

I. Opening Scriptures

A. Col 2:18-19 NKJV “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, **grows with the increase that is from God.**”

1. Do not let anyone cheat you.

- a. To defraud or beguile of the prize of victory.
- b. It is possible to be cheated.
- c. Many in the Body of Christ have been cheated out of their victory, inheritance, blessing, provision, covenant benefits.

2. We are to be growing with the increase that is from God!

- a. **Increase** – an instance of growing or to make greater – to accelerate – to expand, to maximize – to amplify – to raise.
- b. **As we grow in the *Increase of God*, we are RAISED to a new level / levels**
- c. **2 Cor 3:18 NKJV** “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.”

AMP “And we all, with unveiled face, *continually* seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are *progressively* being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.”

3. One of the keys to this increase and being raised is to guard our minds so that we are not cheated.

- a. The #1 method that Satan uses to keep us low/down is through our mind/thinking.
- b. To be raised up – to a higher level – to increase – we must RAISE our thinking to know:
 - What God has done for us
 - What Christ has provided for us
 - What is available to us
 - Who we are in Christ
 - What we have
 - What we can do

NOTE: The more we RAISE our understanding of these things – the more our lives are RAISED and INCREASED in the blessings of God!

4. **Col 3:1-4 NKJV** “If then you **were raised with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
 - a. **We WERE raised with Christ.**
 - b. **Because we were raised in Spirit with Christ, we are to RAISE our seeking.**
→ *Seek those things that are above.*
 - c. **Because we were raised with Christ – we are to RAISE our thinking.**
→ *Set your mind on things above.*
 - d. **Divine Increase – Divine Elevation – RAISED UP HIGHER**

II. God's Special People

A. Old Covenant People

1. **Deut 28:1 NKJV** “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you **high above** all nations of the earth.”
2. **Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV** “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
3. **Deut 28:9-10 NKJV** “The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you”
 - a. **The people of the earth would be able to see God's blessing upon His people.**

- b. **Covenant with God – RAISED THEM UP – INCREASED THEM - *It did not subtract from them – it added to them!***
 - c. **People knew that because Israel was in covenant with God:**
 - They were protected.
 - They had supernatural help.
 - They had supernatural ability to win battles.
 - They were healthy.
 - They were strong.
 - *They were never considered weak/unable/in the eyes of those who knew they were in covenant with God.*
 - d. **Joshua 2:11 NKJV “And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”**
- 4. Sadly, this covenant did not work for the first generation of Israelites, because they did not RAISE their thinking to agree with GOD’s thinking or HIS promises that He had made to them.**
- a. **They continued to see themselves as weak, unable, disqualified.**
 - b. **Although they had a covenant that insured VICTORY/SUCCESS/ etc. - THEY WERE CHEATED – from the increase of God.**
 - c. **Remember, Paul warned us not to be CHEATED – from our inheritance – the increase of God.**
- B. We are God’s special NEW COVENANT people.**
- 1. Our covenant is better.**
 - a. **Any benefit that was in the old covenant is in the new covenant, only better.**
 - b. **If those people were God’s special treasure, what are we?**
 - c. **If those people were blessed to INCREASE what about us?**
 - 2. 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;”**

CEV “But you are God’s chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his

marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things he has done. The Scriptures say”

Weymouth “But you are a chosen race, a priesthood of kingly lineage, a holy nation, a people belonging specially to God, that you may make known the perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.”

- a. **You are chosen.**
- b. **You are of a kingly lineage.**
- c. **You are a holy nation.**
- d. **You are a people belonging specially to God.**

3. **We have been RAISED to be sons of God.**
4. **We have been RAISED to heir status – joint heirs with Jesus.**
5. **We have been RAISED to redeemed status – redeemed from the curse.**
6. **WE have been RAISED to justified status.**
7. **WE have been RAISED to righteous status.**
8. **We have been RAISED to overcoming status.**
9. **WE have been RAISED to victor status.**

C. God Increases His people.

1. **Psalm 105:24 NKJV** “He increased His people greatly, And made them stronger than their enemies.”
2. **Psalm 115:14 NKJV** “May the LORD give you increase more and more, You and your children.”
3. **Jer 23:3-4 NKJV** “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,’ says the LORD”
4. **Zech 8:11-15 NKJV** ““But now I *will* not *treat* the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘For the seed *shall be* prosperous, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the

heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this people To possess all these. And it shall come to pass *That* just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.’ For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Just as I determined to punish you When your fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘And I would not relent, So again in these days I am determined to do good To Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear.”