementary school kids were telling what daddy does. One kid said my daddy is president of a bank, the second said mine makes lots of money, the third said mine is a professional baseball player, and the fourth girl said, "my daddy is here right now." You could have heard a pin drop, what she had blew all the others away.

Discipline – Explain - Pray

Parents, on disciplining your child, (spank them), clearly explain to them why they are being spanked and what they did wrong, and why it is wrong. Then after you spank them, hold them and pray with them. Be clear, and caring. Also, don't discipline until you have your feelings under control. Don't discipline for your sake, but their sake.

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ *He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

Be Consistent.

Parent Stay Consistent – Don't Send Mixed Signals

but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Be consistent, don't send mixed signals. (James 1:17 NIV) Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Parents can not waver, rules can't be based on your mood, be like our Heavenly father - never changing. They have to see that no matter how you feel the rules are always the same. The Lord's ways are based on His Word, and His Word never changes. We are not to provoke them, but at the same time we are obligated to discipline them. Dr. Spock said don't spank, 30 years later we have the most violent generation ever. He now says I was wrong.

James 1:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

(Proverbs 22:6 KJV) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Lifetime Pattern Before Your Children

Parents, develop a life pattern with your child from an early age. A pattern of morning devotions, prayer, talking about the Lord, study, church, and service. Be consistent in that they see it as part of daily life and not something that is plugged in when time permits. The children need to see that as for your family, you chose to serve the Lord, and all in that house will be governed by precepts set forth by God.

(Joshua 24:15 KJV) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Consistent in Discipline

Parent squash disobedience in its tracks every time. Give no leeway to it, from their very beginning of life.

Look what lot disobedient kids fall into.

(Romans 1:29 KJV) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

(Romans 1:30 KJV) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Kids are a prophetic indicator of the Last Days

(2 Timothy 3:1 KJV) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

(2 Timothy 3:2 KJV) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Parents you let your child be disobedient, then you are training them up in the way they will go...the question is, which way will they go.

Closing

Let's pray specifically for our children.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 6:5-9

Title: Walking Worthy - In the Workplace

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:5-9 (NKJV) ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it)". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually.

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from 4:1, where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Summary of Study

Verse 5:18 started this section of being filled with the Spirit, and submitting to one another in the fear (respect) of the Lord. It ends at verse 9 of chapter 6, before we go into spiritual warfare. The three areas it covers are

1. husband/wife,
2. parent/child,
3. and employee/employer.

All three are unique, yet not one stands alone. You see if any one is bad, it will affect the other two. Have a bad marriage and the kids suffer. Children have split husband and wife up, and a bad work situation can carry over into

the household. We therefore have to hear and apply all that the Lord has to say in each area. We have tried education, legislation, and every other approach but nothing seems to work. Divorce continues to rise, children are rebelling against their parents, and employee and employers still battle. God's solution is not another program, but regeneration, a new heart from God, a new submission to Christ.

Ephesians 5:17–21 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Work / A Real Measure of Spiritual Maturity

Work, by the age 18-65 you will serve your boss 97,760 hours, one third of your life spent in the workplace. Work is truly a gift from the Lord, and a calling from and unto the Lord, and of course the means of which the Lord provides for you. Today we will then will study, refresh, remind, how then we are to walk, what walking worthy in the workplace looks like

Help me to always give 100% at work....

- 12% on Monday
- 23% on Tuesday
- 40% on Wednesday
- 20% on Thursday
- 5% on Fridays and

Once a fellow was asked, "Are you looking for work?" He replied, "Not really, but I would like a job!"

For me, the measure of spiritual maturity is the ability to do whatever we do to God's glory... whether it's turning a wrench, or programming a computer, or servicing a customer - can we do it as unto the Lord?

We should all be able to turn our work into worship!

Let's Pray

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the Workplace: (this applies to school and sports for you youth)

Ephesians 6:5–9 (NKJV) ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

Think You Got it Tough / 6 Million Slaves

You think you got it tough in the workplace. Paul is writing to slaves, and he is calling them to be obedient. There were over 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire. Often times they were treated brutally.

- Caesar Nero, the Emperor at the time of this writing had a slave hung by his toes until the blood suffocated him. Why? The slave accidentally killed his pet quail.
- Vidias Polimus, wrote Roman poetry on peace and love. One of his slaves spilled water on the manuscript, so he ordered the slave thrown into a pond filled with bloodsucking leaches, he then went back to his desk wrote more poetry on peace and love.

They viewed slaves as less than human, but Paul still calls them to be obedient.

Obedience to the Employers Way

Be Obedient: Obey is the Christian Workers call to Duty. Obedient – means to listen attentively, to heed or comply, to conform to the command of authority. We are to listen attentively to what our employer wants, we don't get paid to go against the policy and procedures but to implement and exercise them to their fullest.

With Respect

With fear and trembling: the idea here is with awesome respect. You may say I can't respect my boss, he is a jerk. You are not respecting the person, but the position they are in.

1 Samuel 24. David was attacked by Saul, spears thrown at him, chased by his army, yet when David had a chance to kill him, he cut his garment in the cave. Yet, he was still filled with guilt. David said, I should not have touched the Lord's anointed. Saul was the anointed instrument God allowed in David's life

Maybe your boss is throwing spears at you, don't touch the Lord's anointed. God will use them to draw you closer to Himself, to mature you, give you patience, compassion, and deeper trust in the Lord.

Have you clipped the garment of your boss, your teacher, your sports coach? God will deal with them in His timing. God dealt with Saul at Mt. Gilboa. But for right now God is using them as an instrument to bring you into maturity. If you cut them off, you forfeit what blessings God has for you, and the work He wants to do in you. Remember David became the King, who knows what God is preparing you for.

Now an important side note before we move on, be careful with the words you use at work in regards to conversation about the work environment or situation. In order to keep your witness be careful that someone doesn't take your statement about work and think you are talking negatively. Example, you talk about how difficult this work exercise just in an ordinary conversation. Now it is true that the work is difficult, but the person with the bad attitude will use it as a means to complain about work, and think they have found a fellow complainer, and may even use your name as a reference when you are not around. There are a lot of complainers in the workforce, the first key to be a good witness in the workplace, is not be a complainer like the rest.

With Enthusiasm

in sincerity of heart: means whole heart. Do it enthusiastically. Enthusiasm is from the greek word "en" and "theos". En - (full of), theos (God)...so, Full of God.

This was all well and good, when you work for a good company, and a good boss. But how about working in a hostile work environment.

Are You Working in Hostile Environment?

How do I work in a Hostile Work Environment?

1. Understand that God anoints you for trouble. Be sure of this for you are a Christian. Put on the armor of God before going to work.
2. Don't expect to be appreciated. Your only expectation should be to get a paycheck. Don't come to work to have personal relationships. Don't allow what you do to affect who you are.
3. Do your job well, but remember your mission. God put you there to be a light.
4. Seek opportunities to change the atmosphere without commenting on the problems. You have a God to talk to. You're on an assignment. In quietness and competence shall be your strength.
5. Don't let your environment get inside of you. You should influence it, not let it influence you. Stop going to work to be fed- you didn't come to receive, you came to give.
6. Increase your capacity to work with different people's personalities. God will often bless you through people you don't even like!
7. Remember where you are does not define where you are going. This will deliver you from frustration. God has a plan for your life. Keep your eye on the prize. When Peter did this, he was able to walk in what other people sank in!
8. Get the optimum results with minimal confusion. Be effective without making the environment worse.
9. Don't be associated with one group or clique. Labels limit your usefulness. God wants you to work with everybody but be labeled by nobody. Use all your gifts.
10. Always keep your song near you. Keep a consecrated place in your soul. Hold on to your praise. Go back to singing melody

Ephesians 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

God Is Watching – Here is a Chance to Impress Him

God is watching you work, this is your chance to show off for Him and impress and please Him.

Not Just Doing the Minimum

Who has the heart of God, the worker who doesn't wait to be told what to do, who doesn't just give the bare minimum, but is looking to give over and above to his employer

Colossians 3

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3 is a vital life verse for everyone. Whether in the workplace, on the school campus, on the sports field, raising the children, loving your spouse, or serving in the ministry..... and Ephesians 6:5-9 is giving us the details, the commentary on what that looks like and how it is to be done.

We Are Working Unto the Lord -/ Store Up Treasures in Heaven

We are working to store up eternal rewards. What a wasted life to work so hard today, to have the home, the car, the extras, and then to die.

A missionary couple coming back from Africa after 40 years of service is on the same ship with Teddy Roosevelt who was coming back from a big game hunt safari. As they pull to dock in New York City, people are waiting, cheering, the bands are playing, reporters taking pictures, the people are cheering cause he killed an elephant and rhino. As for the missionary and his wife, nobody was there to greet them. The veteran missionary turns to his wife and says you know I'm a little bitter, 40 years in the jungle risking life to help people and nobody is here to greet us; Teddy Roosevelt goes game hunting and gets a hero's welcome, we come home and get nothing. But he writes in his journal that the Lord spoke to Him at that moment and said.....you are not home yet.

We are not home yet, but when we do get there, God will greet us, and we will be glad we served the way we did.

Do You Want Full-Time Ministry? / Working When Called

Do you want to be in the ministry? A youth Pastor, missionary, Pastor, worship leader. Every time God called someone they were not sitting around but working.

- Eljha to Elisha, Elisha was plowing in the fields.
- Moses on the backside of the desert watching sheep.
- Peter was casting nets. Don't sit around waiting for something to happen.

Work hard until God calls you full-time into the ministry. Be faithful in the little things. If you slack at work or school, God is not going to trust you in the ministry with His sheep

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

Paul's Work – The Sweet of Brow Was Love for the People / Became Supernatural at That

In Acts 19 people are hurting, yet if people took Paul's sweat bands and work apron, and touch it they became well. Paul taught in the afternoon break and evenings, but made tents. He lived by the sweat of his brow,. Paul could have said if you can't support me then I'm out of here. Rather he had such a love for people he worked and ministered. The sweat of his brow proved his love for the people. The bands were a point of contact to activate the people's faith, there was nothing magical in the bands. You work hard and people will be touched. There will be healing, miracles, and salvations. It is rare today to see people work over and above what they are called to do. *Acts 18:3-4 (NKJV)* ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Ephesians 6:8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

Colossians 3

Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV) ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Again Colossians 3 is a vital life verse for everyone. Whether in the workplace, on the school campus, on the sports field, raising the children, loving your spouse, or serving in the ministry..... and Ephesians 6:5-9 is giving us the details, the commentary on what that looks like and how it is to be done.

Don't Fall into Work Trip – But Work Gift

We work for the Lord, not man. But be careful not to fall into some works trip, but look at the opportunity to work as a gift from God. Remember back to the last study a Spirit-Filled Christian will be joyous, thankful, and submissive. Be thankful for the job God has given, don't look at all the negatives, but be thankful for the opportunity to work and provide for your family, while at the same time actually getting to do something for the Lord

Don't Find Your Worth in World in Work – But in Christ

Matthew 13:45 we are the "pearl". The only thing that can ruin a pearl is human perspiration. Don't try to prove you are worthy by your efforts and self-sufficiency – But by God's grace. When you can see that you work for the Lord, and He is in charge of all, then you won't have to stress. Something difficult comes your way, you just say to yourself, "I'll let my boss handle it." You can actually go to work and be happy, no sweat.

People will notice the difference of someone working for man, and someone working for God.

Who Do You Sweep For?

I am reminded of the story told the story of a Christian man he had met. The man was visiting a large corporation. The manager said I'd like you to meet our employee of the year, five years running. As they walked the man

envisioned he was going to meet the Vice President, or maybe the lead research and design engineer, or maybe their computer expert. As they entered the room, there he was, a man, mentally and physically handicapped, sweeping the floor. He tried not to act surprised, and greeted him. He said so you're the employee of the year. The man answered (somewhat unclear speech due to his handicap) yes I am, I sweep the floor around. I sweep from the top to bottom. Then he said you know why I sweep so well? The man answered "No" He said, "because I sweep for Jesus, then he paused, and he said, "who do you sweep for." The man left there never to be the same.

Brethren, the question is, whom do you sweep for?

Ephesians 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Bosses You are Servants

Bosses you are to serve your people. God is no respecter of person. CEO means nothing to Him, titles and positions....nothing. The only title God gives us is "Servant"

So based on Colossians 3:23-24, and our study today, I made an acronym up for work (W-O-R-K)
Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV) ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

W-O-R-K

W – Whatever, you do, do it heartily unto the Lord, for it is Him you serve not man.

Because work gives you an.....

O – Opportunity, to witness for Him, not in word, but in deed. Hey rejoice if you get all the junk jobs. People will say why are you always so pleasant, even though you get to do all the rotten jobs. Lets face it, good workers get more work, and not always more pay. If there are 100 bricks that need to be moved, and ole Joe is moving kinda slow and can only do 40, that means you get to do your 50 and Joes 10. Hey rejoice that the company sees you work over and above your minimum requirement. Companies should be calling churches and saying do you have anybody there that needs a job, we find the best workers are these people who say they are born-again Bible Believers, man they really get the job done.

The Amish have a saying, "witness for Christ, and if all else fails use words." Let you first witness at work be your hard work, your work ethic and integrity. If you can't witness first through that, if you are a 40 brick worker causing others to pick your 10 short up, then please just keep your mouth shut, you will give people reason to blaspheme the Lord.

But you hard workers rejoice in your job, because you are witnessing for Christ in deeds and actions, and be assured people are watching.

W-O-R-K,

Whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord, because work gives you a.....

R – Reason, to praise Him with thanksgiving for His provisions. Tell ya what, miss a paycheck or two, you will get a whole new perspective on your job. Let the rumors of layoff come around, and you'll realize what is at stake.

Our Father who art in heaven we pray.....give us this day our daily bread. Work is our daily bread.

Matthew 6:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

When I worked at Sikorsky aircraft, I can remember Supervisor Demarco saying, "I want all you complainers to go down to the unemployment line and complain to that guy standing in line; and after he punches you in the nose, he will then come down and apply to take your job."

The children of Israel wondering in the wilderness complained about the daily bread, manna, that supplied their physical needs everyday. Be careful about complaining about your job or you may find yourself purging quail through your nose.

Father, thank you for "giving us this day, our daily bread".

W-O-R-K

Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, - Verse 24

K – Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ
Colossians 3:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

You have to know who your real boss is or you will continually be frustrated at work.

Whether it is feeding the hungry or making money for your boss, work as if you are working for the Lord.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End of Study

Ephesians 6:10-24

Ephesians 6:10-13

Title: The Unseen War: Our Adversary

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy – NOW STAND

We move now from the walk, to..... now it is time to stand!

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Prayer:

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Warning Labels

Some products carry warning labels that are helpful. But there're also some wacky warning labels. In fact, I have with me The Top 10 Wackiest Warning Labels...

- #10 appears on the packaging for a blow dryer. The warning label reads, "Do not use while sleeping." Ok...
- #9 is found on a commercial washing machine. It reads, "Do not put any person in this washer." As if we were going down to the laundry mat for a swim.
- #8 is a line in the instructions for an iron-on decal. It warns, "Do not iron while wearing shirt." Thanks!
- #7 is a warning that appears on an infant stroller. Underneath the utility bag, "Do not put child in bag."
- #6 is on a coffee cup. Here's a needed warning, "Caution - Hot. Avoid pouring on your crotch area."
- #5 is a fishing lure, "Harmful if swallowed." Wow, it's good to know I shouldn't swallow a few pointed hooks.
- #4 appears on a hot tub, "Avoid drowning. Remove safety cover from spa when in use." Who's going to get into a hot tub, and then put the cover back on top?
- #3 is a warning that's written on a package of plastic fishing worms, "Not for Human Consumption."
- #2 is on a Superman suit. Just to be clear... "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."
- The #1 wackiest warning label. My favorite is found in the instruction manual for a jet ski... "Warning: Never use a lit match or open flame to check fuel level."

The Unseen War

I mean, some warnings should be self-evident. The danger is so apparent a warning really doesn't need to be stated... Yet not so with today's subject!

I must alert you to a grave danger that might otherwise escape your attention! For the next several weeks we're going to talk about The Unseen War.

There's an invisible battle raging - a spiritual conflict... The stakes are high. The dangers are real. And if you're not alert you could become a casualty.

For the next three Sundays we'll be in Ephesians 6, and our subject is "spiritual warfare." Next week we'll discuss our armor... The week after, our arsenal... But today, we're going to examine our adversary.

Our Text

Let's read our text, beginning in verse 10

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.* ¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* ¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* ¹³ *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

War – An Unconventional War

Paul speaks of a war - but an unconventional war.

In this battle the theater of conflict is the mind and the heart... The territory to be conquered are the souls of men and women... Our adversary is spiritual...

We need to be warned! For this war we're in is real and intense, even if it's unseen by the physical eye. Our enemy doesn't appear in the sights of a sniper's rifle... The most powerful binoculars can't locate him through their lens... Our foe can't even be seen through night-vision goggles... No radar has yet to be invented that will detect our opponent's movements...

Unseen War – Against Unseen Enemy

We fight an unseen war - against an unseen enemy.

As Paul says in verse 12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places...” Often we think our enemy is the human in front of us - the person we can see - not so!

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Our enemy isn't the bully - or the hater - or the drug pusher - or the pornographer - or the abortionist - or the atheist. Our ultimate enemy is spiritual wickedness.

Spiritual Entities

The Bible teaches us that there are spiritual entities all around us. They're called “demons” or “evil spirits.” These creatures were once God's angels, but they chose to rebel against His will and worship elsewhere. And now, they hate all that's God - especially, the apple of God's eye - the human beings he created.

They vent their animosity toward God by dragging down the people He loves. In John 10, Jesus told His disciples Satan's goal is to steal, and kill, and destroy.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

4 Ranks

Notice here, Paul mentions four ranks of demons...

1. Principalities - First are the “principalities.” These are territorial demons. They concern themselves with borders. Their goal is to push the limits of evil - and stretch society's tolerance. They want to break down the moral and sexual walls that God has erected to protect us.
2. Powers - Next are the “powers.” These are the demons that entice and tempt. They're fueled by the challenge. Can they subvert your will and lure you in? Can they persuade you to bite the forbidden fruit? They keep inventing new hooks and bait to try and catch us.
3. Rulers - In addition, there are demons called “rulers.” These demons are into domination. They're control freaks. They like to tie a person to a cord of addiction and drag them through the muck and mire. They delight in a person's embarrassment and slow destruction.
4. Spiritual Hosts - And finally, Paul refers to “spiritual hosts” - these are perhaps the most diabolical of the demons. These are the host cells. Even in times of spiritual awakening and Christian revival they keep evil alive, and brewing, and simmering on the back burner. Host demons are plotting their next move... some new evil - another day - a more opportune time.

All Work For 1 Leader – The Devil

All these demon-types work for one leader - they ply “the wiles of the devil.” They're all employed by Satan. The Devil, or Satan, or Lucifer... was once God's archangel until he became jealous and rebelled against God's authority. Rather than worship God, he worshipped himself. And God stripped him of his exalted position. Lucifer fell. Sadly, Revelation 12 tells us he convinced a third of the angels to join his revolt.

The unseen war we fight is against an unseen enemy - and ultimately that foe is the Devil himself.

2 Mistakes (Underestimate / Overestimate)

And realize, when people talk about Satan, or the Devil, they tend to make one of two mistakes... Either they underestimate him or they overestimate him...

Underestimate - On the one hand, the Devil would love to have you underestimate him. He'd love for you to brush him off as a comic strip character - a little imp in red leotards, horns, hooves, pitchfork - a cute, but mischievous grin.

One of Satan's greatest achievements is convincing so many people he doesn't exist. In spite of all the evil in the world some people insist there is no devil.

As the old pastor put it, "If you don't believe in the devil, try working for the Lord for awhile." And I agree. Get busy serving Jesus and it won't be long before you'll have no doubt there's a devil.

Don't underestimate the Devil. He and his cronies are ruthless. Their evil is beyond all imagination. The devil and his demons have no conscience or principles. Again in John 10:10 Jesus calls the devil a thief who's out to steal, kill, destroy. He wants to burglarize your blessings. His goal is to trip you up - rip you off. If you're a Christian, the sooner you realize this, the better - Life is not a playground it is a battleground.

The Greek word translated "wrestle" in verse 12 - speaks of hand-to-hand combat. We're locked in a mortal clash - a fight to the finish. We're toe to toe with spiritual assailants. Don't underestimate our adversary.

Overestimate - But neither should you overestimate the Devil. Satan is not God's equal. He's infinitely inferior. The devil is a created being. Until pride entered his heart he was the angel Lucifer - a minister in God's creation. In a head-to-head contest, Satan is no match for Jesus. Our Champion can squish Satan like a bug. In fact, one day He will. The Bible says when Jesus returns He'll defeat him with the mere flash of His glory.

Recall, when Moses entered Pharaoh's court, Aaron threw down his staff and it became a slithery serpent. But Egypt's magicians and sorcerers - with Satanic power - duplicated the same miracle. They too were able to throw down rods that turned into rattlers.

But that's when the Egyptians saw an amazing sight... The rod of God swallowed up Egypt's rods. And the conclusion was obvious... God was making the point, Satan is powerful, but God is far more powerful.

Never forget, Satan's leash is always measured by the will of God. We learn from the book of Job that Satan can't harm a hair on Job's head without first getting God's permission. Don't overestimate the Devil. He's limited.

This is why it's impossible for a Christian to become demon possessed. 1 John 5:18 makes this clear, "We know that whoever is born of God... the wicked one does not touch him." The verse can literally be translated, "the wicked one cannot attach himself." Jesus is not into "time shares" with devils. A Christian can be attacked and tempted and hassled by the Devil. He can be oppressed - but never possessed.

We Give Too Much Credit

I think we often give the devil too much credit.

I know people who blame the devil for problems of their own making. The devil may've played a role, but all too often our difficulties are self-afflicted. Don't blame the devil for your own disobedience.

Years ago, a mis-led pastor published a list of demons that were suppose to torment Christians...

"The demon of fear and loneliness - the demon of junk food and gluttony - the demon of excessive chit-chatting - the demon of sun bathing - the demon of warts - the demon of disco fever (this was a 1970s list). The demon of the fear of fatness - the demon of trying to be cool - the demon of spending sprees - the demon of food gulping - and the demon of baldness." Obviously, he's been working overtime on some of us. Of course, this list is absurd and unbiblical, yet folks believed it - and why? Because it's easier to blame the Devil than take responsibility for our own behavior...

Not Omnipotent – Omniscient - Omnipresent

Satan is not omnipotent, although he would like for you and I to think so... Neither is he omniscient, though it seems he is, since he's had thousands of years to study human behavior and has become quite the expert... And neither is the devil omni- present - though an army of demons give us that impression.

God is all-powerful, and all-knowing, and everywhere at all times - not the devil. Don't underestimate his abilities, but neither should we overestimate them.

Here is the Truth – We Are No Match for him

Here's the truth, on our own, you and I are no match for the devil... but Satan is no match for Jesus!

The angel Michael had the balanced approach. In Jude 9, he didn't back down from Satan, but neither did he consider Satan a pushover. "Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" If the Devil had taken possession of Moses' corpse he could've turned it into an idol the Hebrews might've worshipped. It was Michael who kept Satan at bay.

And he did so not by screaming insults and expletives - like a lot of preachers I've heard do. Why is it some folks love to shout at the devil, yet the person who probably could, chose not to - Michael used a smart, simple strategy. He said, "The Lord rebuke you." He kept Jesus between him and the devil.

Verse 10 – Be Strong in the Lord

Spiritual warfare is not a time to get the big-head, and think too highly of yourself. Try to take on the devil one on one, and he'll turn you into deviled-ham. There is only one person greater than the Devil. The King of Glory who reigns in heaven - Jesus the Christ - won the permanent victory. That means the key to winning this unseen war is a connection to Him.

This is why our text tells us in verse 10, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." The muscle needed to confront Satan is not our own - this strength is found only in Jesus. 1 John 4:4 tells us, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

The Bible declares that on the cross, Jesus defeated Satan and his henchmen - stripped him of his power. Colossians 2:15 describes this ultimate victory. That Jesus "disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

Hebrews 2:14 says of Jesus, "that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil..." The cross was the deciding blow in the age-old conflict. Through His death and resurrection Jesus de-clawed the lion... Jesus milked the snake...

For many years after World War 2 you read of Japanese soldiers found on South Pacific Islands who were still fighting. They didn't know the war was over. And this is the case with Satan today. The devil is living on death row. His fate is sealed. And Jesus is coming back to pull the switch - but the devil and his demons are resigned to go out swinging. They'll keep raising hell until their thrown there.

Satan is Defeated / We Fight from Victory not to Victory

This is why we need to remember that Satan is a defeated foe. Yes, he's still up to mischief, but the only authority he has over a Christian is what we allow him. As followers of Jesus we need to understand we don't ever fight FOR victory, we fight FROM victory.

Our victory has already been won. We stand in what Jesus accomplished on the cross! Our objective in this unseen war is not to gain ground, but to hold the ground Jesus has already won! As we read, verse 13, "and having done all, to stand." We stand in His victory.

When we acknowledge our weakness - grab tightly to God's blessings - dig in our heels of faith - and stand in Jesus name - then the demons are forced to flee! And this is God's promise to you! He states it in James 4:7, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Satan Knows no Match Strong in Lord – So Goes Subtle over Frontal

Satan realizes he's no match for the believer in Jesus who's strong in the Lord and in His might. This is why the Devil prefers the subtle over the frontal attack. Persecution, illness, calamity usually drive us to the Lord... We drop to our knees... We open the Word. This is not what Satan wants. He tries to cut us off from our supply line - neglect

our source. When Satan lures us into acting in our own strength he's got us. This is why we're warned to stand against "the wiles of the devil." Satan has a million tricks and traps and schemes. And he's spent millenniums honing his skills.

Recognize the Adversary's Strategies

We need to be able to recognize our adversary - to detect the Devil's strategies. Victor Hugo once said, "A good general must penetrate the brain of his enemy." In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, "Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." Throughout the Bible the Holy Spirit exposes the wiles of Satan.

And with the time I have left I want to look at a few of his strategies, and how we can stand against them...

- **Deception** - First is deception. Remember Satan is a master of disguise. He comes as a "wolf in sheep's clothing" - an "angel of light." He knows how to gift wrap a package. In John 8:44 Jesus called the Devil "a liar and the father of it." Satan has no allegiance to the truth. He'll deny it, or twist it, or add to it with no hesitation. Satan has no conscience. He savors half-truths. He mixes a lot of truth with a little lie. Satan even knows the Scriptures and he'll twist them to lead us astray. It was AW Tozer who said, "The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still." This is why it's foolish for us to argue with the devil. Match wits with Lucifer and you'll lose. Here's good advice, "When the devil knocks let Jesus open the door!" !
- **Distraction** - The second wife of the Devil is distraction. Satan will use an innocent object - a hobby, or a habit, or even an honorable cause - and he'll get you so wrapped up in it, you'll no longer think about God. Who can forget King David - on his balcony under a starry sky - when suddenly in the moonlight he caught sight of a beautiful silhouette? That one look left him hooked. The king was brought down by a distraction. Satan likes to create the peripheral issue - the strategic diversion. Don't get distracted from what's important!
- **Doubt** - The third scheme of Satan is doubt. If you were asked, "When Satan appeared to Jesus in the wilderness, what was his first temptation?" Most of us would say, "When he said turn these stones to bread" - but not so. First, Satan sowed a seed of doubt. He approached Jesus saying, "If You are the Son of God..." Satan tried to make Jesus doubt His identity. Put Him on the defensive - force Him to prove Himself. And this is what Satan wants to do to you. Rather than have faith in God's grace, Satan wants us trying to prove our own goodness. He knows we'll fail. When we doubt God's love and the sufficiency of Christ we end up doing a lot of non-important religious stuff trying to prove we're Christians. Doubt pressures us to perform. We trust in our grunt not God's grace. Satan will try to cast doubt on our own salvation, as well as the Word of God... and rob us of His promises. When Satan offered Eve the forbidden fruit, she said, "God has said, 'you shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Satan replied, "You will not surely die." Satan cast doubt on God's Word, and tried to deny that Eve's sin would carry any deadly consequences.
- **Discouragement** - Satan deceives, distracts, breeds doubt, and his fourth scheme is discouragement. Let me admit, there are times when waves of discouragement will overwhelm me. They appear for no apparent reason. Over the years I've learned to recognize these floods of discouragement as spiritual warfare. I rebuke the Devil, and often the blues leave as quick as they came. Did you hear about the yard sale at the devil's house? He was selling his tools - all but one, that is. It was a harmless looking tool - but it was his favorite. Someone asked, why isn't that tool for sale? The Devil replied, "It works when nothing else does. No one knows it's mine. It's called discouragement." One of the ways Satan discourages us is through introspection. He can drown us in a sea of guilt by getting our focus off God's grace and onto our failures. Martin Lloyd-Jones once wrote, "The moment Satan turns us in on ourselves, we're plunged into a vortex. We go round and round, we become defeated, utterly useless. Christians." There's a time for self-examination, but do it quickly, with your eyes on Jesus! Focus on your problems and they'll fester. Our healing comes when we turn our focus on Jesus.
- **Fear** - The fifth satanic trap is fear. Recall, Peter refers to Satan as "a roaring lion." But the roaring lion is not the one to fear. Look carefully, he's the older lion who's lost most of his teeth. But he can growl, and intimidate, and look ever-so-menacing.

- Division - The sixth wife of the devil is dissension. Satan loves to create ill feelings between husbands and wives - dads and children - brothers and sisters in Christ. If Satan can get bitterness brewing in a person's heart he can distract them from what matters. In fact, nothing preoccupies a person more than a root of bitterness. It's the morsel we most like to savor. In 1 Peter 3:7 husbands are told to get along with their wives - and for a good reason - so their prayers will not be hindered. Evidently, the devil can create static on the line between you and God by breeding dissension between you and someone you love.
- Condemnation - Another satanic trap is condemnation. This is a satanic specialty. The word "devil" means "slanderer, accuser." Satan loves to torture us with past failures. He often torments us with the guilt of sins that have long been forgiven. "How can anyone who did that call themselves a Christian?" It's an all too familiar refrain. Satan loves to tell you that you've exhausted your final chance with God. He won't accept you until you clean up your act... but then you discover it's impossible to clean up your act until you've received God's acceptance. Satan orchestrates the catch 22. Here's a line I like to remember. "When Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future." Satan has no right to comment on who God will and won't forgive. 1 John 1:9 assures us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Bible says God is rich in mercy. No matter how often we yield to a sin, God will never reject the truly repentant heart. Conviction draws us to God - condemnation drives us from Him. And it's God's Holy Spirit who brings conviction. It's Satan who heaps on us condemnation. As Paul said in Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
- Compromise - The last of the wives of Satan I'll mention today is compromise. Satan loves to see God's people water down their convictions - and dilute biblical standards. Satan offers a less-filling faith - a Christianity-Lite. A faith that's convenient, non-offensive, politically-correct. The only problem is this faith lacks the power to save. It reminds me of the hunter and the grizzly bear. The hunter tracked the bear down and had him in his sites. Yet just before the hunter pulled the trigger the bear shouted, "Wait, let's negotiate!" The hunter was so surprised to hear the bear speak, he agreed to talks. The bear wanted a full stomach. The hunter was after a fur coat... And when the negotiations were over they both got what they wanted... The bear went away licking his chops, while the hunter wore his fur coat. Obviously though, the bear got the better end of the deal. And this is what happens to us whenever we compromise with sin. We end up getting the short stick.

Recognize his Wiles / But Combat Requires Armor & Arsenal

Learning to recognize the Adversary in this unseen war is one of the keys to victory... but it's not the only key. We've also been equipped with strong armor. Spiritual combat requires spiritual armor - and God has provided us effective and protective battle gear. I hope you'll be back next week - and get fitted. We fight an unseen war, but victory is possible if we know our adversary and if we strap on our armor.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 6:10-17

Title: The Unseen War: Our Armor

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 6:10–17 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, "who is God", "what has He done for us", and "what does He think of us".

Duty - is "what does He want us to do", and "what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it". Along with that will come, "what we need to be on guard of".

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are "Seated" with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to "Walk" worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to "Stand" against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy – NOW STAND

We move now from the walk, to..... now it is time to stand!

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Introduction

A teenager gets injured in a car accident because he didn't click his seat belt... A police officer is killed in the line of duty, because he chose not to wear the bullet proof vest issued to him for his protection...A whitewater rafter falls into the water, hits his head on a rock, and drowns... he wasn't wearing his helmet..... a construction worker falls off the scaffolding and is injured because was not wear his safety harness....We've all heard these kinds of tragic stories... If the injured person had just used the safety gear they were issued they would've walked away from the danger unscathed! But just possessing protective equipment doesn't make a person safe! You've got to put it on!

Last week we started a series of messages in Ephesians that we entitled "The Unseen War." The Christian life is not a playground, it's a battleground. We live in the midst of a lethal conflict. We're part of a battle. You and I live

behind enemy lines. We live and move in a world manipulated by Satan and his demons - cut off from the light of Jesus.

And when our lives start shining God's light the devil fights back. He tries to rob us of our blessings. He wants to snuff out our light and witness. And he has a bag-full of tricks and schemes he uses against us. In verse 11 Paul calls them "the wiles of the devil." And yet God has not left us defenseless in this unseen war. He's equipped us with a full wardrobe of protective gear designed specifically for Satan's assaults. Paul refers to it as, the "armor of God."

The "armor of God" is made of supernatural steel that's been hammered on the anvils of heaven. This special armor is held together with divine rivets. God's combat armor is created according to spiritual specs - and it's perfectly suited for the devil's devices.

Here's the only catch... You've got to suit up! This is why Paul tells us in verse 11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand..." The armor of God does you and I absolutely no good hanging in our closet - or left in the pages of Scripture. You've got to suit up, and strap it on!

Did you know 20,000 Americans die each year, who would still be alive if they'd just buckled their seatbelt? And who knows how many folks with a ship-wrecked faith would still be growing and vibrant Christians if they had just "put on the armor of God"... Hey, when it comes to God's armor don't leave home without it!

Last week we talked about our adversary in this spiritual battle. This week we'll discuss our armor.

And notice first, in verse 11, Paul instructs us to put on "the whole armor of God." Each piece of this supernatural armor is vital. Neglect one section and you leave yourself vulnerable. If Satan spots a chink in your armor he'll know exactly where to aim his attack...

In Medieval times the night before a squire was knighted he'd spread out all the pieces of his armor - then pray until morning light - offering his soul to God. This AM we'll act similarly... We'll spread out the pieces of our armor and rededicate our souls to God. Then when we leave today I'll challenge you to put it on. It's time for you and I to win victories for Jesus.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
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- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Ephesians 6:10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(Ephesians 6:11 NKJV) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We are to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Strength comes from the Lord. I might add, be strong always, not just when warfare comes. Whatever the Lord puts before you, work, play, church, Be Strong, do it with your whole heart, and unto the Lord.

The enemy attacks us in many ways.

1. Emotionally.
 - a. Fear
 - b. Despair
 - c. Anxiety
 - d. Depression

2. Spiritually
 - a. Doubt the word of God.
 - b. Doubt the love of God.
 - c. Doubt the faithfulness of God.

God has provided for us the armor against these attacks of the enemy. Dress for Success. During the D-Day Invasion they didn't wear their pajamas, but battle gear. Today too many Christians are putting on their jammy's and talking about how they feel. This isn't a slumber party eating cookies and chips, this is war. Satan is at war with Jesus Christ, therefore that means if our Dad is at war, then we are too. The earth is not a playground but a battle zone, and we have better be prepared to fight, cause Satan is coming whether we want to fight or not.

(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Verse 12 is our intelligence report. Every successful military campaign begins with an intelligence report on our enemy. We study the enemy, and we know what we are up against. Our enemy is powerful, experienced (1,000's of years in the business), and well resourced (spiritual hosts). We need to realize these forces exist and are against us. Refer back to our study from last week (Our Adversary).

Satan is the "prince of this world." – Jesus even said so Himself.

(John 12:31 KJV) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. (John 12:32 KJV) And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

(John 14:30 KJV) Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

(2 Corinthians 4:3 KJV) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

This is his home, earth is his, for every battle he has home field advantage. If we are to battle him we cannot battle him here in the flesh, we have to take it into the spiritual realm, for that is where we are seated (Ephesians 1:3 KJV: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ). He is always trying to change the focus of the battle with you into the realm of the physical for he knows there he has a decided advantage. He knows that in the realm of the Spirit, he is already defeated.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

It is an unseen war, but when we enter into the spiritual realm, we see the war in crystal clarity, and so the prayer is for us to see it, and to see who hold the keys to victory. Remember Elisha praying his servants' eyes would be open, remember Daniel praying for 20 days because Michael was the angel was being withstood by the king of Persia (a name for the Devil).

(2 Kings 6:8 KJV) Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. (2 Kings 6:9 KJV) And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. (2 Kings 6:10 KJV) And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself

there, not once nor twice. (2 Kings 6:11 KJV) Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? (2 Kings 6:12 KJV) And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. (2 Kings 6:13 KJV) And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. (2 Kings 6:14 KJV) Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. (2 Kings 6:15 KJV) And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? (2 Kings 6:16 KJV) **And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.** (2 Kings 6:17 KJV) **And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.** (2 Kings 6:18 KJV) And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

(Daniel 10:2 KJV) In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. (Daniel 10:3 KJV) I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. (Daniel 10:4 KJV) And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; (Daniel 10:5 KJV) Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: (Daniel 10:6 KJV) His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Daniel 10:7 KJV) And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. (Daniel 10:8 KJV) Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. (Daniel 10:9 KJV) Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. (Daniel 10:10 KJV) And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. (Daniel 10:11 KJV) And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. **(Daniel 10:12 KJV) Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. (Daniel 10:13 KJV) But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.** (Daniel 10:14 KJV) Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. (Daniel 10:15 KJV) And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

There is the “Father Filter” , only what God allows, can Satan do to us, as told in the story of Job.

Know this, Satan is always probing to see if there are any chinks in your armor. He is constantly on the attack. He will use any guise or ruse to catch you off guard. Paul refers to the wiles of the devil. He is cunning, clever and relentless in his attacks.

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood.....so anytime we are wrestling with people (flesh and blood) then we are in the wrong battle. If you are fighting your boss, your spouse, your kids, you are engaged in the wrong battle.

1 Kings 22:31, King of Syria versus Israel. The king said don't fight against the men, but only the king. He was saying you take the king down, you take his people down. We defeat Satan in the spirit realm, then the people he uses against will either go away, or what they do won't get to us.

1 Kings 22:31 (NKJV) ³¹ Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, “Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel.”

(Ephesians 6:13 NKJV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Paul may have been sitting next to a Roman Soldier, but this verse was prophesied way before the Roman Army made such armor:

(Isaiah 59:16 KJV) And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. (Isaiah 59:17 KJV) For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

There are Six pieces of Armor and Prayer, that equals seven, and that makes sense to me being that there are seven days in the week, and there never seems to be an off day when it comes to spiritual warfare. All through the week, every day of the week, I will need to call upon Truth, Righteousness, the Gospel, Faith, Salvation, the Word, and Prayer. Warfare may sound scary, but you need to know that if you pick-up this armor and put it on, you will not fall. It doesn't matter who is president, what the economy is, who you are married to, you will not fall.

In order to have a quick memory recall while sharing with believers, or just to remind myself, I made a little memory jogger for the first letter of each day of the week.

1. Girded Waist – Truth: (Monday – Memorize the Word)

(Ephesians 6:14 NKJV) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

This is the first thing that a soldier would do before going into battle. He would gird himself. They wore long robes in those days, which restricted rapid movement. You can imagine how difficult it would be if you sought to run in the Boston marathon wearing a long robe. Preparing to go to work or to run, or to fight, one would first gird up his loins. The girdle was a sash that was like a belt around the waist, and they would pull up the long robe and tie the sash around the waist with the excess material above the sash, so that the legs are free for movement.

The belt was 6-8 inches wide, and all the other weapons would hang off of it. Truth is what we hang everything else on. If we don't know the Truth, have no foundation to build off of.

The first thing necessary to prepare you for the spiritual conflict is that you know the truth. I would say that one of the great weaknesses of the church today is the lack of a strong foundation in the truth. This is why such things as the so-called Toronto Blessing can sweep through the church world. It is interesting to me that in all of the spiritual armament Paul says nothing about experiences. When it comes to the real spiritual battle, the exotic experiences of the past are of no value. When the battle gets really heavy it is the truth that will sustain you. Get ready and prepare yourself for the battle. Gird your loins with truth. Wrap yourself up in the truth. It is so important that we know the truth concerning Jesus.

The belt was always prepared before the battle. Our navy Seals train for years, for what turns out to be a 1 hour mission. We can't wait for the battle to begin to grab the truth. Your mind will only be able to recall what you memorized. We have to make Scripture memorization a part of our daily lives, so when Satan comes we the attacks we can stand on the Truth. The training manual for the West Point Cadets has in its beginning pages, "the way you train in peacetime is the way you will fight in wartime."

Psalm 138:2, God says, I have magnified my Word above my name; and that is pretty powerful considering that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and tongue will confess.

Psalm 138:2 (NKJV) ² I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Jeremiah 1:12. God says He watches over His Word so that He might perform it.

(Jeremiah 1:12 NKJV) Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."

Psalm 1:2-3 God says if you meditate on His Word you will prosper.

(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; (Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

2. Breastplate – Righteousness: (Tuesday – Trade Places with Jesus)

(Ephesians 6:14 NKJV) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The Breastplate was bronze metal that covered the vital organs. If the heart is not protected, then one blow would be instant death. For us to be righteous, we have to trade places with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21: For He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of Christ.

Righteousness means "Right Standing with God." To be Right with God, we have to receive the free gift offered through Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. No forgiveness of sin means we stand alone, and are open prey to Satan.

Once we have accepted and are forgiven, and are right before God, that means we no longer have to fight alone, we can tag-out and let the Lord battle for us. Our Breastplate is Jesus.

(Romans 13:14 NKJV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

The Duel: Aaron came home from school one day, all banged up, bloodied, and bruised. His father asked him what on earth had happened. "Well, dad, it's like this," Aaron began. "I challenged Larry to a duel and you know how that goes...I gave him his choice of weapons." "Uh huh," said the father. "That seems fair." "I know...but I never thought he'd choose his sister!" ---- Chose Jesus as your weapon of choice when you duel Satan.

3. Shod Feet – Gospel: (Wednesday – Witness for Christ)

(Ephesians 6:15 NKJV) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Roman Sandals had little hobs on them for sure footing in combat.

15 minutes a day: Some of the best advice I have received is from my evangelism teacher in bible College. He said no matter what, at the minimum 15 minutes a day. 5 to pray, 5 to read the Word, and 5 to share the Gospel with someone. Sharing the Gospel verbally with someone makes the Gospel real, the challenges we encounter draw us closer to the Lord and a deeper desire to seek him in prayer and the Word so we will be ready for the challenges that come with witnessing. Sharing the Gospel is a gift from the Lord. Sharing the Gospel gives you strength, it seems like a paradox considering sharing the Word is warfare with Satan, yet God says this will make you strong.....you will not fail or fall (verse 13). Listen, God's power flows through you when you reach out for Him and with Him.

(Matthew 16:18 NKJV) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:19 NKJV) "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We can set people free from the bondage of sin and death by sharing the gospel with them.

Work it into your daily conversation. You don't have to give them Roman's Road, the 4 Spiritual Laws, just witness the goodness of the Lord to unbelievers. At work today a guy ask me to sponsor his cancer walk. He told me how he lost his sister to cancer, and how that this year he would be taking his grandchildren to go. I said how neat, they will ask why are we walking grand daddy. I said that reminds me of when the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan river into the Promised Land and how God had them build a rock pile, so that every time they passed their children would ask why are those rocks there. It just naturally opened the conversation up about the things of the Lord. Sharing the Gospel is not walking on people, but walking with people.

4. Shield – Faith: (Thursday - Trust in the Lord)

(Ephesians 6:16 NKJV) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Above all: doesn't mean most important, but "covering you all."

The Shield was the maneuverable part of the armor. It was 4 foot by 2 foot. The enemy would shoot fiery arrows both at them and over them to come down on them. The soldiers would build what was called a "tartus". A 27 man group, would have 6 in front and 3 rows of 7. They front 6 would lock their shields side-by-side, and the rest would lock them side-by-side above their heads. They would run a chariot over them to test them. It was literally and armored tank some 2000 years ago.

The shield would be above all. The fiery darts would bounce off of them, they were protected. It was a common practice in ancient warfare to dip your arrows in tar and set them on fire. The archers lined up side-by-side and shot in a single barrage.

Wicked one: side note, the root of this word wicked is where we get the word pornographic.

Our shield of faith is our firm confidence in the Word of God. If armed with that, nothing can touch us. Romans 10:17 says, "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." The more Word we take in, the more faith we will have.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Proverbs 30:5, every word of God is pure, he is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Proverbs 30:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

The shield of faith is also when we have to separate our emotions from the situation. There are times when even the strongest Christians struggle with doubts, this is when we have to Proverbs 3:5-6 the situation.

(Proverbs 3:5 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **(Proverbs 3:6 NKJV)** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

When things happen in my life and I can't understand why they are happening, I always go back to what I do understand.....and that is that Jesus loves me, and has a plan and future for me.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

So what do you do when you are fighting lust, gossip, depression, anger, and the likes? 2 Timothy 2:22 Paul says run from them and follow faith with the brethren. Run from those things and get to the prayer meeting, Bible Studies, because together we put a covering over us, like the tartus. Friday night don't stay home alone, not go to the bar, or cruise the cable station....rather go be with the brethren.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV) ²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

5. Helmet – Salvation: (Friday – Fend-off the Thoughts of the Evil One)

(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The Helmet covered the head. When we begin to talk about helmets we are obviously talking about protecting our minds. One of the places that Satan is continually attacking in this spiritual warfare is our minds. He seeks to plant evil thoughts. We are exposed on every side advertisement that are designed to attract our attention by scantily clad women. The billboards, The newspapers, Especially T.V. Most people during commercials channel surf, it is so easy with the remote. It is amazing how much filth you come across as you look at the fare that is being offered on T.V. People today do not have a chance of survival unless they have their minds protected against the onslaught of the enemies attacks. Have you ever been doing something, and then out of no where comes this horrible thought? You can be in a church service, prayer meeting, being intimate with your spouse...then wham, some horrible thought comes...you say where did that come from..that's Satan. Satan does whatever he can to revive your carnal cravings - to lure your heart away from God. He wants you to slide back into the sin you escaped in Christ. It's been said, "Free cheese is always available in mouse traps." Satan makes temptation oh so tempting.

Paul warned, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, if we sow to the flesh, we of the flesh shall reap corruption, but if we sow to the spirit, the we of the spirit shall reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

If we leave our minds unprotected, Satan will fill them with all kinds of filth that will defile us. Satan also attacks our minds with discouragement. He makes us feel that there is no use trying to go on, that the Christian life is just too difficult. The whole spiritual battle is won or lost in our minds. We have to take our thought life into control: **(2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV)** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

Salvation is in three tenses,

1. I have been saved from the penalty of my sin. Justification.
2. I am being saved from the power of sin. Sanctification.
3. I shall be saved from the presence of sin. Glorification

The helmet of salvation I believe is all three aspects of my salvation, but more specifically to the third aspect, which is the hope of my salvation. We need to keep the hope of the glorious future with our Lord in view. When we lose sight of the eternal, Satan can do all kinds of things with our minds. Any doubts that our salvation isn't secured, if we have no real confidence that we are saved, then when it comes to facing our foe he will wipe us up. Satan will beat you silly if you take this off.

(1 Thessalonians 5:8 KJV) *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:9 KJV) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 5:10 KJV) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*

The Lord is returning for you, lose focus on him returning and everything else gets out of whack. You will worry about your job, money, and this crazy world. It is the hope of his return that keeps our life in perspective. Comfort the brethren who are hurting with these words.

6. Sword – Word of God: (Saturday – Study the word of God)

(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The Sword was 24 inches, and had a dual sharpened edge. They were able to take two swings to every one of the opponents. This isn't the big sword, rather a smaller sword. It was great for close quarters.

The sword is the only offensive weapon, yet you still can use it as a defensive weapon. As a defensive weapon it helps keep the enemy at a distance from you. As long as you are swinging your sword he cannot get too close. We see how that word of God is used as a defensive weapon against sin. David said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

Psalms 119:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*

The Greek word used here for "word" is *reHEMA*, not *LOGOS*. *LOGOS* is the Bible, but *reHEMA* is the exact spoken word of God. We used the Truth of the Bible to defend us against the attacks such as Satan saying you aren't saved, God doesn't love you, your past will always keep you down. It is there that we say, I know I'm saved cause of Ephesians 2:8-10 says I am; I know God loves me cause of John 3:16 says I am; I know my past is wipe away cause of Hebrews 8:12. We stand on the Truth as a part of our Defensive Armor.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Hebrews 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

Now here we use the Word to go on the offense. It is a Word rightly spoken. It is the right word, at the right time, for the right situation. Look how Jesus used it against Satan. Jesus used the Word as an offensive weapon in Luke 4, Jesus battles the temptations that Satan puts before Him for 40 days when in the wilderness, and in each case he answers him with the Word. The enemy usually attacks in three different areas. The lust of the flesh, The lust

of the eye, The pride of life, Sometimes in one area, sometimes in all three. In the case of the temptation of Jesus again it was in all three.

1. Knowing that Jesus was hungry; he suggested that he turn stones into bread. The lust of the flesh.
2. He showed him all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. The lust of the eye.
3. He suggested that he leap from the pinnacle of the Temple so that when He landed safely, all the people would exalt Him because of His feat. The pride of life.

Note the defense/offense of Jesus against every attack was the word of God.

1. "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
2. "It is written Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."
3. "It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

What was the resultant????????? Luke 4:13 now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him.

Matthew 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Conclusion

In conclusion, notice the one part of the body that's not protected by any armor? The answer... our back! God provides no armor for the rear. Why? He has no plans for our retreat. He's called us to resist the devil - not tuck tail and run! Take note of it, three times in Ephesians 6 Paul says to "stand" against the devil. Always remember, God has no armor for the backside! James 4:7 tells us "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

James 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

When I played football in High School the first few days of practice were always in shorts and cleats. The coaches put us through a week or so of conditioning. We'd run a few plays - catch a pass or two - get our legs under us... but everyone knew in a few days it all would change. You could be a superstar in shorts and cleats... you could get the impression that football was all fun and frolic... But everyone knew it wasn't really football until the pads came on and the hitting started. And the same is true in the Christian life. When you're first saved it's like shorts and cleats. You're jogging about feeling great - this new life is a breeze... But I'm warning, there's an unseen war - a spiritual battle. And it won't be long before the hitting starts!

As that famed philosopher, Mike Tyson, once said, "Everybody has a plan, until they get punched." And when you get punched, what will you do?

You'll definitely need some pads. Here's the good news, God has issued us all the equipment we'll ever need - not just under armor, but the whole armor.

Don't leave your spiritual protection hanging in your locker... Suit up! Strap it on! Put on the armor of God. It's time we lived in victory - not defeat! Let's put on the whole armor of God and let's do it today!

Warfare is Daily

The Battle is daily, we need to dress appropriately, dress for success:

- 1. (Monday – Memorize the Word) Girded our Waist with Truth:**
- 2. (Tuesday – Trade Places with Jesus) Put-on the Breastplate of Righteousness:**
- 3. (Wednesday – Witness for Christ) Shod your Feet with the Gospel of Peace:**
- 4. (Thursday - Trust in the Lord) Take up the Shield of Faith:**
- 5. (Friday – Fend-off the Thoughts of the Evil One) Put-on the Helmet of your Salvation:**
- 6. (Saturday – Study the word of God) Wield the Sword of the Word of God:**
- 7. (Sunday – Slowdown to Pray) Pray in the Spirit:**

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 6:17-20

Title: The Unseen War: Our Armor

Today's Passage:

Ephesians 6:17–20 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Walk Worthy – NOW STAND

We move now from the walk, to..... now it is time to stand!

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Open

A small company of US troops were pinned down on top of a hill. They were caught in heavy crossfire. The Lieutenant radioed to his commanding officer, "Sir, we're surrounded by the enemy." The voice answered, "Good, don't let one of them get away!"

Obviously, battles are won by aggression and courage. And this is especially true in spiritual combat. Sit back disengaged and uninvolved - let Satan bring the fight to you - and it puts you on the defensive. But take the battle to the enemy and we put him on the run!

You and I need to charge into the fray - speaking God's truth, sharing God's love, showing God's righteousness. In the eyes of Satan and his demons we should be considered, "Armed and Dangerous." The Christian army needs soldiers who are bold and brave - who'll "stand" against the devil. Roy Putnam writes, "It is the fearful who allow the devil to hold high carnival on this planet. The devil sets up his tyranny only because he has not been challenged!"

Who can forget the young shepherd boy who heard the Philistine giant defy the God of Israel. Righteous anger filled David's heart, "How dare this wicked Philistine blaspheme God! He needs to be shut up!" At first King Saul tried to fit David in the king's armor, but it was too big, too awkward. David couldn't move. He needed spiritual armor not steel armor. David marched into the Valley of Elah carrying a shield of faith - wearing the belt of truth - the chest-plate of righteousness - cleats of peace - a helmet of salvation. The very same armor God has supplied you! In the end, the shepherd boy slung a stone, and struck a giant, and lopped off his head with a sword. David won the battle for God and His people because he took a stand against the devil in the strength of the Lord. And if we, like David, want to "get a-head" in the spiritual battle we also need to be brave enough "stand" - and take the battle to the enemy.

So let me ask you, this past week did you dare to do something - anything - for the cause of Jesus Christ? John Wesley once said, "Give me one hundred people who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and... such alone will shake the gates of hell..."

It is time for the Church to arise, in power, and face the enemy, To STAND!

For the last two weeks we've been discussing the unseen war - the spiritual battle. We've looked at our adversary - Satan, his demons, and their various wiles... Last week, we clothed ourselves in our armor... Now this AM, we're loading up our arsenal. We're looking at the ammo God has supplied - the weapons we can use to take the battle to the enemy.

Realize, the armor of God is defensive - but we also have some offensive firepower. In fact, Paul mentions two such weapons - the Word of God and prayer. Their code names... the blade and the bomb. The Bible is a sword! It's a weapon for the infantry. Prayer is a shell! It's a missile for the artillery. All Christians are equipped with a blade and a bomb!

And with just these two weapons you'll find all the firepower you'll ever need to take down any stronghold. In the field of physical warfare, modern weapon systems are always becoming obsolete. Sherman Tanks and Tommy Guns have been replaced with M1 Abrams and M16s. There've been definite upgrades.

But our spiritual arsenal can never be improved upon. The weapons that were lethal in Paul's day are still "the top of the line." Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:4, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds."

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Our arsenal has been whipping the devil for millenniums - but the sword is useless in its sheath.

The fuse has to be lit before the bomb will explode. Our need is not more or better firepower - but the confidence to use our current arsenal, and the training to use it effectively! That's our goal this morning...

(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

In verse 17, the first weapon we've been issued is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Realize you're Bible is many things... It's a comfort, a sweetness, a book of wisdom and answers - it's also a weapon! The Bible is a blade. It's a spiritual saber...

But first, it's the Great Physician's scalpel! Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The Bible, it lays bare my true motivations... It slices and dices my selfish ways... The Bible pierces my pride... With one swipe it cuts me open, and allows the Physician to do His surgery. In short, God's Word kills me to heal me!

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

On the Day of Pentecost, before the thousands of folks who had gathered in Jerusalem, Peter pulled the sword from his sheath - and he spoke God's Word... Acts 2:37 records the results, "When they heard this they were cut to the heart." The Bible gets past the ears. It works on the heart. It's made of spiritual steel.

Acts 2:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

And the Bible is not only an effective tool in the hearts of men, it is especially useful against Satan! 1 John 2:14 tells us how certain men in the church fought successfully with the enemy. "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." They overcame Satan with the Bible!

1 John 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

In Matthew 4, when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness he defeated the Devil with the careful use of God's Word. Three times Jesus quoted Scripture. And here's the point, if our Lord drew the Sword of the Spirit in His encounters with Satan, how much more do we need to keep the sword close to our side!

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV) ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

When Satan

- tries to condemn you, pick up your Bible and run him through with Romans 8:1, "There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."
- When he tries to frighten you, take the sword and thrust 2 Timothy 1:7, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
- And when tempted to doubt God's presence, grab the Word, and touché - Hebrews 13:5, "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

God wants us to be skilled swordsmen - spiritual swordsmen.

Satan knows how lethal the Word of God can be to his diabolical schemes. This is why he'll do everything possible to keep your sword in its sheath! You can sit down to read a magazine, and spend hours, with no distractions - but just try picking up your Bible and the telephone starts buzzing in your pocket. Take the family to a movie and everyone loads up without a hitch - but leave for Bible Study and the kids fall in the mud, you lose your keys, the

car's out of gas. Satan will do all he can to keep you from getting into God's Word! He knows if he can keep you ignorant of the Scriptures he can keep you ineffective for God.

And it's tragic how successful he's been with many, many Christians. A recent poll revealed that

- 93% of all Americans own a Bible –
- in fact, 75% of American households own two or more copies –
- yet 50% said they never read it.
- Of the people claiming to be born-again Christians only 18% read their Bibles daily.

After a similar survey George Gallup drew this conclusion, "It's time to sound the alarm... there exists today a shocking lack of knowledge about the Bible." Tragically, churches today are filled with biblically-illiterate Christians. Our ignorance is now epidemic.

Someone once commented on the ministry of a particular church, "It's a mile wide, and a foot deep." The seats get filled by fluff, and entertainment, and a few Bible bits - but there's not a lot of substance.

For people to grow spiritually they need to be fed a steady diet of not just milk - but the meat of God's Word. They need more than snacks and fast food. They need protein. They need to be challenged with a biblical perspective - to see today in light of eternity. "To measure the success of a church's ministry its members should not only be counted, but weighed."

2 Timothy 2:15 instructs all Christians, "Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

[2 Timothy 2:15 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hey, I don't hound you to give, or serve, or sing... but I'm hounding you to come to the Bible studies. It's for your own survival. Don't be home, watching TV while the devil is plotting your demise. A lack of Bible knowledge leaves you and your family defenseless. There's more at stake than you realize!

At the US Army artillery training school in Fort Sills, Oklahoma the instructors saw a noticeable difference between the trainees in 1958 and those in 1965. In 1958 it was difficult to keep men awake, but not so in 1965 - the same lectures were attended by men who were alertly scratching down notes. The difference was that 1958 was peace time, while in 1965 soldiers were just weeks from facing the enemy in Vietnam jungles.

And make no mistake about it, neither are we living in peacetime. We too are in the midst of a fierce war. And if we're not equipped, we'll be easily defeated.

In 2 Samuel 23:10 one of David's mighty men, Eleazar, fought against the Philistines. We're told, "Until his hand was weary, and (it) stuck to the sword." Eleazar held on to his sword so tenaciously his hand literally froze to the handle. And this should be our attitude toward the Bible. Clutch your sword with the same tenacity... A vice-grip is needed for victory.

[2 Samuel 23:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

Drop your sword and you've lost your edge! Notice also Paul calls the Bible "the sword of the Spirit." This word translated "sword" refers to the Roman "machaira" - or the "double-edged sword." It wasn't a long sword, but a short sword, 18-24 inches long, it was used for close quarter combat. It was short, but extremely sharp and quite heavy. I also love it in that the word for "word of God" in this verse is "rhema" and it is a Word rightly spoken. It is the right word, at the right time, for the right situation.

And this is God's policy - handling God's Word requires parental supervision. This is why the Bible is referred to as, "the sword of the Spirit." It's the Holy Spirit who supervises the proper use of God's Word. The Spirit helps us understand, interpret, apply the Scriptures - without cutting ourselves or harming each other. We need God's

Spirit to safely use God's Word. And this is so cool... What other book is there, where the author promises to help you understand what He's written? This is why before you read, always pray...

(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

And speaking of prayer... The second offensive weapon Paul mentions is the bomb – it's prayer!

God has supplied us both a blade and a bomb. Prayer is a very potent spiritual weapon.

It's been said, "The Christian army is the only army that marches on its knees." Our greatest advances for the cause of Christ come through faith and prayer. Edward Payson once explained the priority of prayer in a Christian's life, "Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, and the third thing that's necessary..."

And Satan knows the importance of prayer. William Cowper penned, "Satan trembles when he sees - the weakest saint upon his knees." Martin Luther put it, "My prayer is more than the devil himself."

Satan understands the power of prayer - that's why there's no limit to the extremes he'll go to keep you from praying. Our enemy's chief strategy is to frustrate our prayer life. If you think the distractions are numerous when you read your Bible - just try to pray!

Prayer is the Christian's heavy artillery! In prayer we bow before God in the safety of our homes, or church, or car, and lob spiritual shells on the enemy in far away places. Long before we confront the enemy face to face we can wear him down through persistent prayer. In the Gulf War, United States ships in the Persian Gulf launched computer-guided missiles - "smart bombs" - that hit targets hundreds of miles away with pin-point accuracy. The technology was impressive... But not as impressive as what happens in prayer.

From our knees we can launch spiritual bombs aimed at targets all over the world. Prayers of faith bomb satanic strongholds. They lay siege to hard hearts - break down defenses - bomb away excuses.

They loosen Satan's grip... Long before we march in with the Gospel we set the stage through prayer!

In Mark 3:27 Jesus said, "No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house." You don't march into a lion's den without first restraining the lion - and neither do you enter Satan's domain without first neutralizing Satan's influence. This is what we do in prayer! Jesus is stronger than Satan, and we can ask Jesus to bind Satan, or tie his hands. Then we can empty his house of his captives!

***Mark 3:27 (NKJV)** ²⁷ No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.*

Prayer is the heavy, spiritual artillery! But as with most weapons some maintenance is involved to keep the big guns firing. Here, Paul gives us a 6-point checklist for keeping our prayer life cocked and loaded! Our prayers need to be consistent, creative, counseled, constant, caring, and combative.

1 - Effective Prayer is Continual (v.18 – praying always)

First, our prayer life needs to be continual. In verse 18, Paul writes, "praying always." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 puts us, "pray without ceasing." This doesn't mean we should stay on our knees for hours, and keep our eyes shut all day... But what it does mean is that we should live our lives in a constant attitude of prayer. Is your life a conversation with God?

***1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)** ¹⁷ pray without ceasing,*

Author Thomas Kelly writes, "On one level we can be thinking, discussing, seeing, calculating, meeting all the demands of external affairs. But deep within, behind the scenes, at a profounder level, we may also be in prayer

and adoration, song and worship, and a gentle receptiveness to divine breathings." To "pray always" is to keep my thoughts on and open to God.

I love what Pastor Chuck said, in that he started the day in prayer alone with God, and then as he went about his day he just stayed in a continual place of prayer with Him, speaking to the Lord, fellowshiping with the Lord.

2 - Effective Prayer is Creative (v.18 all prayer and supplication)

Second, we need to keep our prayer life creative. Paul says pray with "all prayer and supplication." Paul is in a sense saying praying across the whole spectrum of prayer; Prayer comes in different shapes and varieties. There's confession, thanksgiving, intercession, adoration, meditation, supplication, petition, praise... Variety is the spice of life - and it'll spice up a prayer life. Always pray the same prayer and it gets stale and mechanical. Alter your prayer's objective and approach.

Prayer is the great adventure, and yet we can turn it into something of drudgery and boredom. Don't pray a list and get up and say amen... that is boring. Take the Word of God, and pray, praise, petition, allowing the Spirit to lead you and guide you.

We like to say in our Tuesday Corporate prayer: Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer. We pray the scriptures, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us to keep it fresh, and we always soak and saturate in the worshipping of God. Worship is a form of prayer..... and sometimes we don't even ask the Lord for anything because we spent the whole time just taking scripture and praying and praise the glory of God. We may not have asked for specific things, but what we got was the presence of God, and thus left knowing our God sees us and will meet us in our needs.

Here're a few suggestions... At times don't be afraid to pray for yourself. If you don't ask, you won't receive. At times pray for your friends and family - pray for a missionary - by all means, pray for your pastors. At times focus on nothing but God - His glory, grace, greatness... At times stop and be thankful. Show a little gratitude for all God has done... At times get angry at evil and its perpetrators. Pray for spiritual victories... And always ask God to make you more like Jesus...

3 - Effective Prayer is Counseled (v.18 - in the Spirit)

Third, our prayer life needs to be counseled. God answers Spirit-directed prays. This is why Paul says "pray in the Spirit." Pray under His influence. The Holy Spirit wants to pray with us as we pray! We should pray in concert with the Spirit! He motivates and elevates our prayer life. He guides our thinking as we pray. If we trust Him, He'll teach us how to pray about a given situation - or for a friend. The Holy Spirit Jesus said will counsel us, and what does a counselor do but lead us with their vast wisdom, knowledge, and experience. Jesus, lives to make intercession for us, thus we would be wise to tap into what He is doing.

John 14:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 14:26 (NIV84) ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Hebrews 7:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

I've heard it said, "Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God." When I'm led by the Holy Spirit, my prayer takes on a confidence it would've otherwise lacked. As the Spirit leads I know I'm praying in cooperation with God's will.

Both corporate and private prayer should be a symphony conducted by the Maestro - the Holy Spirit.

4 - Effective Prayer is Constant (v.18 - being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication)

Fourth, an effective prayer life should be constant. Paul says to pray with "all perseverance." Don't pray once, then quit! Keep it up! Matthew 7:7 is a familiar verse, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

But read this verse it in the Amplified Version and you get the real sense of it, "Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you." The verb tenses imply persistence... "keeps on asking"

The word for watchful is the word used for "alert", to be awoken. We have to stay on alert to the unseen war, the battle we are in, for the souls of others. We can't fall asleep or be lulled into a false sense of security. People are perishing, prodigals are wandering, marriages are imploding, a Nation is dividing. All is not well in this war we are fighting. It is time!

It is time for the Church to arise, in power, and face the enemy, To STAND! Take the battle to the Enemy!

Recall the parable Jesus told about the man whose guest arrived late one night. His refrigerator was empty. He had nothing to serve, so he went next door to borrow food. His neighbor didn't want to get up, but he banged on the door until the sleepy- head gave in. This man made a scene! He embarrassed himself and his neighbor. The slumbering neighbor was forced to crawl out of bed, empty out his bread box, and give it to the man banging on his door just to shut him up. To me, this is amazing. Prayer is compared to a sort of Holy Rudeness. It's like banging on a door. You've not really prayed until you get desperate... It's not that God is reluctant to answer us. He just wants us to be unashamedly persistent to the point of desperation.

Luke 11:5-10 (NKJV) ⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?' ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Often God refuses to answer our prayer because of our pride. We think God owes us. We forget to ask humbly. I believe, God often waits to answer our prayer until our desperation exceeds our sophistication. Our prayer needs to be constant folks, don't quit, don't give up for that prodigal, that lost, that deceived, the addicted, the distant, pray without ceasing, pray without out quitting. It is always too early to quit.

5 - Effective Prayer is Caring (v.18 - for all the saints)

Fifth, our prayer life needs to be caring. Paul says pray "for all the saints." Don't just pray for yourself - pray for others - both your friends and foes... I heard of a single Christian who was praying for herself constantly. One Sunday, the lady was challenged to intercede for someone else. She agreed. She started by praying for her mom. She asked, "God, please give my mother a handsome son-in-law!"

Remember, when was it that God finally healed Job? It happened "when he prayed for his friends. "The greatest service you can render a fellow human being is to intercede for them in heart-felt prayer. And, what did Jesus say about praying for our enemies?

Job 42:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

Matthew 5:43-45 (NKJV) ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

6 - Effective Prayer is Combative (v19-20)

(Ephesians 6:19 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

(Ephesians 6:20 NKJV) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

And while Paul is on this subject of prayer, he says in verse 19, "(While you pray, pray) for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." This is amazing! Paul traveled the world sharing the Gospel. He received revelations and saw the glories of heaven. God even used Paul to help write the Bible. Yet he still needs the country folk of Ephesus to lift him up before God in prayer. He asks them to pray for his ministry - that he would be fruitful and faithful!

Which leads to a final point... Our prayers should be combative. Paul didn't ask the Ephesians to pray for his safety and comfort. His request in verse 20 is "that... I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." So often our prayers only concern smooth sailing, and safe waters. "Lord, protect us and keep us happy." Hey, a Christian can be dead, yet be safe and happy. Paul wants to advance God's kingdom - win people to Jesus. He asks the Ephesians to pray that he'll seize opportunities - and walk through open doors - and boldly speak God's truth even in the face of opposition.

Church, we are ambassadors of Christ, and we have been placed in this time, in this need of this Nation, to speak the hope that is in Jesus. The devil, the flesh, the world want you to be quiet, but we have the hope that can set men free, thus we need to pray to have the boldness to speak!

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Never forget, prayer is no toy - it's a weapon. It fulfills its truest purpose when it's deployed in the heat of battle. We'll have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only have a few short years to win them.

It is time for the Church to arise, in power, and face the enemy, To STAND! Take the battle to the Enemy!

Conclusion

So, here's what we've learned about the unseen war.

1. First, we have an adversary. On our own we're no match for the Devil. That's why we need to beware of his wiles - and not back down. Having done all, stand!
2. Then we need to put on our armor - anchor your faith to God's truth, not your feelings - put on right desires - God's unshakable peace - an overarching faith - renew your thoughts with the hope of salvation...
3. And finally, let's charge into the battle swinging the sword of the Spirit and pounding the enemy with prayer. The blade and the bomb are our arsenal.

Remember, life is a battleground, not a playground.

There's an unseen war going on around us. May God help us to win many and mighty victories for Him.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study

Ephesians 6:21-24

Title: The Best is Yet to Come

Ephesians 6:21–24 (NKJV) ²¹ But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; ²² whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts. ²³ Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

Well, we continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Today we Close

But today we close, and what a glorious climb it has been as we ascended the great heights of the Swiss Alps of the Bible. But gives us more than a closing, a customary farewell, but literally a powerful and practical explanation point to this letter. Let’s pray and jump in.

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Ephesians 6:21 NKJV) But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

(Ephesians 6:22 NKJV) whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

Tychicus – Beloved Brother & Faithful Minister

Here we can read through this and miss this wonderful picture of a beloved brother and faithful minister, Tychicus. Certainly, Paul had few friends more loyal than Tychicus. He accompanied Paul on his last trip to Jerusalem where Paul was arrested by the Jews... He stayed with Paul for the two years he was in prison in Caesarea... Tychicus even sailed with Paul to Rome. Some scholars speculate that Tychicus was so devoted to Paul, that he volunteered to be Paul's slave. In the Roman Empire the only persons allowed to officially travel with a prisoner were his slaves. It's interesting to contemplate... Tychicus may've forfeited his personal freedoms to assist Paul in his ministry.

Paul and Ty were more than casual acquaintances, or even close friends - they'd occupied the same foxhole. They were more like army buddies. The trials they endured together had bonded their hearts for life. Let me encourage you, if you've been blessed with such a friendship don't neglect it, or take it for granted. Nothing is more valuable than a true friend. Some people go their whole life without experiencing this kind of friendship. That's why it amazes me how easily folks who are blessed to find such a relationship will jeopardize it by prioritizing other interests... they'll relocate at the drop of a hat - or get distracted by a hobby - or clam up - or let little things cause a split... Then one day they wake up and the friendship they once valued, isn't what it use to be or could've been.

Listen to this quote from an older man nearing the end of his life,

"What counts most, as I look back over the years, are not my accomplishments but rather the friends who worked with me as partners in these accomplishments. The funny thing about it all is that the quality and quantity of those accomplishments are now fuzzy and unimportant in my mind, while the friendships remain crystal clear in my memory."

A true friendship requires great effort. Real friends don't just drop in your lap. They have to be developed. You don't endure the hardships they were forced to face without making an investment in each other and a commitment to each other. They forged a friendship. To me, it's no accident Paul mentions his friend, Tychicus, after his thoughts on spiritual warfare... All the battles they fought together - the attacks they endured together - the wounds they suffered together - the victories won together - cemented their friendship.

Oh may we stop right now and consider the friendships we have, and take them not for granted, but cement and reinforce them, and give thank to the Lord for them. Guard them and treasure them, for truly there is no greater gift than true friendship, no greater treasure we have here on earth apart from the Lord.

Go back and reinforce them today, before you find out later that you had taken them for granted, and have now lost them.

Paul in Prison – Yet Sends to Them

Paul, the man is in prison, yet he is the one with the greatest peace. I know you are troubled by situation and so he sends them someone to comfort them, and not ask them to send someone to comfort him. Paul is in prison, companionship is at a premium, and yet he sends away a beloved brother, a faithful minister, to them. Paul is expanding his isolation, for their sake.

Do you see this, may we see this, Paul is content on being alone..... because he is alone with God. Paul's prison cellmate was the Lord Himself. Maybe you feel like you are in a prison, and I surely do not want to diminish the hardship of that, but Paul shows us when we can't get out of a prison, the solution is to get the Lord into the prison.

As we have said several times through this study, who controls your circumstance will determine if the circumstance controls you. If we think anyone other than the Lord is in control of our lives and thus our circumstances, then the circumstance will be in control. But when we know that the Lord is in the circumstance, regardless of how difficult, or impossible it may seem, then we like Paul can rest and have peace in midst of the circumstance.

Remember when Paul was in prison before, he and Silas, we read of the account in Acts 16. They end up in prison for preaching the Gospel, the towns people say revivals are bad for the economy, and so into prison they go, after they are beaten. And what is happening in that prison, in pitch black darkness, he and Silas were having a prayer meeting and singing worship to the Lord.

Acts 16:22–24 (NKJV) ²² Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. ²³ And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Paul in the next verse will say “peace to the brethren”; he says peace, because he can say peace, because he sends and gives them what he possesses..... peace.

How Peace in War – Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

How fitting to end the study here, with peace. We just finished a three-week study of spiritual warfare in chapter 6, the unseen war we called it. Peace only comes on the other side of war, and Paul is in perfect peace. How did he do that? Well he gave more than a sermon on spiritual warfare; he gave a life lived from a prison cell which he was delivered to under false accusations. Paul had peace because Paul had victory.

Paul used the armor and the arsenal.

Ephesians 6:13–20 (NKJV) ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The way to be strong is to wear the armor. I know some people, I have been such a person, who puts on the armor of God every morning.

1. (Memorize the Word) Girded our Waist with Truth:
2. (Trade Places with Jesus) Put-on the Breastplate of Righteousness:
3. (Witness for Christ) Shod your Feet with the Gospel of Peace:
4. (Trust in the Lord) Take up the Shield of Faith:
5. (Fend-off the Thoughts of the Evil One) Put-on the Helmet of your Salvation:
6. (Study the word of God) Wield the Sword of the Word of God:

Maybe, like me, you find it overwhelming to go through the practice of putting on your armor a piece at a time. I suggest you do something a whole lot simpler: Just put on Jesus as Paul told us in Romans. Take off the old man and put on the new man he told us chapter 4 of this letter, as the new man is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 13:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Galatians 3:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, for everything is in Him, it’s all wrapped up in Him:

- He is the Truth (John 14:6).
- He is our Breastplate of Righteousness (Romans 13:14).
- He guides our feet in peace (Luke 1:79).

- He is our Shield of Faith (Hebrews 12:2).
- He is the Captain of our Salvation (Hebrews 2:10).
- He is the Word Made Flesh (John 1:14).

It's all wrapped up in Him.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Romans 13:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Luke 1:79 (NKJV) ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

John 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

How Put On Lord Jesus

But how do you put on the Lord Jesus Christ, what exactly does the look like? Am I to envision myself putting Him on like a robe? Well the word means "to be imparted", to be clothed". But I still have a hard time what that looks like. However, the word for "put on" also means "to sink into, to plunge", and then it starts to come into a clarity for me.

I am reminded in Ezekiel chapter 47; it is a picture of the Millennial Temple after the 7-year Tribulation period. From it, literally underneath of it, will flow a river. So from the sanctuary, the Temple of God (the house, dwelling place of God) will flow this water, which in Jerusalem, is life giving water. To us, coming from the Temple of God it is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God. The prophet is taken out into the waters at first up to his ankles, then he was taken out again and this time the waters came up to his knees, and then a third time and the water came up to his waist, and then finally the fourth time the water was over his head.

John 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Ezekiel 47:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. ³ And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

Fundamentally, this shows us the miraculous nature of a real river in a real Messianic kingdom to come. Yet by spiritual analogy there is a powerful picture of increasing progress and depth in our spiritual life. It illustrates progression from ankles, to knees, to waist, to depths where one can no longer touch the ground and must swim. God's people read this and feel a call to go deeper. They shouldn't stop until they are swimming, carried along by God's currents and comfortable in that place.

The prophet was asked, have you seen this? And so the question the Lord asks us, have you seen this? To which when I relate it to the temple of God, the things of God, the source of God that flows, and the depths I am willing to go, I answer yes I see this. How often I am content to tread out into the shallow waters, I go up to my ankles, and I feel that is good enough, even though there was so much more to be had. Then some days up to my knees, maybe some up to my waist. But we see there is a depth, of this "Living Water", that can we can be in over our heads, we can literally "sink into". Where do I stop at each day, do I put on the Lord Jesus Christ, do I sink into Jesus Christ, for everything is in Him.

- He is the Truth (John 14:6).

- He is our Breastplate of Righteousness (Romans 13:14).
- He guides our feet in peace (Luke 1:79).
- He is our Shield of Faith (Hebrews 12:2).
- He is the Captain of our Salvation (Hebrews 2:10).
- He is the Word Made Flesh (John 1:14).

Where did we begin this letter some seven months ago?

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

How do I put on the Lord Jesus Christ? I just soak in Him, and as I do all these other things cover and surround me.

One last thing, remember when Jesus told Simon to launch his boat out for a catch, to which Simon said Master we have been doing this all night and have caught nothing, but nevertheless at your word, and when Simon let down the net so many fish were in the net that it was breaking, so many they had to call for help from another boat, and so many fish it filled both the boats and both of them almost sank. Remember, what Jesus had said, “launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. The deep my brothers and sisters are where the great catch will be, not at the shore, not wading up to our ankles or knees, or even our waist, but the deep waters is where we sink into Jesus, and are overflowed with all of Him. How far will you launch out in your walk with Jesus today based on what the Lord is speaking to us through His word.

Luke 5:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ *When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”* ⁵ *But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”* ⁶ *And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.*

Paul Gives What he Had - Peace

Paul in the next verse will say “peace to the brethren”; he says peace, because he can say peace, because he sends and gives them what he possesses..... peace. Paul had peace on the other side of the war, because he had put on Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 6:23 NKJV) Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 6:24 NKJV) Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

The Final Four

Look at these final four parting, core foundations and anchors in this epistle, Paul summarizing them as a blessing he wished for the saints in the Ephesus

- Peace (used 6 times in this Epistle)
- Love (used 14 times in this Epistle)
- Faith (used 8 times in this Epistle)
- Grace (used 12 times in this Epistle)

End Where Began

So we end where we began, grace and peace. Christian could you imagine if all of our communications where they began, imagine them starting with grace and peace, and ending with grace and peace. Could you imagine the unity and peace and love we would have for one another and the world around us. So to start with grace and peace, I have to come with grace and peace. To end with grace and peace, I have to end like Jesus in John 14, Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Imagine that in marriage, family, church, America. We can, but the peace we give and leave, has to be Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Ephesians 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:* ² *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 14:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Conclusion:

Bible Left Hand – Fork in the Right

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and was given 3 months to live. As she began getting her things "in order she called her pastor and asked for him to come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she wanted read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible in her left hand.

Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the woman suddenly remembered one final request that was very important to her. Please Pastor, just one more thing", she said excitedly. "Sure, What is it?" came the pastor's reply. "This is very important to me," the woman continued....."I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand." The pastor gazed at the woman, with a loss for words "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked. The pastor replied, "Well to be quite honest, I'm puzzled by the request." The woman explained. "You see, Pastor, in all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I remember that when the dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would inevitably lean over to me and say, 'Keep your Fork'... it was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance to end the great meal". The pastor listened intently, and a smile came upon his face. The woman continued, "So, I just want people to see me there in the casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder....'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork....the best is yet to come." The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew that this would be one of the last times that he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of Heaven than he did. She KNEW and trusted that the best was yet to come.

At the funeral, everyone who walked by the woman's casket saw her wearing a beautiful dress with her favorite Bible held in her left hand and a fork held in her right hand. Over and over the pastor heard people ask the question, "Why is she holding a fork?" and his smile began to get larger and brighter each time. During his message, the pastor told the people about the conversation that he had with the woman shortly before she died. He explained the fork and what it symbolized to her. The Pastor told everyone how he could not stop thinking about the fork and how he hoped that they would not be able to stop thinking about it either. That fork and the meaning of it to the woman had quite the impact on everyone and they are still sharing the story with people they meet.

Best is Yet to Come

I truly believe for every last person here today, that if we take and apply what we have studied through these 6 chapters of Ephesians, the best is yet to come. The best is yet to come for your personal walk and relationship with Christ, the best is yet to come in your marriage, the best is yet to come in your family, the best is yet to come in your ministries

Must Tear Down – Before Can Build Up

Maybe the Lord has been breaking you down over these studies, I hope so, I know He has been breaking me down, and don't be discouraged by that but rejoice, because many times He has to tear down completely before He can rebuild. We told by Peter that the Father disciplines and corrects His kids, because that is the only way to conform us to His image, as the Master Potter and we are the clay. I love Hebrews 13 where it says I will never leave you nor forsake you. There are like 5 Greek verbs and tenses in that verse, and it could be read.... I will never, ever, ever, no, ever, leave you nor forsake you. We know that speaks of His presence and relationship to those who are His. But it is surely not a stretch to read that passage as "I will never, ever, ever, no, ever leave you as you are..... I am doing an amazing work in you, to conform you into the image of My Son. Sometimes He has to tear down before He builds up, sometimes he building on top of the foundation, adding on, expanding, renewing and restoring, but this I know Beloved of God, if we apply this Book and what we have learned in it and from it, the best is yet to come..... here on this earth, and then in the Kingdom to Come.

1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Isaiah 64:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

Let's Pray

Prayer:

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study