



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

This New Testament book, which was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison in Rome, is addressed to the “the saints in Ephesus and the faithful in Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians is known as

“The Book of Victorious Christian Living.”

As we study the book, you will clearly understand why!

EPHESIANS

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

DOCTRINAL

OUR
WEALTH
IN
CHRIST
Ephesians 1-3

DEPARTMENT

OUR
WALK
WITH
CHRIST
Ephesians 4:4-6:9

OUR
WARFARE
FOR
CHRIST
Ephesians 6:10-24

EPHESIANS

The Victorious Christian Life

Ephesians 1:1-3

Lesson #1

- INTRO:**
- A. The Book of Ephesians is considered the “Alps” of the New Testament
 - B. It reveals great truths about “The Body of Christ”
 - C. This is the only book in which Paul made no mention of any problem in the church
 - D. Ephesians teaches both “DOCTRINAL” and “DEPARTMENT” positions and practices.
 - E. The book is divided into three categories:
 - 1. **Our Wealth “IN” Christ**
 - a. Ephesians 1:1- 3:21 declares our doctrinal position
 - b. These chapters explain what it means to be “IN” Christ: – Our Wealth
 - 2. **Our Walk “WITH” Christ**
 - a. Ephesians 3:1 – 6:9 describes our practical practice
 - b. These verses explain how we live as Christians “WITH” Christ: – Our Walk
 - 3. **Our Warfare “FOR” Christ**
 - a. Ephesians 6:10-24 directs our projected warfare
 - b. These verses explain how we are to stand “FOR” Christ: – Our Warfare

Joshua represents the “counterpart” to Ephesians in the Old Testament

- A. Joshua is known as the “Victorious Christian Life” in the Old Testament
- B. Israel had been promised victory and possession of the Promised Land
- C. Israel had been warned of the warfare when they crossed the River Jordan

Ephesians is the account of believers “Taking possession of their Promised Land”

OUR WEALTH “IN” CHRIST

Part #1

I. The Introduction of Ephesians (Ephesians 1:1-3)

- A. The Author (Verse 1)
 - 1. The epistle opens with the name of the writer – Paul.
 - a. Thirteen of the epistles written by Paul open with his name
 - 2. He was originally named “Saul” after the first king of Israel, King Saul
 - a. “Saul” is a picture of the proud, arrogant King Saul
 - 1. The name pictures Paul before he trusted Christ
 - b. Paul, in Latin, it signifies a “humble or little one”
 - 1. The word pictures Paul after he trusted Christ!
- B. The Audience (Verse 1)
 - 1. Ephesians was written exclusively **to the Saints!**

- a. This book is written entirely to **saved** people
- 2. Ephesians was written exclusively to “Gentile believers” (**Ephesians 3:1**)

II. Our Wealth “in” Christ gives us “Grace and Peace” (Ephesians 1:2)

A. GRACE BE TO YOU...

- 1. The word “grace” is not speaking of **“saving Grace”**
 - a. This is grace that keeps us, preserves us, and strengthens us
- 2. How do we avail ourselves of that Grace? (Hebrews 4:15-16)
 - a. We go through storms and trials every day
 - b. We need “help and grace” every day of our lives

B. PEACE BE TO YOU

- 1. This peace is not speaking of “peace **with**” God – we have that kind of peace (Romans 5:1)
 - a. This denotes “the peace of” God (Phil. 4:17)
 - b. Illustration (Mark 4:35 - 41)
 - 1. The disciples said, “*Master, carest thou not...?*” (Vs. 38b)
 - 2. They did not have peace – because they did not believe
 - 3. Jesus said, “*Let us pass over **unto the other side!***”
 - 4. He did not say, “Let us **go to the middle and drown!**”
 - 5. Jesus said, “**How is it that ye have no faith!**”
 - c. Faith in God’s promises will always give peace
 - d. It does not matter what happens to you – you are going to Heaven
 - 1. You shall NEVER perish!
- 2. Grace be to you, and peace – **from** God our Father (Ephesians 1:2)
 - a. Jesus added: Give them my grace and peace also!

EPHESIANS
The Victorious Christian Life
Ephesians 1:1-3
Lesson #2

OUR WEALTH “IN” CHRIST
Part #2

III. Our Wealth “in” Christ gives us “ALL Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places” (Verse 3)

A. These Spiritual blessing are ours TODAY

1 “...who **HATH** blessed us” (Past tense) “All – **in** Christ...”

- a. These blessings are not something you will receive when you get to heaven
- b. These are blessings you process **NOW!**

2. They include **ALL** spiritual blessings

- a. Pentecostal people ask, “Have you had the second blessing?”
 - 1. I have had hundreds and thousands of blessings!
 - 2. I had **ALL** of the blessings possible the day I trusted Christ!

3. Twelve things Christians have in the “wealth in Christ”

- a. We are *Forgiven* (Colossians 1:14)
- b. We are *Justified* (Romans 3:24)
- c. We are *Sanctified* (I Corinthians 1:2, 6:11; Hebrews 2:11)
- d. We are *Righteous* (I Corinthians 1:30)
- e. We are *Heavenly Citizens* (Ephesians 1:3)
 - 1. We should set our affections on Heaven! (Colossians 3:1-2)
- f. We have His Presence (Hebrews 13:5)
 - 1. When ALL men forsake you – **He is there!** (II Timothy 4:17)
 - 2. One man plus God is a majority! (II Kings 6:15-17) **FEAR NOT!**
 - 3. **“If God be for us, who can be against us”** (Romans 8:31)
- g. We have a Mansion (John 14:2)
- h. We are in Christ (Eph. 1:1)
- i. We are Heirs (Romans 8:17)
- j. We have Power (Acts 1:8) – (Matthew 28:18)
 - 1. *With God, ALL things are possible* (Mark 10:27)
- k. We have Supply (Romans 8:32) (Phil. 8:37)
- l. We have Protection (Exod. 14:13-14) (II Sam. 22:2-4) (Psalms 34:19, 91:1-7, 46:1) (Isa. 41:10 & 54:17) (Nahum 1:7)
(II Cor. 4:8-9) **“Why are ye so fearful?”**

B. All Spiritual Blessings are ours because we are a “Part of His Body.”

(Verse 1) (10 Times)

1. As a believer, you are not **“with”** Christ

- a. As a believer you are **“in”** Christ (I Corinthians 12:13 & 27)
- b. You become a part of His literal body (I Cor 12:14-27) – (Eph. 1:22-23, 2:22)
- c. **“...his body – his flesh – his bone.”** (Ephesians 5:30)

d. Jesus Testified to this in John 17:21-23 (Read)

2. What does it mean to be “**in**” Christ?

a. Understand the **human body** – We have many members (I Corinthians 12:12)

1. Your “little” finger is “a small part” of your body.

2. Smash your “little” finger with a hammer and see what happens!

a. The entire body is affected!

3. Other parts of your body do everything they can to help

4. **Where does that help begin? – With the Head** (Ephesians 5:2)

b. When my finger gets hurt – My head says – “my finger needs help”

1. My “**head says**” to every other part of my body....

2. “Come on - Let’s help our “little finger” - EVERY PART HELPS

c. When a believer, ANY believer, gets hurt – **the Head says two things:**

1. “**I’m going to fix it.**”

2. **Come on everyone – All you members - jump in and help!**

d. This is the manner in which the entire church should feel and respond!

3. When you are “**in**” Christ - all of the Heavenly treasures are at your disposal.

a. You can draw on them at ANY TIME

b. Just as your own head is ready to help any member of your body

1. Christ, OUR HEAD, is always ready to help every member!

4. I can rejoice as I go forth to live my life – **With not a worry in the world!**

Because I am “**in**” Christ!

**5. For a Christian not to “walk worthy of HIS/HER calling” is
TO BE EXTREMELY UNGRATEFUL**

All that we have “in Christ” is amazing!

Especially, in that we deserve NOTHING!

“What is man, that thou are mindful of Him?

Psalms 8:4

EPHESIANS

The Victorious Christian Life

Ephesians 1:4-14

Lesson #3

**These verses take us back into “Eternity Past” -
Before the foundation of the world was laid!**

“A Hymn of Praise” **Ephesians 1:3-14**

The first stanza recounts the past: God the Father is the subject and the refrain closes with the words:
“To the praise of the glory of His grace” (Eph. 1:6).

The second stanza relates to the present: God the Son is the subject, and the stanza concludes “unto the
praise of His glory” (1:7-12).

The third stanza refers to the future: God, the Holy Spirit, is the subject, and the stanza concludes “unto
the praise of His glory” (1:14).

THE THREE STANZAS ARE LINKED TOGETHER

<u>In the Beloved</u>	<u>In Christ</u>	<u>In Whom</u>
Verse 6	Verse 12	Verse 13

OUR WEALTH “IN” CHRIST

PART #2

THE FIRST STANZA

**“To the praise of the glory of His grace”
(Ephesians 1:3-6)**

- I. God “Chose” the Saints (you and me) – before the foundation of the world ...(Verse 4)**
 - A. Who was Chosen?**
 - 1. The Saints (**Verse 1**)
 - 2. Paul included himself: He states; “...*according as he has chosen us...*”
 - a. Paul and all the saints were saved people.
 - 3. There is NO REFERENCE in this verse to salvation or everlasting life!
 - a. No verse in the Bible teaches that anyone was “chosen” for eternal life!
 - b. No verse in the Bible teaches that anyone was “chosen” for eternal death!
 - B. What was God’s purpose in choosing “the saints”?**
 - 1. The “saints” were chosen that they should live a certain lifestyle
 - a. They should live “**holy**” lives
 - b. They should live “**without blame**” (Ephesians 5:25-27)

- c. They should live “**different**” lives (I Peter 2:9)
- d. They should live lives “**zealous of good works**” (Titus 2:14)
- 2. God’s “finished and final” purpose is found in (Jude 1:24 & I John 3:2)

II. God “Predestinated” the Saints (you and me)..... (Ephesians 1:5)

- A. No verse in the Bible teaches that God “predestinated” anyone to “everlasting life”
 - 1. Nor to “everlasting death!” **NOT ONE VERSE!**
- B. This verse has nothing to do with Salvation or with Everlasting life.
 - 1. It states: “*Having predestinated us (SAINTS) unto adoption of children.*”
- C. **Adoption:** You must lay aside the word as it is used today.
 - 1. Today, people “adopt” a child into their family.
 - 2. You do not “get” into God’s family by adoption, but by a new birth!
 - 3. It is a “legal” term – referring to “Full sonship and heir of their Father”
- D. **God Chose us! God Predestinated us!**
 - 1. According to His will...
 - 2. “...*To the Praise of His Glory!*”

THE SECOND STANZA “To the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:7-12)

I. God “Adopted” the Saints - THIS IS FUTURE! (Romans 8:23)

- A. In the first stanza, the Father plans our redemption (Ephesians 1:3-6)
- B. In the second stanza, the Son provides our redemption (Ephesians 1:7-12)
 - 1. We have redemption – “through His blood” (Vs. 7)
 - 2. Even the forgiveness of sins (Vs. 7)
 - 3. We have an inheritance (Verse 11) -- **Not ours yet, but.....**
- C. We have the “Spirit of Adoption” **NOW (Romans 8:15-17)**
 - 1. We are “waiting” for that day – the redemption of our body! (Romans 8:23)
 - 2. One day we will be placed in **God’s Trophy Case** (Ephesians 1:6-12,14)
 - a. Galatians 4:4-7 explains how this will be done.
- D. We are **PRESENTLY** “sons of God” **but**, “**it does not appear what we shall be**” (I John 3:2)
- E. We “**HAVE OBTAINED**” an inheritance (Verse, 11-12)
 - 1. God included you and me in His will! (Romans 8:17) **FUTURE!**
- F. **God Chose us! God Predestinated us! God Adopted us!**
 - 1. HOW? “...*after the counsel of His own will*” (Ephesians 1:11)
 - 2. “***That we should be to the praise of His glory.***” (Ephesians 1:12)

THE THIRD STANZA
“Unto the praise of His glory”
(Ephesians 1:13-14)

- I. God “Sealed” us with the Holy Spirit ... (Ephesians 1:13)**
- A. Verse thirteen contains three important words – the order of salvation
1. Ye Heard
 2. Ye Believed
 3. Ye were Sealed
- B. A believer is sealed, not “**by**” but “**with**” the Holy Spirit (Verse 13)
1. The Holy Spirit **IS** our seal!
 2. Read II Corinthians 1:21-22
- C. **God Chose us** **God Predestinated us** **God Sealed us**
1. God did these three things for us – because He loves us
 - a. How much does He love us? (**John 17:23**)
 2. God will one day put us “on display” in His trophy case!
 1. His “Trophy Case” - A “Trophy Case of His Grace!”
 2. A testimony of God’s Grace to the entire universe!
(Eph. 1:12 “we should be”)
 3. “***...unto the Praise of His glory***” (Verse 14)

EPHESIANS

The Victorious Christian Life

Ephesians 1:15-23

Lesson #4

PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER FOR THE SEALED SAINTS OF GOD Ephesians 1:15-23 (READ)

- INTRO:**
- I. This is the first of “two” prayers that Paul prayed for the saints at Ephesus
 - A. The second is found in Ephesians 3:13-41
 - II. In this prayer, the first, there are two key words that Paul built his prayer around
 - A. The first of those words is “**Wherefore...**” (verse 15)
 - B. The second of those words is “**Understanding...**” (Verse 18)

THE OCCASION OF PAUL'S PRAYER (Ephesians 1:15)

- I. “Wherefore” - **When you find “Wherefore” or “Therefore” always see what it is there for**
 - A. “Wherefore” because of all of the above-mentioned truths...
 - B. Paul begins by reminding them of **THE WEALTH THEY HAVE “in” Christ** (LIST)
 - 1. Forgiveness 2. Justification 3. Sanctification
 - 4. Righteousness 5. Citizens of Heaven 6. Having His presence
 - 7. A Mansion 8. Heirs with Christ 9. Power of God
 - 10. Provision 11. Protection 12. Love of God (John 17:13)
 - C. Apart from those 12 chosen things:
 - 1. We are - Chosen by God – To be Holy – and without blame (Verse 4)
 - 2. We are - Predestinated to the Adoption of Children
 - a. This is a legal term – meaning: full right to be heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17)
 - 3. We are - Sealed WITH the Holy Spirit (Verse 1:13)
 - D. Paul prayed for “things given” – because he had a thankful heart. (Ephesians 1:16)
 - 1. Two things here are of great importance: (Verse 15)
 - a. Paul “heard” of their faith in the Lord Jesus
 - b. Paul “heard” of their love for all the saints!
 - 1. When people have “faith” in Christ - It shows (James 2:14-20)
 - 2. Christians will always “give thanks for you” (Romans 1:8)
 - c. Christians should love all people
 - 1. ESPECIALLY other Christians (Gal. 6:10)

THE OBJECTIVE OF PAUL'S PRAYER (Ephesians 1:17-22)

- I. “**UNDERSTANDING**”- The saints needed “wisdom and revelation” **in the knowledge of him!**

- A. They needed “wisdom and revelation” in order to understand TWO things:
1. a. Wisdom and revelation come solely from God’s Word!
 - b. The Holy Spirit reveals “the deeper things of God” (I Corinthians 2:10)
 2. This **ONLY** comes by spending intimate time with God and His Word
 - a. John 14:26 & 16:12-15 (**Romans 10:17**)
 - b. Wisdom and revelation are the **keys** to all true knowledge)
 1. When you study, always pray:
 - a. *Lord, open my eyes*
 - b. *Lord, give me some truth I have not seen.*
- B. Paul’s First Request was that the saints **UNDERSTAND** two things:
1. **The riches of the glory of HIS inheritance.**
 - a. His inheritance is not in the endless universe that He created
 - b. His inheritance is not in the great substance of the earth that he owns
 - c. His inheritance is **in the saints that He purchased** at great price –
 - d. He purchased us “**With His own blood!**” (Eph. 1:7)
 - e. We are His inheritance!
 2. We need to understand and have full appreciation of our worth to God!
 - a. He purchased us (Eph. 1:7)
 - b. He sealed us (Eph. 1:13)
 - c. He is waiting on our full redemption – when we shall be with Him.
(Romans 8:23)
 3. I cannot understand - how this can be, but **HE** has an inheritance in **US**
EVEN IN ME! – EVEN IN YOU!
- C. Paul’s Second Request is that they **UNDERSTAND** “the exceeding greatness of His power.”
1. God wants us to know the GREATNESS of His power
 2. God wants us to know that He has power to accomplish His purpose
 3. **How much of God’s power is available to me – to you?** (Ephesians 1:19-21)
 - a. The same power that God used to raise Christ from the dead!
 - b. The same power that God used to sit Christ on His own right hand
 - c. The same power that God used to sit Christ FAR ABOVE principalities
 - d. The same power that God used to sit Christ above power, might, and dominion
 - e. The same power that God used to set him above **every name that is named!**
 4. There is NO GREATER POWER in the universe!
 - a. It is **ALL** the power we need to live by
 - b. It is the **ONLY** power we need to do God’s work
 - c. We are “Complete in Him.” (Colossians 2:9-10)
 5. If a Christian understands these things and
 - a. Has Faith in Christ
 - b. That Christian will be “...zealous of good works” (Titus 2:5)
 - b. **If it does not produce works – we should ask: “Why not!”**
 6. The Saints hold a special office in the cause of Christ.
 - a. We are Ambassadors for Christ! (II Corinthians 5:20)

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Lesson #5

OUR PAST – OUR PRESENT – OUR FUTURE

Ephesians 2:1-7

- INTRO: I. These seven verses are divided into a series of “threes.”
“*A threefold cord is not quickly broken*” (Eccl. 4:12)
- II. These seven verses contain:
- A. The “three raging forces” are: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Verses 1-3)
 - B. The “three redeeming facts” are: mercy, love, and grace (Verses 4-6)
 - C. The “three resulting features” are: “Made alive,” “Raised up,” “Sitting with Christ”

OUR WEALTH “IN” CHRIST

PART #3

OUR PAST LIFE

- I. You...were dead in trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)
- A. Paul **reminds** these Gentile believers of their “past life” before Christ.
 - B. Man is separated from God because the “life-cord” was severed in the past.
 - 1. God warned Adam – “*In the day that thou eatest ... surely die!*” (**Genesis 2:17**)
 - 2. Adam ignored the warning
 - C. “*By one man sin entered...death passed on all men*” (**Romans 5:12**)
 - D. The better we **understand our past condition**
 - 1. The more our **appreciation should be for where we are now!**
 - a. If you do not show appreciation - this is the **HEIGHT** of ingratitude

THREE RAGING FORCES - THE WORLD - THE DEVIL - THE FLESH (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- I. You Walked (*past tense*) according to the course of this world (Verse 2)
- A. In the world, you will find “two” lifestyles:
 - 1. Some live a vile, wild, wicked, and ungodly life – **They are dead!**
 - a. The world abhors this life style
 - 2. Others live clean, moral, upright, good, and are religious – **They are still dead!**
 - a. The world admires good, moral, religious people
 - 3. **Whichever life you lived** – “you were dead in trespasses and sins!
 - B. What is “the course of the world?”
 - 1. I John 2:15-17
 - a. The lust of the flesh The lust to “do” more.
 - b. The lust of the eyes The lust to “have” more.
 - c. The pride of life The lust to “be” more.

C. Now, as a Christian, how are you supposed to live?

1. Christians live to “*seek those things which are above*” (**Colossians 3:1**)

II. You Walked (*past tense*) According to the Prince of the Power of the Air (Verse 2)

- A. The “prince of the power of the air” is the “devil”
- B. He is the master of lost men – (John 8:34 & 8:44)
 1. Lost people have their minds blinded (II Cor. 4:4)
 2. Lost men have become Satan’s servants (Romans 6:16)
 3. Lost men have “walked accordingly” (Ephesians 2:2)
- C. The Saints have been rescued from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13-14)
 1. Saints have **NO EXCUSE** for not “walking with Christ”

III. You Walked (*past tense*) According to the Lust of your own Flesh (Col. 2:3)

- A. You were “by Nature Children of Wrath” (Verse 3)
 1. You knew what God wanted you to do. (Romans 2:17)
 2. You refused to “obey” what you knew was right.
- B. Lost men behave according to their **sensual** appetites
 1. Lost men prefer to fulfill the lusts of their flesh rather than obey God.
- C. **What is the lust of the flesh?**
 1. It is when you put **ANYTHING** before or above God

IV. Christians should “remember” that they were “*dead in trespasses and sin*”

- A. How many of us have said, “*If I could do it all over again....?*”
- B. Remembering should “motivate us” to live, *Holy and without blame!* (**Eph. 1:4**)
- C. Remembering should make us: “*zealous of good works*” (**Titus 2:14**)
 1. Knowing what people were like when we were “*dead in trespasses*”
 2. **THAT should motivate us!!!**
- D. If we you do not live a life, holy, without blame, zealous of good works, in this life...
 1. One day, you will say, “*If I could do it all over again....*” But it will be TOO LATE!

V. Christians should remember: “I’m not what I should to be, but I’m not what I used to be.”

OUR PRESENT LIFE

I. We Were “Dead in Trespasses and Sins... But God...”

- A. These two words mark the “turning point” of man’s destiny. – Your - My – destiny!
1. We were doomed to wrath.... “**But God....**”
- B. This has been the story of history.
1. “... the world was without form and void, **but God...** (Genesis 1:1)
2. “... You meant it for evil, **but God...**” (Genesis 50:20)
3. “... Scarcely for a righteous man will one die, **but God...**” (Rom. 5:6-8)
4. “... For indeed he was sick nigh unto death, **but God...**” (Phil. 2:27)
5. “... Saul sought him every day, **but God** delivered him...” (I Sam. 23:14)
3. All through the Scriptures, you find **but God!**

THREE REDEEMING FACTS OF THE MERCY – LOVE – GRACE OF GOD (Ephesians 2:4-5)

I. The Fact of God’s Mercy (Ephesians 2:4)

- A. **Mercy:** God’s exercise of pity and compassion on the sinner who **deserves nothing**.
1. When God forgives and saves sinful people like us – *THAT IS MERCY!*
2. He is “the Father of Mercies” (II Corinthians 1:3)
- B. Ephesians 1:7 tells us of “the riches of His grace”
- C. Ephesians 1:18 tells us of “the riches of His glory”
- D. Ephesians 2:4 tells us “He is rich in mercy!”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us (present tense) again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

(I Peter 1:3)

II. The Fact of God’s Love (Ephesians 2:4)

- A. **Rich in** mercy ... **great in love!**
1. When we were “dead in sins” He quickened us TOGETHER with Christ!
a. Who can explain that?
b. Who can fathom that?
1. John 3:16
2. Romans 5:8
3. I John 4:9 & 10

Could I with ink the ocean fill,
Were the whole sky of parchment made,
Were every blade of grass a quill
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though spread from sky to sky.

III. The Fact of God's Grace (Ephesians 2:5,8)

- A. Grace means: "Everything for nothing!"
- B. Grace sets aside MY unrighteousness and gives me HIS righteousness
- C. God owes us NOTHING, but gave us EVERYTHING – *"We are complete in Him"*
 - 1. This is grace – I DO NOT MERIT IT – but I have it!!
- D. Man can do nothing whatsoever to plan his own salvation
 - 1. God planned it all before the foundation of the world
 - 2. That is **Mercy – Love - and Grace**
- E. These are things we do know, but cannot understand, and do not deserve!
 - 1. **"But God...."**

OUR FUTURE LIFE

I. We will see “to a small degree” What God’s Mercy, Love and Grace Accomplished for us!

THREE RESULTING FEATURES: MADE ALIVE – RAISED UP – SITTING WITH CHRIST **Ephesians 2:5-10**

I. In Christ We Were Made Alive – Quickened together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5)

- A. We were spiritually dead – Now we are spiritually alive!
 - 1. We were CRUCIFIED with Christ (Rom.6:6; Gal. 2:20)
 - 2. We DIED with Christ (Rom. 6:8)
 - 3. We were BURIED with Christ (Rom 6:4; Col. 2:12)
 - 4. “*The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice...*” (John 5:25)
 - a. We have eternal life NOW! – NOT after we die physically
 - b. “...**IS** passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24)

II. In Christ, we are Raised up Together . . . in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6)

- A. Lazarus was raised, but not “in Christ.” (John 11:43,44)
 - 1. He was still clothed in the “grave clothes”.
- B. Christ was “raised from the dead,” and He left the “grave clothes in the tomb” (John 20:4-7)
 - 1. Christ did not remain in the grave, but was raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:5)
 - 2. When we are “raised up with Christ” ...IT WILL NOT BE IN GRAVE CLOTHES!
 - a. I John 3:1-2 – Psalms 18:15
 - 3. Our spiritual resurrection should AFFECT OUR DAILY WALK (Rom.6:4)

III. In Christ, we are Seated Together in Heavenly Places. (Ephesians 2:6)

- A. Christ was made alive and raised from the dead
 - 1. He also ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:10-11) - God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:9)
- B. God sees us “as seated together with HIM in heavenly places. (**Eph. 2:6**)
 - 1. This is not perfected in this life – but is true spiritually – we are waiting. (Rom.8:23)
- C. The Old Testament Priest entered in the Holy of Holies – Names of 12 tribes on shoulders.
- D. Christ, as our high priest, entered Heaven – with our names! (Hebrews 2:17 & 4:14-15)
 - 1. Now, Christ has made us kings and priests (Rev. 1:6; 5:10)
- E. We are also a “royal priest” (I Peter 2:5, 9)
 - 1. We are to “bear” the people of the world before the Throne of God
 - 2. We are to “offer the sacrifice” of praise to God continually (Heb. 13:15)

CONCLUSION

I. Why has God Bestowed upon us the Fruits of Mercy, Love and Grace?

- A. That He might ... show the exceeding riches of His grace....” (Ephesians 2:7)
 - 1. Sinners saved by grace, become saints, and will be in “GOD’S TROPHY CASE”
 - a. The entire transaction was “by grace are ye saved.” (Ephesians 2:8)
- B. That He might accomplish “good works” through us. (Ephesians 2:10)
 - 1. These are HIS good works - not OUR “good works” – He planned them.....
 - a. God receives ALL the credit for “good works.”
 - 2. But, we must not ignore “good works”
 - a. This is ONE OF THE PURPOSES for which God saved us.
 - 4. This is the “order” of God’s purposes:
 - b. *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”* (I Timothy 1:15)
 - c. *“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men”* (Titus 3:8)
 - 3. God, in eternity past, **foreordained** “good works” for us to walk in. (Ephesians 2:10)
 - 4. God, in eternity past, **foreordained** that Christians should
 - a. Walk as He walked (Romans 6:4)
 - b. Be Holy as He was Holy (Ephesians 1:4) – (I Peter 1:16)
 - c. Be Blameless as He was blameless (Ephesians 1:4)
 - d. Do good works as He did good works (John 14:12)
 - e. Be zealous of good works as He was zealous for good works (Titus 2:14)
 - e. Live a life pleasing to God as He lived a life pleasing to God (John 8:29)
- C. Knowing these truths, our life should
 - “And thou shall love the Lord our God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with al thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment!”*(**Mark 12: 30**)
- D. We should love Him, “**in sincerity**” (**Ephesians 6:24**)

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Lesson #6

OUR PAST – OUR PRESENT – OUR FUTURE - PT #2

Ephesians 2:11-22

INTRO: The theme of Verses 11-22 differs very little from Verses 1-10.

- A. This text seems to be directed in a particular manner to the Gentiles alone.
- B. The Gentiles had never been “accepted” by the Jews until this time.
 - 1. Paul is explaining that they are now “accepted” together with the Jews
- C. We are going to “fast-forward” to Ephesians Chapter 3
 - 1. At the close of this lesson, we will then return to apply Ephesians 2:11-22

THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

Ephesians 3:1-12

I. The Mystery Understood

- A. A “Bible Mystery” is not like a mystery as we think of a mystery today.
- B. A “Bible Mystery” was something that was unknown to man down through the ages (Verse 5)
- C. A “Bible Mystery” “was something that had been in the heart of God in eternity past: (Verse 9)
 - 1. It is now being revealed

II. The Mystery Revealed (Ephesians 3:2-4) (Called “The Mystery of Christ” – Verse 4)

- A. This mystery was revealed to Paul while he was in the desert in Arabia (Gal. 1:15-17)
 - 1. Critique at the humility of Paul – the greatest Christian. (Eph. 2:8)

EXAMPLE: Verse 8. *“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints.”* This expression is peculiar to Paul. This ordinary phrase does not explain what Paul wished to express. The Greek word used here is *“elacistoteroi.”* It is not used in any other New Testament passage. The word means, “who am **incomparable** to the least of all the saints” or “I am not worthy to be reckoned among the saints.” (I Corinthians 15:9)

Paul always remembered his past life. (I Corinthians 15:9)

Remembering our past life – should make us **greatly appreciative** of our “wealth, and what we have in Christ.”

- B. What do we have in Christ? – (Verse 8) *“The unsearchable riches of Christ”*

APPLICATION: The “unsearchable” riches of Christ. The Greek word rendered unsearchable is *anexichniaston* and occurs but one other place in the New Testament. This is found in Romans 11:33, where it is translated, *“past finding out.”* It means: That which cannot be totally understood. The meaning is, that there is a *sufficiency in Christ* which is incomprehensible.

Our riches in him cannot be fully appreciated. There is no more emphatic expression in the New Testament than this. It shows that the heart of the apostle was so full of admiration for the sufficiency and glory that was in the Savior; that **he had no words to express it**; AND that he considered it **the highest honor in life** to be permitted to tell the world that there are such riches in Christ, the Redeemer. **(Ephesians 3:9-12)**
READ

- C. The mystery was “confirmed” to two other groups of men – a total of THREE!
 - a. The Holy Apostles (Verse 5)
 - b. The Prophets (Verse 5)
 - 1. This mystery was revealed **by the Holy Spirit** (Verse 5)

III. The Mystery Explained (Ephesians 3:6-8)

- A. The mystery IS NOT THAT THEY WERE “PART OF THE CHURCH” with the Jews!
 - 1. “Church” is from the Greek word, “*Ekklesia*”
 - a. “*Ekklesia*” means “an assembly” or “a called-out group.”
 - 2. The “church” had been revealed – prior to Paul’s salvation
 - a. The “church” was first mentioned by Christ in Matthew 16:18
 - b. This was about A.D. 30
 - c. The “church” is spoken of, by name, **43** times prior to Ephesians
 - d. Ephesians was written about 64 A.D, or 34 years later than Matthew 16:18
- B. This mystery is that Gentile believers **are not only** part of “the church” with the Jews....
 - 1. But they are part of “THE BODY OF CHRIST” (Eph. 1:22-23)
 - a. “Body” in Verse 23, is “*Soma*” which means **(a literal body!)**
 - b. We are: “*of his body, of his bone, of his flesh.*” **(Ephesians 5:30)**
 - 2. They are told that they were baptized “by the Holy Spirit” into the Body of Christ....
 - a. (I Cor. 12:12-14)
 - 1. The word **body**, is used 5 times in these three verses.
 - 2. All 5 times it is the Greek word “*soma*” – rightly translated “body”
 - 3. Also, see: I Corinthians 12:27 & Ephesians 4:27

OUR WEALTH “IN” CHRIST

Ephesians 2:11

PART #4

I. Paul Explains the Condition of Gentiles in the Past (Ephesians 2:11-12)

- A. In times past the Gentiles were
1. “...without Christ.” (Verse 12)
 2. “...Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.”
 3. “...Strangers from the covenants of promise.”
 4. “...having no hope.”
 5. “...without God in the world.”
 6. “...were afar off.” (Verse 13)

II. Paul explains the Condition of the Gentiles at that Present time (Ephesians 2:13-22)

1. “...are made nigh (near)” (Verse 13)
2. “...have peace with God” (Verse 14)
3. “...hath broken down the wall of partition” (**The Tabernacle**) (Verse 14)
4. “...abolished in his flesh the enmity” (Verse 15)
5. “...have been made one with the Jews” (Verse 16)
6. “...no more strangers and foreigners” (Verse 19)
7. “...fellow citizens with the saints (Verse 19)
8. “...of the household of God” (Verse 19)
9. “...they are now included in the promises made to Abraham (Gal. 3:14)
10. “...the Gentiles are **EXTREMELY WEALTHY!**

III. Paul Explains how the Condition of the Gentiles was Changed (Ephesians 2:4)

- A. The Gentiles were separated, “***But now....***” (Ephesians 2:13)
1. In Ephesians 2:4 it was “**But God....**”
 2. In Ephesians 2:13 it is “**But now....**”
- B. The Condition that brought the Gentiles and Jews together
1. “Peace” – “*through the blood*” (Eph. 2:13) - (Col. 1:20) (**THE CROSS** – Vs. 16)

IV. Paul Explains God’s Purposes in Revealing the Mystery (Ephesians 3:10)

- A. God’s Purpose was to Show Us Three Things!
1. We have an “Exalted Position” as a “Steward of God’s household (Ephesians 3:2 & 7)
 - a. EVERY Christian is a “**steward**” of the Dispensation of Grace (I Peter 4:10)
 - b. EVERY Christian is “**called**” - as Paul was. (Romans 1:1 & 6)
 - b. EVERY Christian is an “**Ambassador**” (II Corinthians 5:20)
 2. We have an “Exalted Position” and “Kings and Priests” (Revelation 1:6)
 - a. EVERY Christian is a “**King and a Priest**” (Revelation 5:10)
 - b. EVERY Christian will “**Reign with Christ**” for 1000 years. (Rev 20:6)
 3. We have an “Exalted Position” in God’s “Display of Grace” (Ephesians 1:5-6)
 - a. EVERY Christian will be a “**Display of God’s Grace**” (Ephesians 1:10-12)
 - b. EVERY Christian will be “**Viewed by the Universe**” (Ephesians 3:10-12)
 1. This includes angels, both good and bad!

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Lesson #7

PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS IN EPHESIANS

Ephesians 3:13-21

Intro: This is the second of two prayers which Paul prayed concerning the Saints in Ephesus

- A. In the first prayer, Paul prays for them to have *knowledge*
 - 1. In the second prayer, Paul prays for *love*
- B. In the first prayer, Paul prays for them to have *revelation*
 - 1. In the second prayer, Paul prays for them to have *realization* – get busy and use the revelation
- C. In the first prayer, Paul prays for them to have *enlightenment*
 - 1. In the second prayer, Paul prays for them to have *enablement*
- D. It is **NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW**, we must be **DOERS OF THE WORD**
- E. The entire prayer is aimed at making the saints at Ephesus realize that they have **all the power** of the Creator of the universe **at their disposal!**

I. The Attitude of Paul in Praying (Ephesians 3:14)

- A. “For this cause” refers to what Paul had taught in the first part of the chapter.
 - 1. Because of his strong desire and interest in the people of God;
 - 2. Because of his strong desire that they fully enjoy their privilege in Christ;
 - 3. Because of his “this great mystery” of which they are a part – of His body!
 - 4. Because of his own calling (Romans 1:1)
 - 5. Because of his strong desire for them to know that “they are also called” (Romans 1:6)
 - 6. Because of his strong desire that they “**might live the life**” God has planned for them.
- B. Paul says, “*for this cause*” - “*I bow my knees!*”
 - 1. In that day, people stood to pray...
Paul was so overwhelmed by “the mystery & miracle of his call” – he fell to his knees!

II. The Appeal of Paul in his Prayer! (Ephesians 3:14-21) – “...that He would grant you (Vs. 16)

- A. Paul’s appeal is to the “whole family” in heaven and earth
 - 1. This is not “the entire human race!”
 - 2. This is written “**to the family of God**” on earth and saints who have died - (Gal. 3:26)
- B. Paul’s appeal to the saints in Ephesus can be expressed in “seven words”
 - 1. First, Paul points out their “**Endowment**” (Verse 16) (A grant!)
 - a. To “endow” a person with something is to Provide something freely)
 - b. “*That He would grant you according to his riches in glory.*”
 - c. Because you have a marvelous endowment, you need not fear to present any need!
 - d. You CAN NEVER ASK TOO MUCH!

1. God knows what we have need of... “before we ask...” (Matthew 6:8)
 2. He grants us “**According to** the riches of His glory” (Phil. 4:19)
 3. He does not grant us “**Out of** the riches of His glory”
 - e. This power CANNOT BE PURCHASED – IT IS A GRANT!
2. Second, Paul tells them of their “**Enduement**” (**Provide a special ability**) (Verse 16)
- a. “...to be strengthened with might...”
 - b. To give you “**abundantly, sufficient strength to...**” – In your “inner man...”
 1. Bear your trials
 2. Perform your daily duties as a child of God
 3. To bring glory to His name on a daily basis
 - c. Christians should pray, “God give me MORE power.”

“... we have **ALL the power of God dwelling in us!**” (Zech. 4:6)
3. Third, Paul prays for the “**Enthronement**” of Christ in their hearts (Verse 17)
- a. This is NOT Paul’s praying for them to accept Christ for Salvation
Already saved!
 - a. This is not about their reigning with Him, as in other Scriptures
 - b. This is, by faith, “**Enthroning Him in our Hearts**” as King of Kings!
 - c. We ARE the Temple of God! (Eph. 2:22, John 14:23, & I Cor. 6:19-20)
 1. **God never settles for second place.** (Romans 12:1)
 2. **He is “Lord of all” or he is “not Lord at all.”**
 - f. Paul prays that we will give Him FIRST PLACE in our hearts – In all things!
(Illustration: “Do you take this woman...360 days a year???) NEVER!
4. Fourth, Paul prays for their “**Establishment**” in the Word of God. (Verse 17)
- a. Rooted like a tree (Psalms 1:3)
 - b. Grounded like a foundation of a great building! (II Timothy 2:19)
 1. Paul prays for them to be “rooted” in love
 2. Paul prays for them to be “grounded” in love (God is love)
 - c. How important is this? (I John 4:7, 8, & 20-21)
 - d. Paul prays that we will be “established” in the *Love of God*.
5. Fifth, Paul prays for their “**Enlightenment.**” (Verse 18)
- a. “That ye may be able to comprehend **with all saints...**”
 1. Being “rooted and grounded” is the only way to be “enlightened”
 2. **No one saint** will ever be able to comprehend IT ALL!
 - b. I comprehend a “little” – you comprehend a “little.”
 1. Together we get some idea of God’s wonderful purpose
 2. **WE NEED ONE ANOTHER!**
 3. The feeblest member of the body **IS NECESSARY!**
(I Corinthians 12:12-31)
 - c. That we may be able to comprehend the breadth, the length, and depth and the height!
 1. Comprehend the vast system of God’s grace – working throughout the age.
 2. We will NEVER comprehend all of God’s Word...
 - a. But, **THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL!**

6. Next, Paul prays for their “**Enlargement.**” (Verse 19)

a. He prayed that “*they would know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.*”

b. He prays that “we may **know the unknowable.**”

1. The youngest saint “knows” the love of the Savior

2. The oldest saint should be seeking to know it greater

THIS VERSE IS ILLUSTRATED IN JOHN 3:16

The breath of the Love of God: – “For God so loved the world

The depth of the Love of God: – “He gave His only begotten Son”

The length of the Love of God: - “That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish”

The height of the Love of God: - “But have everlasting life”

7. Lastly, Paul prays for their “**Enrichment**” (Verse 20)

a. “**NOW** unto Him... *be glory to the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.*”

1. Now..! (Jonah 1:1)

2. Romans 6:17; 2:22;13:11; 15:30

3. I Cor 12:27

4. II Cor. 5:20 “**NOW** we are ambassadors for Christ.”

THE BENEDICTION OF PAULS’ PRAYER

What we are able to do, “according to the power that worketh in us?” (Verse 20)

“Now unto Him that is...

1. Does it say; “...Able to do all we ask? **NO!**

2. Does it say; “...Able to do above all we ask?” **NO!**

3. Does it say; “...Able to do abundantly above all that we ask?” **NO!**

4. Does it say: “...Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask?” **NO!**

5. **It says....**

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding – abundantly - above all that - we ask... or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

Ephesians 3:20

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

John 14:12

EPHESIANS

Lesson #8

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 4:1 – 6

INTRO: I. In Chapters: 1:1-14 – Paul has taught the church at Ephesus

- A. God has blessed us withal spiritual blessings
- B. God has chosen us to live “holy and without blame”
- C. God considers us “trophy” of His Grace
- D. God has “sealed” us WITH the Holy Spirit

II. In Chapter 1:15-23 Paul prayed for things that Christians need to understand

- A. That God would give us revelation in the knowledge of him.
- B. That the eyes of our understanding be enlightened
- C. That God considers the saints as “**His inheritance!**”
- D. That the power that God used to raise Christ from the grave – IS OURS!

III. In Chapter 2:1-10 Paul has reminded the Christians in Ephesus

- A. What they were in their “past life”
- B. What they are now, in their “present life”
- C. What they will be in their “future life”
- D. He closed by teaching them that they were
 1. Created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS
 2. Those “good works” were ordained by God, and
 3. We should “**walk in them.**”

IV. In Chapter 2:11-22 Paul basically reviews again what he taught in verses 1-10

V. In Chapter 3:1-12 Paul taught that “the mystery” that had been hidden in Christ, was

- A. That every member of the church was a “**member of His literal body.**”
(Just as husband and wife are one body – (Genesis 2:21-24)
 1. That he, Paul, was a Steward of the Grace of God. (3:2,7, 9)
 2. That each Christian has the same calling that he had. (Romans 12:1 & 6)
- B. That calling was/is
 1. Each of us is a “Steward of God” for managing “The Dispensation of Grace”
 2. Each of us is a “Kings and Priest”
 3. Each of us is an “Ambassador for Christ” to reach the world (Eph.3:9-11)
- C. Paul has taught us about **ALL THE WEALTH WE HAVE IN CHRIST – NOW!**

VI. In Chapter 3:13-21 Paul taught us that we have...

- A. We have an Endowment – All we need, “according to His riches...”

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| B. | We have an Enduement – | a special ability |
| C. | We are to “Enthroned” | Christ as the “Lord of our Life.” |
| D. | We are to be “Established” – | be rooted and grounded |
| E. | We have an “Enlightenment” – | to comprehend more of God’s grace |
| F. | We have “Enlargement” – | that passeth knowledge. |
| G. | We have been “Enriched” | to glorify him throughout all ages. |

VII. Paul concluded by teaching us that...

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us! (Eph. 3:20)

- A. Paul has made each of us understand the **“high calling”** which we have in Christ.
- B. Now, he changes subjects, and explains, that, understanding our high calling in Christ:
 - 1. We are “stewards of the dispensation of the grace
 - 2. He has appointed us to be “His Ambassadors”

VIII. Having clearly taught us about our “wealth and high calling,” Paul says,

- A. **Therefore....**
 - 1. In chapters 3 – 6:9. Paul explains to us, how that should affect our
 - a. Deportment
 - b. Duty
 - 2. Where there is TRUE faith – WORKS will be seen
(James 2:4-20) (Titus 2:14) (Eph. 2:10)

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

PART #1

“Imitating Jesus Christ in the World”

(Ephesians 4:1-16)

I. “Walking” with Christ is to be a “Picture” of Christ (The word “walking” means: Imitating!)

- A. Paul, for the second time, mentioned the fact that “he was a prisoner *of the Lord.*”
 - 1. He was not seeking their sympathy –
 - a. He was preparing to expound **“the walk and warfare of a believer”**
 - b. He was telling them, **“been there – done that” (In prison)**
- B. Paul, said, *“I beseech you...”*
 - 1. As an apostle, he had every right to “command them.”
 - 2. Instead, he said, “...I beseech you...” (Philemon 1:8-10)
 - a. To “command” is under the law
 - b. To “beseech” is done in love and grace
- C. **Paul besought them to “walk worthy”** Walk worthy of what?

1. "...worthy of the **vocation** where with ye are called!!!"
 - a. The Greek word for "vocation" is: "**Klesis**" meaning "**Calling**"
 - b. A Christian should always "**walk worthy of his/her calling!**" (I John 2:6)
 2. The "Calling" of a Christian is three things:
 - a. It is a high calling (Philippians 3:14)
 - b. It is a holy calling (II Timothy 1:9)
 - c. It is a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1)
- D. "Walk" is a figure of speech – but it pictures "a life-style" which is different
Our walk should "Imitate Christ."

II. Walking with Christ "Preserves" Unity in the church. (Ephesians. 4:2-3)

- A. **All lowliness:** - Suggests: Perfect humility (Verse 2)
 1. We dare not pretend we are "lowly" while inside we are deceitful and haughty.
 2. Lowliness is despised by the world – but is esteemed by God.
- B. **Meekness:** - Suggests: Gentleness – esteeming our brother better than ourselves!
 1. This is pictured in the attitude of Jesus: (Matthew 11:29)
 2. We should "walk as Jesus walked" (I John 2:6)
- C. **Longsuffering:** - Suggests: Gracious tolerance that never desires revenge!
 1. It is the opposite of "pride and self- seeking"
 2. Longsuffering remains "calm and gentle" under difficult circumstances.
- D. **Forbearing one another in love!** Suggests" Putting up with what you don't like in another"
 1. This is how we "get along with each other!"
 - a. We pray one for another
 - b. We are "to forbear," but it must be done "in love" (We have a choice)
- E. **Endeavoring to keep unity of the Spirit:** (Ephesians 4:3)
 1. What are we NOT being asked to do
 - a. We are not being asked to "**MAKE**" the unity!
 - b. We are being asked to "**KEEP**" the unity!
 2. God and the Holy Spirit have already **MADE** the unity
 - a. We were ALL baptized into "the Body of Christ"
 - b. The Body of Christ was created BY GOD!
 - c. We are IN the same Body – There is no possible way to get OUT of the Body
 3. Within the Church there are differences in wealth, education, race, color, etc.
 - a. These create the temptation to **BREAK** the unity.
 - b. We **KEEP** the unity when we truly recognize that we are ALL in one body!

THE SEVENFOLD UNDERSTANDING THAT KEEPS UNITY IN THE CHURCH
(Ephesians. 4:4-6)

- A. **One Body!**
 - 1. Herein is the “ONENESS” of the Church
 - 2. It is in answer to the prayer of our LORD (John 17:21)
- B. **One Spirit!**
 - 1. It is termed, “...the unity of the Spirit” (Verse 3)
 - 2. The Spirit guides believers to “THE TRUTH” (John 16:13)
 - a. If there is NOT UNITY in any vote.... Deacon’s – Members – Church...
SOMEONE IS NOT FOLLOWING *THE HOLY SPIRIT’s direction*
 - b. A sin against the BODY OF CHRIST is a sin against the Holy Spirit
- C. **One Hope!**
 - 1. In Ephesians 1:8 Paul addressed the “hope of **his** calling”
 - a. Here he refers to “the hope of **your** calling”
 - b. He has mention, your calling is high, holy, and heavenly”
 - c. That will be fulfilled in our final glorification when we see Him (Ps. 17:15)
 - 1. The three: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope
 - 2. A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH
- D. **One Lord!**
 - 1. Jesus Christ is more than our Savior – **He is our Lord. (Romans 1:1)**
 - 2. When EACH Christian ACKNOWLEDGES Him as Lord....
 - a. There will be no SCHISM in the church!
 - 3. Some **profess** him as LORD, but do not **possess** Him as Lord (Matthew 7:21-23)
- E. **One Faith!**
 - 1. There is only ONE faith (Jude 3)
 - a. The Apostle preached “THE FAITH” (Gal. 1:23)
 - 2. Any one who embraces “the faith” IMMEDIATELY becomes part of the Body
 - a. Therefore, they are part of “keeping the unity”
- F. **One Baptism!**
 - 1. I do not believe this refers to “baptism of the Spirit”
 - A. The SAINTS had already been baptized by the Spirit.
 - 2. This refers to “Water Baptism”
 - a. Water baptism has nothing to do with salvation
 - 3. Water baptism follows salvation, testifying to one’s acceptance of the “ONE FAITH”
 - a. And, one’s embracing Jesus as the “ONE LORD”
- G. **One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all! (4:6)**
 - A. He is:
 - 1. Father of all
 - 2. He is above all
 - 3. He is through all
 - 4. He is in you all!
 - B. **If we live by this verse – there will be perfect unity in the church** (Acts 17:28)

EPHESIANS

Lesson #9

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Intro: In the *First Three Chapters* of this book we have seen:

- A. How God planned the church before the foundation of the world
- B. How Jesus Christ “purchased” the church with His blood
- C. How the Holy Spirit “sealed” the church until the day of redemption
- D. The “abundant” wealth we have “in” Christ.
- E. We have seen how we are to “Imitate Christ” – And “walk worthy” of our calling!
- F. **Now**, Paul is ready to “explain “HOW we are to walk in different situations
- G. We are to “imitate Christ ...”
 - 1. In the church
 - 2. In the world
 - 3. In love
 - 4. In light
 - 5. In walking (Circumspectly - Cautiously)
 - 6. In marriage
 - 7. In raising children
 - 8. In the work-place
 - 9. In warfare

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Part #2

Imitating Christ in the Church

Ephesians 4:7-32

I. Walking with Christ “Promotes” Usefulness in the Church (4:7-16)

- A. God **assigned the church a goal** of “Preaching the Gospel to Every Creature”
 - 1. God set Christ as **the Head** of the church.
 - 2. The **church exists** to do the work Christ left us to do! (Phil. 1:23-24)
- B. God **equipped the church to reach the goal** by giving gifts to EVERY PERSON! (Ver. 8)
 - 1. These gifts are explained in I Corinthians 12:1-5. They are:
 - a. “Spiritual” gifts (Verse 1)
 - b. “Salvation” gifts” (Verse 13)
 - c. “Super-natural” gifts (Verse 4)
 - d. “Sovereign” gifts (Verse 11)
 - e. “Service” gifts (Verse 7)
 - 2. God has given “**Every Christian**” a gift (Verse 11)
 - a. These are all “individual gifts: given to “**each member**” (I Cor. 12:12 & 27)

3. Now Paul writes, **“Unto every one of us is given grace....”**
 - a. EVERYONE “has a gift” (Verse 7)
 - b. EVERYONE “has been given grace” to use the gift God gave us! (Eph. 4:7)

- C. God **appoints a “Leader”** to lead and direct the church! (**The Head - Jesus Christ**)

- D. God **delegates responsibility** to men for the training of the church (Verse 11)
 1. **He gave some Apostles!**
 - a. The office of “Apostle” has ceased (See Acts 1:21-22)
 2. **He gave some Prophets!**
 - a. The office of Prophet has ceased!
 1. The Scriptures are complete (Revelation 22:19-20)
 3. **He gave some evangelists!**
 - a. A New Testament “Evangelist” did the work of a “Missionary of Today.”
 - b. A New Testament Evangelist is a “Missionary.” (I Timothy 4:5)
 - c. These people are sent by “their Home church” to preach the Gospel
They are sent where the Gospel has not been preached.
 4. **He gave some pastors and teachers!**
 - a. Notice: He did not say “...some pastors and some teachers...”
 - b. It is a combined office of pastor-teacher.
 1. The pastor needs “a heart to shepherd the people”
 2. The pastor needs “a mind to teach the people”
 - c. This gift is “divinely bestowed.”
 1. No amount of study can accomplish this.
 2. No college can make a man a “pastor-teacher”
 3. The college can “only” educate
 - a. God “calls” pastors/teachers

- E. God **states the purpose He expects** those men to accomplish. (Ephesians 4:12-16)
 1. For the perfecting of the saints
 2. For the work of the ministry
 3. For the edifying of the Body of Christ
 - a. Therefore, the responsibility passes to every member of the church!

- F. God **states the extended Purpose** He expects from those in the ministry (Ephesians 4:14)
 1. That the church be **“no more children** tossed to and fro...”
 - a. Children do very little concentrating
 - b. They do not: sit – read - study – mediate – or follow-up
 - c. They are “carried about by every wind of doctrine!”
 - b. That the church be not deceived by “sleight of men – cunning craftiness”
 1. Jehovah Witnesses
 2. Mormons
 3. Catholic church
 - d. That the church be taught to: “Hold fast the form of sound words” (II Tim. 1:13)

- G. God **enabled the church** to reach **ALL** the goals He has given. (Eph. 1:19-23 & 3:20)
 1. “...Preach the Gospel to **EVERY** creature” (Matthew 28:18-20)

EPHESIANS

Lesson #10

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Part #3

Imitating Christ in the World

Ephesians 4:17-32

THIS IS GOD’S PLAN - PURPOSE - GOAL FOR THE CHURCH

- II. **Walking with Christ “Proclaims” Separation from the People of the World** (Eph. 4:17-24)
- A. In view of all we have been given in the earlier part of this book... “Therefore,” I say...
1. We have been chosen in him to be holy and blameless.
 2. We have been predestinated to adoption as HIS children
 3. We have been redeemed by His blood
 4. We have been forgiven of sin according to His grace
 5. We have been made members of HIS body – Bone of His bone – flesh of His flesh.
 6. We have been made “acceptable in the Beloved”
- B. “That ye henceforth *walk NOT as other Gentiles walk!*” (Ephesians 4:18-19)
1. **Christians are to be “Separate from the world...”**
- C. Christians are to “**put off the old man**” (Verse 22)
1. It is **NOT ENOUGH** to just “put off the old” (Clean our life up)
 - a. A Christian must replace what he “puts off” by putting on something new!
- D. Christians are to “**put on the new man**” –
1. “...which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24)
 2. Christians are to be “**Separated unto** the Gospel (Romans 1:1)
 - a. This is called “The law of Replacement” (Matthew 12:43-45)
 3. Righteousness has to do with our **Outward walk**
 - a. In the beginning, man was made in the “image of God” – Righteous!
 - b. The “new man” should **GREATLY** desire to be restored to that image!
 1. Let this mind be in you (Philippians 2:5)
 - a. Think as Christ thinks
 - b. Feel as Christ feels
 - c. Act as Christ acts
 - d. Talk as Christ talks
 - e. Dress as Christ would have you dress (I Timothy 2:9)
 - e. Want as Christ wants

- f. Ask for what Christ would ask for
- g. Do as Christ would do.

4. Holiness has to do with our **Inward walk**

- a. Holiness has to do with one's integrity toward God
- a. Holiness reaches to "the thoughts" in one's mind (Psalms 19:14)

E. In Jesus, "the God-Man," we have a "pattern" to follow (See: John 8:29)

F. God commands that Christians separate from the world. (**II Corinthians 6:17**)

1. This text gives us two clear steps in separating from evil.

a. **"...come out of," denoting**

- 1. Wrong relationships and associations
 - a. Bad company (Matt. 26:31 - Luke 22:54) (**Peter**)
- 2. Wrong churches – those that **"hold not"** to sound doctrine.

b. **"...touch not."**

- 1. ...anything that is unclean
- 2. ...alcohol, cigarettes, filthy videos, worldly music, or TV, drugs, gambling: **ANYTHING** that could lead to sin.

STRANGE LANGUAGE FOR SAINTS???

III. Walking with Christ is "Proven" by (1) Put off & (2) Put on (Eph. 4:25-29)

A. "Wherefore, put off..." (Verse 25) - - - - **"show me:"** (James 2:18)

1. Put off all lying

a. This is written to members of the same church!

- 1. Misrepresentations
- 2. Half-truths
- 3. Pretense

2. Put off getting angry and sin not (**bitterness**)

a. There is an anger that is not sinful

- 1. Righteous indignation
- 2. Our Lord was angry at times (John 2:13-16)
- 3. He used "strong language" (Matt. 18:6 & Mark 3:15)

b. There is an anger that is sinful! **"Let not the sun go down on your wrath."**

- 1. If you go to bed and sleep – **be sure you are wrong!**
- 2. This is **SIN** in your life

3. Put off Stealing

- a. These were converts from heathenism – who practiced stealing
- b. Stealing may be "stealing time from your employer"
- c. Stealing someone's good name
- d. Gambling
- e. Bankruptcy (Declare Chapter 11)

4. Put off all corrupt communication proceeding out of thy mouth. (Verse 29)

- a. Unholy speech is not to be used
 - 1. Psalms 141:3
 - 2. Proverbs 4:24
 - 3. Colossians 4:6
- b. The “contrary” is the “picture of Christ”
 - 1. That which edifies the hearers
- c. WARNING: *What’s down in the well comes up in the bucket* (Matt. 12:34)
 - 1. The opposite is found in ... (John 8:29 – Eph. 4:32)

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

IV. A Christian, NOT Walking with Christ “grieves” the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-32)

- A. This is written **TO CHRISTIANS!**
 - 1. CHRISTIANS can grieve the Holy Spirit
- B. Things that Grieve the Holy Spirit
 - 1. **Open and gross sins.**
 - 2. **Anger, in all its forms.**
 - 3. **Licentious thoughts and desires.**
 - 4. **Ingratitude.**
- C. **Neglect.**
 - 1. God created us “unto good works” (**Eph. 2:10**) - - - “Zealous” (**Titus 2:14**)
 - a. He has instructed us to pray (I Timothy 2:8)
 - b. He has instructed us to spend time in His word – **Study** (II Timothy 2:15)
 - c. He has instructed us to be tender-hearted (Ephesians 4:32)
 - d. He has instructed us to witness (Acts 1:8)
- D. **Resistance.** Christians often resist the Holy Ghost. (James 4:17)

V. The Positive Side of “Walking” with Christ (Verse 32)

- A. “Be ye kind one to another...tenderhearted...forgiving one another”
 - 1. To what extent should we forgive one another?
 - 2. **EVEN AS GOD**, for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you!
 - a. Matthew 18:21
- B. **No one has ever wronged you as much as you have wronged Christ!**
 - 1. One another, How many times should we forgive? – Peter asked the Lord (Matthew 18:21)
- C. **If you are not living up to these things**
 - 1. **You ARE NOT “WALKING WITH CHRIST”**
 - a. You are walking “as other Gentiles walk”
 - b. God said, “...walk NOT as other gentiles” (Verse 17)

EPHESIANS

Lesson #11

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Intro: It is misleading that there is a “chapter” division at this point

- A. Chapter Five begins; “*Be ye therefore....*” **ties it together with Chapter Four.**
 - 1. “Be ye therefore followers of God...” The Greek word for “followers” denotes “to imitate!”
 - a. This was God’s plan for Israel: – “**Be ye holy**” (Lev. 19:1-2)
 - b. This is God’s plan for New Testament believers (I Peter 1:14-16)
- B. Holiness only comes – as we study the Word of God (II Corinthians 3:18)
 - 1. God intends for EVERY believer to be “like Him” (Romans 8:29)
 - 2. God provides us an example for us to follow - (John 1:18 & John 14:9)
Jesus Christ is our “perfect” example. **We should “walk as He walked”** (Col. 2:6)

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Imitating God as our Father

Part #1

Ephesians 5:1-20

- I. Walking “With” Christ is “Walking in Love” even as Christ loved us (Ephesians 5:2-7)
 - A. You and I **KNOW** the love of Christ! (Romans 5:6-8)
 - 1. At salvation, the love of God “*was shed in our hearts*” (Romans 5:5)
 - B. How do we “imitate” God?? – God’s love is **God in action!** “...but in deed!” (I John 3:18)
 - 1. Imitate Him by self-sacrificing love - **for the good of brethren we know!**
 - 2. Imitate Him by self-sacrificing love – **for the good of lost people we know!**
 - C. Such love is a “sweet smelling savor” to God
 - 1. Old Testament love (Lev. 1:9)
This “typifies Christ” in His sacrifice
 - 2. New Testament love (II Corinthians 2:15) **Example: Smell of BBQ!!!**
 - D. If we “walk in love” there are some actions that MUST NOT BE A PART OF OUR LIVES! (Vs. 3)
 - 1. Fornication
 - 2. Covetousness
 - 3. Filthiness, Foolish Talking & Jesting (Together)
 - a. Everything inconsistent with the modesty of a saint! (**Dress**)
 - b. Does not apply to “good humor”
 - c. God wants us to laugh – **That distinguishes man from all other creatures.**
Until scientists can find a monkey who can laugh, they will never find the “missing link” between monkey and man!!!

- d. This applies to listening to dirty jokes – suggestive phrases – Not “God honoring”
- e. If we are grateful to God, – **we will honor Him by living Holy!!!**

- E. Paul reminds the gentiles “*For this ye know....*” (Ephesians 5:5)
 - 1. Also, we are not to let any man deceive us!
 - a. “Because.....” (Verse 6-7)

II. Walking “With” Christ is “Walking as Light” (Ephesians 5:8)

- A. The Bible does not state, “ye were sometimes **IN** darkness”
- B. The Bible does not state, “ye are children **OF** light”
 - 1. It states, “...ye **WERE** darkness – now ye **ARE** light” (**YOU ARE PART OF CHRIST**)
- C. There are two great kingdoms in this world
 - 1. All men are part of one of the two
 - a. The Kingdom of Satan (**darkness**) (Ephesians 6:12)
 - 1. Darkness means: “Ignorance of God”
 - b. The Kingdom of God (Light) (**John 8:12**)
 - 1. What is light? – **Light is “the knowledge of God.”** (II Corinthians 4:6)
 - 2. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (**John 9:5**)
 - 3. **NOW: YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** (Matt. 5:14-16)
- D. The “Fruits of Light” are: (Ephesians 5:9)
 - 1. **Goodness:** Kindness in action! (I John 3:19 – again) “in deed”
 - a. Active goodness is being Light!
 - 2. **Righteousness:** Thinking right and doing right!
 - a. Men, walking **as light**, – have fellowship one with another (I John 1:7)
 - 3. **Truth:** This is “truth” in the **inward** parts (**Psalms 51:6**)
 - a. The opposite of being a hypocrite!
 - 4. These three fruits: Goodness, Righteousness, and Truth, are “**proof**” (Vs. 10 & Rom. 12:1-2)
- E. The “Result of being light!” is Separation (Ephesians 5:11)
 - 1. Explained in **II Corinthians 6:14 – 17** (**Come out – be ye separate – Touch not!**)
 - a. We are to (1) “**Come out!**”
 - b. We are to (2) “**Be separate**”
 - c. We are to (3) “**Touch not**” things of darkness
 - 2. This forbids “**unequal yoke**” in marriage, business, socializing, and even in churches.
 - a. God demands **total separation** (I John 1:5) – **NO DARKNESS AT ALL**
 - 3. Light and darkness cannot “co-exist” (Ephesians 5:13)
 - a. When **the true light** shines – darkness will flee! (John 1:5)
 - b. Comprehend means: “Does not admit darkness”

EPHESIANS

Lesson #12

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 5:10- 20

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Imitating God as our Father

Part #2

III. Walking “With” Christ is “Walking Circumspectly” (Very carefully) - (Ephesians 5:15)

- A. This is the “**seventh**” and last time that the word “walk” is found in Ephesians
 - 1. Walk in good works (Ephesians 2:10)
 - 2. Walk worthy of your vocation (Ephesians 4:1)
 - 3. Walk “not” as other Gentiles (4) walk (Ephesians 4:17)
 - 5. Walk in Love (Ephesians 5:2)
 - 6. Walk in Light (Ephesians 5:8)
 - 7. **Walk Circumspectly** (Ephesians 5:8)
 - a. Walk, not foolishly – but wisely – **Walk very carefully!**
 - b. We “walk” in a very dangerous – sinful - ungodly world - exposed to every temptation
 - c. The word translated “circumspectly” carries the idea of “**strict and exact**”
- B. Christians are not to “go along with the crowd”
 - 1. This would be “unwise!”
 - 2. **If everybody is doing it, IT’S WRONG! (Philippians 3:17)**
- C. We are to “redeem the time.” (Verse 14)
 - 1. Take advantage of every opportunity
 - 2. Retailers mail out coupons: –Spend \$10 – Get \$10 - - 20% OFF YOUR PURCHASE!
 - 3. People take advantage of “every opportunity” to “redeem the coupons”
 - 4. People try diligently not to “miss an opportunity” **from which they will benefit!**
 - 5. Christians should “redeem the time”
 - 6. Christians should not “miss an opportunity”
 - a. Understanding what the will of the Lord is
 - 1. Do you “understand” what the will of the Lord is? (Verse 17)
 - 2. Are you willing and ready to obey the will of the Lord?
 - 7. Keep in mind – **These are COMMANDS!** – Not suggestions! (Colossians 3:5-6)

IV. God’s Empowerment to “Walk” in Obedience to God’s “Seven Commands.” (Eph. 5:18)

- A. “**And**” Verse 18 ... “connects” Verses 15, 16, & 17 with Verse 18!
 - 1. “...walk circumspectly”
 - 2. “...be wise”
 - 3. “...redeeming the time”

4. "...be not unwise"
5. "...understanding what the will of the Lord is."

B. ***"And...be not drunk with wine ... but be filled with the Spirit"***

1. The two comparisons are seen in Acts 2:4 & 2:13. **(READ)**
 - a. A man is "drunk" when he is under **COMPLETE** control of liquor
 - b. A Christian is "filled" when he is under **COMPLETE** control of the Spirit!
2. God **COMMANDS** us to "be filled" with the Spirit!
 - a. The Greek work for "filled" is "*Pleroo*." (Colossians 2:9)

C. **Fruit of being Filled with the Spirit**

1. Speaking – "to yourselves" – "in your hearts!" (Verse 19)
 - a. Some sing to be "seen" – They are hypocrites! (Psalms 40:3)
 - b. QUESTION: Is there a song in your heart?
2. Give thanks ALWAYS for ALL THINGS! (Verse 20)
 - a. I Thess. 5:18 "in everything"
 - b. Philippians 4:6 "in everything"
 - c. When we learn to "give thanks" in "all things"
 - d. Then we will see the truth of Romans 8:28 "All things"

EPHESIANS

Lesson #13

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 5:21-33

KEY VERSE: “Submit yourselves *one to another* in the fear of the Lord.”

This verse DEMANDS **mutual** submission - It is always a **RECIPROCAL** submission

There are three situations in which God expects us to practice His plan.

All Three of the situations are addressed to “Christians” only.

We do not expect the world to abide by “Christian” standards

First Situation

The Husband – Wife Relationship

Part #1

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

I. The Wife’s Part in “Submitting” to her Husband (Verse 22)

- A. There is **NOTHING** in this text that speaks of a “husband” as being superior to his “wife”
 - 1. A husband is extremely superior to his wife, “*at being a husband.*”
 - 2. **BUT**, A wife is extremely superior to her husband “*at being a wife!*”
 - a. SEE: (I Corinthians 11:1-3)
- B. There is **NOTHING** that speaks of “the wife” as being the **only one** in submission!
 - 1. Verse 22 states God’s plan that the wife be in submission to her husband
 - a. Verses 23 & 24 explains the “wife’s submission.”
 - 2. Read Verse 22 – **Skip to** Verse 25: The submission is mutual submission!
 - a. Verse 25 explains the “husband’s” submission to his wife
 - b. God has far more to say about the husband’s submission! (LATER)
- C. There is **NOTHING** in this text that states “the wife is to be submissive **“in ALL things”**”
 - 1. She is to be submissive “*...as unto the Lord.*” (Verse 22)
 - 2. Verse 24 confirms this, saying, “*as the church is subject to Christ...*”
 - a. A wife is to be submissive “when...”
 - 1. Her husband is acting like Christ
 - 2. Her husband is making Christ-like decisions
 - 3. Her husband is doing all for the glory of God” (I Cor. 10:31)

- D. There are women's movements today that viciously oppose this teaching.
1. These women ARE WRONG! - **God said it, - that settles it!**

II. God's Reason for Making the Husband the "Head of the Wife." (Verse 23)

- A. God informed Eve (the wife) of this **before** he placed Adam as head! (Genesis 3:16.)
- B. Eve was "deceived" into disobeying God's command. (I Timothy 2:11-14)
1. Women makes decisions with their "hearts" – based on their feelings - emotions
 - a. Women, by nature, are more trusting than men - controlled by their hearts.
EXAMPLE: Shopping
Baiting a fish hook
Raising Children
 2. A man makes decisions with his "head" – based on "facts."
 - a. Adam ate the forbidden fruit – by his own choice – his eyes wide open!
 - b. Eve was deceived – trusting what Satan told her. (She was conned!)
 3. **Ladies** – Satan is very aware of how you are made
 - A. He will do all things possible to "deceive you."
- C. A woman needs to understand that she is easily deceived.
 1. She should be dependent on her husband's leadership and be thankful.
- D. The husband needs to understand that he operates on "fact"
 1. He should be dependent on his wife to BALANCE facts with feelings and be thankful!
- E. When a woman submits to her husband, she is **subjecting herself to the Lord.**" (Col. 3:18)
 1. God is not asking a wife to take the place of a slave!
 2. **A Wife's submission** is compared to the "church's" submission to Christ (Verse 24)
 - a. The word "**as**" in Greek is "hosper" meaning "**exactly like Christ**"
 3. There **MUST** be submission on both sides.
- F. This is God's "Chain of Command" (I Corinthians 11:3)
 1. A person "under" authority – is "given" authority (Luke 7:1-9)
 - a. God – Christ – Man - Woman
 - b. Christ is UNDER authority! (**Not inferior! – but submits to His Father!**)
- G. So sacred is the "marriage relationship" that it is compared to the relationship of
 1. **Christ and the church!** (Verses 25 – 27)

EPHESIANS

Lesson #14

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 5:21-33

KEY VERSE: “Submit yourselves *one to another* in the fear of the Lord.”

This verse DEMANDS mutual submission - It is always a RECIPROCAL submission.

There are three situations in which God expects us to practice His plan.
All Three of the situations are addressed to “Christians” only.

First Situation

The Husband – Wife Relationship

Part #2

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

**So Sacred is the “Marriage Relationship” that it is Compared to
The Relationship of Christ and the Church!**

I. The Husband’s Part in “Submitting” to his Wife (Ephesians 5:25-30)

A. The Husband’s “Submission” is always a “reciprocal” relationship (Verse 21)

1. The Christ and the Church illustrate how a husband should love his wife!

- Christ loved the church enough to die for it!
- The **Husband** should bear the image of Christ and exercise “sacrificial love”
- Someone has said, “A man must be careful. He can love his wife TOO MUCH”
- That is true ONLY if he can love his wife more than Christ loves the church

1. It is IMPOSSIBLE to get equal with that type of love!

2. Leadership in the home **MUST be exercised in love (Col. 3:19)**

- A wife is never, never told to “submit to anger, bitterness, nor harshness.”
- A Christian wife will always submit to “Christ-like love.”

3. The husband’s place is one of - **GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**

- The wife’s place is simple – submit herself!
- The husband’s place is “total responsibility”

B. The Husband’s “Pattern” to **follow** is Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:25-33) (**NO EXCUSE**)

1. God gave the husband a pattern to follow – (Exodus 25:9)

- The husband should never use force – Christ didn’t
- A wife’s submission will be “willingly” because of the husband’s great love

2. The husband should have a goal for his wife – Christ did! (Eph. 5:26-27)
 - a. His goal was to take the form of a man for her. (Phil 2:5-7) – Christ did
 - b. His goal was to be obedient unto death for her. (Phil 2:8) – Christ did
 - c. His goal was to give himself for her. (Eph. 5:25) – **(Marriage)** - Christ did
 - d. His goal was to sanctify her – for Himself. (Eph. 5:26-27) – Christ did
 1. SO OUGHT HUSBANDS TO DO (Verse 28) **Rom 8:34**
 - e. His goal now is to intervene for her from His position in heaven - Christ does
 - f. His final goal is to glorify her for Himself. (Rev.19:7-8) – Christ will

- C. We have seen that the church is “Christ’s bride and body” (Rev. 21:9) - (Eph. 5:30 - 32)
 1. A man’s wife is both his “bride and his body!” (Genesis 2:23 & 24) (Eph. 5:30-31)
 - a. **Every husband and wife should learn this truth!**

- D. **“SO OUGHT men to love their wives as their own bodies”** (Eph. 5:28)

(So) “Houto:” in this way (referring to what follows) – in like manner, on this fashion/wise

(Ought) “Opheilo:” to owe, to be under obligation; be bound by, be indebted **Rom 8:28**

 1. A husband should express his love by making *“all things work for her good”*

 2. A husband should *“give honor unto his wife, as unto the weaker vessel”* (**I Pet. 3:7**)
 - a. **Put her on a pedestal (What will happen????)**
 - b. THEN – she will willingly be in submission to her **“Christ-like husband.”**
 - c. THEN - they kneel together – and *“their prayers be not hindered”* (**I Pet.3:7**)

 3. A husband should *cherish and nourish his wife* – **as Christ does the church**
 - a. He should never do her injury – **as Christ will never injure the church.**
 - b. He should always show her *“tender love”* **as Christ does to the church.**
I Timothy 6:17
 - c. He should always provide for her happiness – **as Christ does the church.**
 - d. He should always be to his wife, **what Christ is to the church**

GOD’S PICTURE BOOK

Ephesians 5:32

Here is man who has made his own way in the world. He is what the world calls “a bachelor.” He has made his own money and could say what he would do with it, what he would buy and what he would not buy. He has made all decisions about how he will use his time and his money. He can say anything he wants to say, go anywhere he wants to go, and do anything he wants to do – and has not had to consider anyone besides himself. **BUT – he meets a girl!** His heart goes out to her and he says, *“For her sake I am willing to work, labor, and adjust my life-style, even if it means that I must do without some things I have had in the past, I will gladly do that. I will care for her to the very best of my ability. I am willing to consider her in everything we do. Whatever it takes, I will love her and cherish her. If I need to change my pattern of life and give up some things that I used to do, for her.”* - I will gladly do it.

Here is a beautiful young woman. She has had her own way to a large extent. She has made her own way through the world. She has made decisions, worked and paid her own way. Or, perhaps she may have come from a home where she has been carefully nurtured and cared for. By-and-by she meets a man, no blood relation to her whatever. Yet somehow or another her heart goes out to him and she says, *“For his sake, I would be willing to go to the ends of the world, face all kinds of problems in life, keep house for him, cook, clean, care for our children, and stand by his side no matter the difficulties that may come our way. I love him so much I am willing to live my life with him in ‘loving submission.’”*

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Here is one going on in his own way – completely independent of God. But one day he comes face to face with Christ. He is convicted of his sin and asks forgiveness and says, “For His sake I will resign my own ways, the life I have lived in the past: I will yield myself to Him and I will give him control of my life. I will trust my entire self to Him! I am willing, for His sake, to go anywhere and do anything He wants me to do!

Christ, the Bridegroom, laid down his life to purchase the “one He loves – His bride!” Now, He delights in providing for her/us. He guides us, protects us, works for our happiness, bestowing upon us great blessings. He is very careful to be sure that we are “safe and secure” in His arms. He is very careful to be sure we have “grace sufficient” for any trial that comes our way (II Corinthians 12:9). He giveth us; His beloved, peace at night and a good night’s sleep (Psalms 127:2). He delights in us, and He looks forward to that day that He will come for us and take us to the “marriage supper” which He has been preparing for us since the day we became part of His Bride! (John 14:1-6)

THE PERFECT PICTURE

There is a story told and recorded by the Jewish historians concerning King Cyrus and one of his generals. The general’s wife had been apprehended for treason, found guilty, and was condemned to die. When the general discovered what had happened, he rushed into the presence of King Cyrus, prostrated himself at the feet of the King and said, “O Sire, take my life instead of hers. Let me die in her place!” Cyrus was so touched that he said, “love like that must not be spoiled by death.” He pardoned her and gave them back to one another. As the husband and wife left the throne room and the presence of the King, the husband turned to his wife and said, “Did you notice how kindly the King looked upon us when he gave you a free pardon? The wife turned to her husband and said, “I had no eyes for the King. I only had eyes for the man who was willing to die for me.” He won his wife by his sacrificial love.

This is a **perfect picture** from God’s “Picture Book” of How Christ loved His bride! It is a PERFECT PICTURE of how God expects a husband to love his wife.

God’s design for a “Husband – Wife” relationship is that every Christian home should be exactly like the relationship that Christ has with the Church.

I. A wife’s subjection should never be gained “by force or fear.”

A. It should be a **response** to a husband who loves her – **“as Christ loved the church.**

- B. A husband should **imitate Christ in all he does.**
 - C. No greater EXAMPLE of marriage than “Christ and the church.” (Eph. 5:30-31)
 - 1. Paul compared marriage to “The Mystery,” (Eph. 3:1-6)
 - 2. Husband and wife become ONE BODY- They share mutual love.
 - a. **They will never attack one another.**
 - 3. What is “**Autoimmune Disease?**”
 - a. When one part of our body attacks another part! (**Unthinkable**)
 - b. **Unthinkable to think that a husband would attack his wife and vice-versa**
 - D. Paul concludes,
 - 1. **Husbands:** “Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular **so love his wife.**”
 - a. How? – “*even as himself*” (**Eph.5:33**)
 - 2. **Wives:** “*see that she reverence her husband.*” (**Eph. 5:33**)
 - E. Everything a husband and wife do should be for the good of each other — **reciprocal!**
- II. **REMEMBER:** This is written to Christian families only and promotes the “standard that EVERY relationship should follow: The Biblical Standard!” (II Corinthians 6:14-16)

MARRIAGE AND HOW TO MAKE IT LAST A LIFETIME

LESSON #15

Genesis 2:21-25

Three words out of Verse 24

- Leave** - The Priority of marriage (Eph 5:31) (Math 19:4-5)
Cleave - The Permanence of Marriage (Vs 23 - One Flesh) (Bonded)
Be (Become) - The Purpose of Marriage
Leave the single way of life and become united.
“I do.” - Meaning: I accept the responsibilities, heartaches, joys, sorrows, problems and disagreements which will come with being married.

Problems in a marriage generally begin before a couple are married. When a young man, after “dating” a young lady for a period of time, asks her to marry him and she agrees, the problems have already begun. You are asking, “Why have the problems begun at that point?” Problems begin because of the difference in their thinking. The young lady is thinking, “After I marry him, I will change him.” The young man is thinking, “I will marry her and she will never change!” It has been all hugs and kisses up to that point. The young man is used to being pampered. Then, bingo, the young lady gets pregnant and a baby comes along. All of a sudden all the hugs and kisses are going to the baby! You know the rest of the story! But, those problems can be resolved, but you must “work” on resolving them.

I. Lifetime Commitment

- A. When you say, “I do,” you say, I guarantee you that I will make it work.....
1. Today, “If it doesn’t work, I’ll look for someone else.”
- B. Why do people divorce? Problems! (People have always had problems!)
1. Reason is, “I want my way and if I don’t get it, I’ll leave.”
- C. What makes a marriage last?
1. Commitment - Not love
a. Many have said, “I love him, but I can’t live with him.”
2. A pastor stays at a church because he is committed. He could love and leave!
3. Christ and the church - He has problems with us, but He is committed (Heb. 13:5)
4. He deals with the problems but doesn’t leave us! Eph. 5:26
- E. What is a good husband and a good wife?
1. A good husband does not expect his wife to be perfect.
2. A good wife does not expect her husband to be perfect.
- F. Marriage is a lifetime commitment - “Until death do we part”
- G. Have you made that commitment (To her, to God, to yourself)?
1. If you did not realize what you were saying when you said, “I do,” you know now!
2. Make the commitment!!!!

II. Loving Communication (This is how problems are resolved between partners)

- A. People don't believe communication will work! (They don't try it!!!)
 - 1. Christ communicates with us through every day.
- B. Most failures between husband and wife are communication failures.
 - 1. Husbands and wives communicate in five ways.
 - a. Small talk level - The weather, etc.
 - b. Factual level - What each one did that day
(Most couples end communication at this point)
 - c. Ideas and opinions level - Dreams, visions, desires, goals
 If husband or wife respond negatively, the other will never share again - Why? The risk of rejection is too great.
 Especially true with wives - Wives are made to be helpmeets.
 - d. Emotional level - Sharing how you feel. Your sorrows, your disappointments.
 If your mate says; "What's wrong?" and you respond, "Nothing," or, "I don't want to talk about it," you are saying to your mate,
 "I DON'T TRUST YOU" with my problems
 She would give anything if she could help you!
 - e. Openness level - Gen. 2:25 - Not ashamed to share everything with you.

Illustration: God gave each man and woman 50,000 words. Husbands spends 48,000 at work, but the wife has not had anyone to talk with all day. When he gets home, she has 30,000 words left and is dying to spend them! TALK TO HER!

III. Likely Confrontations (The four most common failures)

Introduction: You are going to have confrontations

A lady said to D. L. Moody, "I've been saved 25 years and have never doubted my salvation." Mr. Moody responded, "I doubt you're saved!"

If you say that you and your spouse have never had a problem,
 I doubt you're married.

- A. Selfish problems (Self - centered) - Immaturity
 - 1. Men want to work 8 hours, come home, and flop.
 - a. They expect the wife to keep working.
 - 2. If you are a man who won't fix anything around the house.....
 - a. You are saying to your wife, "You are not important."
 - 3. Many husbands want to do anything they want to do and the wife has to like it.
- B. Financial problems - Not lack of money, but mis-management or selfishness of money
 - 1. Money is not the answer. Ask Johnny Carson, Prince Charles and Elizabeth Taylor
 - 2. Most marriages need surgery (Plastic)
 - 3. Learn to live with what God has given (Contentment)
 - 4. Share the finances equally with your wife.....
 - 5. You can live without everything **except** your spouse.

- C. Nagging problems (Fault finding)
 - 1. Proverbs 21:19
 - 2. Proverbs 27:15
 - 3. Men can aggravate their wives (Towel over shower rod!)
- D. In-Law problems
 - 1. You are to leave your parents and cleave to each other (Women also Ps 45:10)
 - 2. Always a problem when two women love one man or visa versa.

IV. How to Have A Good Fight (Rules)

- A. Pin point the problem (Know who your enemy is)
 - 1. Your mate is not your enemy – Satan is “the accuser of the brethren”
 - a. Satan is always neutral – provides ammunition for both sides.
 - 2. Know what you are fighting about
 - 3. It could be simply because you are too tired or too hungry
- B. Learn to attack the problem
 - 1. Generally it is Ego vs Ego
 - 2. One or the other is trying to prove himself right
 - 3. No problem is too big to solve - People too little to solve them
- C. Deal with one problem at a time
 - 1. Don’t collect them like “Green Stamps”
 - 2. When it hurts bad enough, you will cash them in
 - 3. Don’t get historical!!!! Don’t bring up things from the past.
- D. Learn to negotiate
 - 1. Never feel you must win or you will find yourself in a “no win” situation
 - 2. Never belittle your wife, nor call her names, nor **make her be the loser.**
- E. Learn to pray about the problem
 - 1. My wife and I have a disagreement and she says, “You’re wrong.”
 - 2. I say, “Prove it” (I can’t. You’re a preacher and talk faster then me.)
 - 3. I pray about it and God says, “You’re wrong”
 - 4. God will always show you who is wrong - Go and apologize!!!!

EPHESIANS

Lesson #16

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRO: Paul stated in Verse 21, “submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord.”
In spite of a chapter division, this is a continuing principle:

In these verses we have the “second phase” of “Walking with Christ” **in the home**, with children. The last three weeks we studied the “husband- wife” relationship and how it should be one of mutual love, respect, and loyalty, the wife serving in her particular capacity to make the Christian home what it ought to be and the husband taking the responsibility of providing for the family, serving as the acknowledged head of the family, and seeking to act in the image of Christ and the fear of God. The wife reverencing her husband and the husband loving the wife as Christ loved the church. Now we will study other members of the family and that relationship.

The relationship is always a “reciprocal relationship”

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Second Situation

The Parent – Child Relationship

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

PART #1

Make America Great Again!

THE IMPORTANCE GOD PLACES ON THE “PARENT – CHILD” RELATIONSHIP

I. How to make America Great again!

- A. God commanded the husband and wife to be “Submissive” one to the other. (Eph 5:21)
 - 1. Then God gave a “pattern” for the husband to follow (Eph 5:25) “Christ and the church”
 - 2. Submission takes the husband and wife being obedient to God’s Command
 - a. The wife is to be submissive to her husband “as unto the Lord.”
 - b. Husbands are to “love their wives – **AS** Christ loved the church.”
- B. Next, God commands children to “**obey their parents.**” (Ephesians 6:1) “**For this is Right!**”
 - 1.. This is the first and only commandment “**with a promise**” (Exodus 20:12)
 - a. *That it may be well with them....* (Exodus 20:12)
 - a. *It is well pleasing to God* (Col :20)
- C. Next, God commands children to “honor their mother and father” (Ephesians 6:2)

1. This can also be traced to the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:12)
 - a. The Commandment is repeated in Lev. 19:1-3
 - b. **Turn to Lev. 20:7-10** - The Hebrew word for “Curse” is, “**Qalal**”
 2. The meaning of the word, “Qalal” in the Hebrew language is:
 - a. **“...to make light of, to be sharp with, to bring into contempt, to curse, to despise”**
 - b. God put the death penalty on children who dishonor their parents. (Lev 20:1-7)
 Old Testament “Qalal” (Hebrew) (Proverbs 20:20)
 New Testament “Kakologeo (Greek) (Matthew 15:4 & Mark 7:10)
“To revile or to speak evil of.”
- D. The sin of “disobedient children” is listed in the middle of the vilest sins known to man.
1. Romans 1:29-32
 2. II Timothy 3:1

EXAMPLES:

1. Ham, the son of Noah, was cursed because of dishonoring his father. (Genesis 9:20-27)
2. Eli and his sons both failed and both reaped a bitter result
 - A. I Samuel 2:22-25
 - B. I Samuel 3:11-14

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

The hope of the world is in nations that fear God. (Psalms 33:12)

The hope of a nation is in the church.

The hope of the church is in the home.

The hope of the home is a godly wife

A Christ-like husband

The hope of the future is children who
Obey their parents and honor their mother and father.

If we are going to
“Make America Great Again”
It won’t begin in Washington DC!
It will begin in the home!

EPHESIANS

Lesson #17

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRO: Paul stated in verse 21, “submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord.”

A. In spite of a chapter division, this is a continuing principle:

In these verses we have the “second phase” of “Walking with Christ” **in the home**, with children. The last three weeks we studied the “husband- wife” relationship and how it should be one of mutual love, respect, and loyalty, the wife serving in her particular capacity to make the Christian home what it ought to be and the husband taking the responsibility of providing for the family, serving as the acknowledged head of the family, and seeking to act in the image of Christ and the fear of God. The wife reverencing her husband and the husband loving the wife as Christ loved the church. Now we will study other members of the family and that relationship.

The relationship is always a “reciprocal relationship”

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Second Situation

The Parent – Child Relationship

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

PART #2

God speaks to the children first!

THE CHILD’S FIRST PART IN SUBMISSION

I. The Children’s First Part in “Submitting” to their parents (Verse 1)

- A. *“Children obey your parents in the Lord: **for this is right.**”*
 - 1. To obey means: to **submit to** or **to comply** with a command.
- B. There is “forced” obedience in the Bible - The word “obey” appears in both text
 - 1. Natural elements are forced to obey their creator (Matthew 8:27)
 - 2. Demons are forced to obey Him (Mark 1:27)
 - a. The entire world, since its creation, has been regulated by “obedience.”
 - b. The Sun, Moon, Stars, rains, winds, season, all “obey”
 - c. Every creation of God is subjected to “obedience.”
 - d. Obedience began with the creation of the world (Genesis 1:3)
- C. There is “willing” obedience which children should have for their parents.
 - 1. “Glad, ready, and willingly.”
 - 2. *“To obey is better than sacrifice” (I Samuel 15:22)*

- D. The Pattern for “children obeying” begins with the Husband – Wife obeying the Scripture.
 - 1. The husband – wife relationship **MUST be the “pattern”** for the child!
 - a. Parents do not teach children by saying, “**Don’t do as I do – do as I say do!**”
 - b. Children learn “by **seeing**” it practiced!!!
 - 2. Today, lawlessness abounds among teenagers – they disobey the law.
 - a. That disobedience can be traced to “**what they saw I the home.**”
 - b. The down-fall of our country can be traced to the:
 - 1. Husband – wife relationship**
 - 2. Parent – child relationship!**
- E. The strength of the church, state, and nation begins in the family!
 - 1. A fresh study of reciprocal submission in the home demands our attention!

II. The Basis for Children being Obedient to their Parents is founded in, “in the Lord.”

- A. When children obey their parents – they are being “submissive to the Lord.”

III. Two Reasons are Given for Children to Obey their Parents

- A. “... *it is right.*” (Ephesians 6:1)
- B. “... *for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*” (Colossians 3:20)
 - 1. NOTE: This in “*in all things*” (Col.3:20) “... in the Lord.”

THE CHILD’S SECOND PART IN SUBMISSION

IV. The Children’s Second Part in “Submitting” to their Parents. (Ephesians 6:2)

- A. “*Honor thy father and mother*”
 - 1. This is the “**first commandment with promise**” (Exodus. 20:12)
 - a. “...*that thy days may be long upon the earth*” (**Promise of long life**)
 - 2. Repeated in the New Testament (Eph. 5:3)
 - a. “...*that it may be well with thee*” (**prosperity & good health**)
 - b. “...*thou mayest live long on the earth.*” (**Long life on the earth**)
 - 3. **The Old Testament had a penalty for not honoring parents (Lev.20:9)**
- B. **Honor means: to prize, to value, to hold in high esteem, to have respect for.**
- C. Children should be grateful for their parents
 - 1. Years of experience and knowledge should be taught and recognized by a child
 - 2. You have been young, but now are older – Your children have only been young.
 - a. Children should understand that you have far more wisdom about life.
- D. If children persist in disobeying, then disciplinary action must be taken
 - 1. “*He that spareth his rod hateth his son...*” (**Prov. 13:24**)
 - a. Parents say, “I can’t spank him – I love him too much.
 - b. That is not true – You love YOUR SELF too much
 - 2. *He that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*”
- E. God chastises His children - (Hebrews 12:5-11)

EPHESIANS

Lesson #18

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRO: Paul stated in verse 21, “submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord.”

A. In spite of a chapter division, this is a continuing principle:

The relationship is always a “reciprocal relationship”

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Second Situation

The Parent – Child Relationship

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

PART #3

THE PARENTS PART IN SUBMISSION

(As stated, submission is always reciprocal)

I. The Father’s “First” part in Submission to his children (Ephesians 6:4)

- A. This is addressed to “fathers” but applies to both parents
- B. The Greek word, “pater” translated “fathers” is the same used in Hebrews 11:23 for “Parents”
 - 1. Translated “fathers” as:
 - a. Fathers are the “head” of the home
 - b. The government of the home is upon their shoulders
 - c. And - because fathers are more prone to be harsh with children???

THE NEGATIVE SIDE

- A. Fathers/Parents are instructed not to “provoke” their children to wrath.”
 - 1. Parents MUST insist on obedience!
 - a. But they must NOT be harsh.
 - 2. The two words: Provoke & Wrath are from the same Greek word, “Parorgize”
 - a. Father must not “use wrath (angry)” in connect a child, or
 - 1. The children will response in “wrath.”
 - 2. He feels that if his father is angry – it is not wrong for him to be angry
 - 3. He FEELS your “wrath” in correcting him – he responds in anger!
 - a. Anger kindles anger!
 - b. The child’s anger is as “proper” as the father’s anger!
 - 4. The child obeys ONLY because his father is stronger they him!
 - a. Not because he understands it is right and God requires it
 - 3. Punish in such a way that they will UNDERSTAND:
 - a. It is right (Eph. 6:1)
 - b. It is for their good! (Heb. 12:10) Romans 8:28

(Reap)

(Law)

- B. A parents are to rule the home – but always under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. A parent is not to criticize and discourage a child (Col. 3:21)
 - 2. Parents should never quarrel with a child – and lose their temper!
 - 3. Never give a command unless it is “Given in love”
 - 4. Never chastise a child except in love and for their good.
 - 5. Do not needless find fault with your child.
 - a. If you do – it will cause resentment in the child toward the parent.
 - 6. In exercising authority – ALWAYS do it with consideration for their good.

THE POSITIVE SIDE

- A. Bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - 1. Remember that you were once a child! (Some of us were problems!)
 - 2. Bring them up that they shall become acquainted with the Lord!
 - Nurture:** (en paideia) Train a child – educate a child – **of the Lord!**
 - Admonition:** (Nouyesia) – Putting in their mind – put the Lord in.....
 - 3. **NOWHERE** does the Bible teach that we should leave “religious decisions to them!”
 - Parents instruct them in every other thing – why not religion?**
 - 4. **Raising a Garden:** - It is done with “care and nurture”
 - a. Remove the “weeds, briars & thorns” without damaging the plant!
- B. Talk and counsel your children as often as possible – they need SOMETHING daily!
 - 1. What books they read
 - 2. What programs they watch.
 - 3. What friends they keep
 - 4. Guard their phone diligently.
- C. Children need to be taught as the earliest age possible
 - 1. Timothy is the great Bible example (II Timothy 3:14-15 & II Timothy 1:5)
 - a. He was taught the daily scriptures “at home”
 - b. If you do not have a “family altar” start one!

ALWAYS REMEMBER

- D. Children are a “gift of God” (Psalms 127:3)
- E. Fathers are given the responsibility to prepare them for life and service (Psalms 127:4-5)
 - 1. They are compared to “arrows” in the quiver of a “mighty man!”
 - 2. Arrows are made to be “shot forth” for a purpose!
 - a. In the case of children, - they are to be trained to “serve and to glorify God”
 - b. They are to be “launched out into life”
- F. Children should **see the identical things in your life** - as you “prepare” them for life!
 - 1. They must be raised “**by example**”
 - a. **The Example** is: “Husband and wife” – to kids are, “Mom & Dad”
 - b. **Monkey see -monkey do**
- G. Some fathers say, “Don’t do as I do, but do as I say do!”
 - 1. That will not work!

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:5

EPHESIANS

Lesson #19

The Duty and Deportment of the Church

Ephesians 6:5-9

INTRO: Paul stated in Verse 21, “*submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord.*”

A. In spite of a chapter division, this is a continuing principle:

In these verses we have the “**third situation**” of “Walking with Christ.” In the “first situation” we considered the “Husband-Wife” relationship and how it should be one of mutual love, respect, and loyalty, the wife serving in her particular capacity to make the Christian home what it ought to be and the husband taking the responsibility of providing for the family, serving as the acknowledged head of the family, and seeking to act in the image of Christ and the fear of God. The wife reverencing her husband and the husband loving the wife as Christ loved the church.

In the “second situation” we studied the “Parent-Child” relationship. We saw how important God considers it that a child “obey” their parents, and that children “honor their father and mother.” We talked about the first four commandments in Exodus 20, which had no promises attached to them. However, we read how the 5th commandment, “*Honour thy father and thy mother: **which is the first commandment with promise.***”

The relationship is always a “reciprocal relationship”

God has given us three situations in which He expects us to practice that command.

The Husband – Wife Relationship - - The Parent – Child Relationship

WALKING “WITH” CHRIST

Third Situation

The main thought in each of these situations, is namely:

“Submission One to Another” – That continues in this section.

A SERVANT’S PART IN SUBMISSION

Now, we come to the “third situation.” In this situation we will study the “Employer – Employee” relationship. This is the “key” to solving the “labor – management” problems in America. REMEMBER this book is written to Christians (Eph. 1:1).

Slavery was prominent in Paul’s day. The word “servants” is translated from the Greek word, “doulos” which means “slave.” In that day “slaves” were either purchased or born and raised up on that situation. However, in Verse 8, it is clear that Paul was not talking merely about “purchased” slaves. The principles taught in these verses apply to all employees in every type of employment.

When a man “hires out his labor” or “sells his labor”, he is entering into an agreement with the employer to “do certain work” at a “certain amount of pay.”

I. When a man “sells his labor at a certain amount,” he becomes a servant – (Eph. 6:5)

- A. The man’s first responsibility is to be “a servant as unto the Lord” (Eph. 6:5)
 - 1. He has a responsibility “to the Lord” to obey the employer’s rules
 - 2. He should perform his duty “*with fear and trembling*”
 - a. Meaning: He should fear that he may not render proper service to his employer
 - 1. To do so would “grieve the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 4:30)
 - b. Paul had that same “fear” about failing in the ministry” (I Cor. 2:3)
 - 3. If a man works in an office, on a work bench, in a mine, or digging a ditch,
 - a. He should serve the “LORD Jesus Christ”

EXAMPLE: William Carey was asked, “What is your business?” He responded, “My business is serving the LORD. But I repair shoes to pay the expenses of my business.”

- 4. No Christian works **FOR** “AT&T” or any other company or type of business
 - a. A Christian works **AT** “AT&T” in order to pay expenses
 - b. But, that Christians works **FOR** the Lord.
- B. The man’s second responsibility is to serve his employer “in singleness of heart” (**Verse 5**)
 - 1. He should not pretend to be his employer’s friend, to his face, but...
 - a. Talk badly and criticize him behind his back!
 - 1. That is called Hypocrisy!
 - 2. A saved man should serve faithfully and obediently to his employer.
- C. These “employers” are called; “...masters according to the flesh”
 - 1. We are to “obey” them “as in so doing, we are obeying Jesus Christ”

II. When a man “sells his labor for a certain amount” it is not to give “eyeservice.” (Eph. 6:6)

- A. Eye-service is working “half-heartedly” at you job, until someone says; “The boss is coming.”
 - 1. Then that person begins working harder than he has ever worked in his life!
- B. Eye-service is “seeking approval” **which you do not deserve.**
 - 1. Paul calls that, “Men pleasers.”
 - 2. **That should not be said of ANY Christian!**
- C. How should a Christian serve their employer?
 - 1. They should serve “*as a servant of Christ...*” (**I Corinthians 7:23**)
 - 2. *...doing the will of God from the heart!*” (**Eph. 6:7**)
 - a. (See: John 14:31- Christ our example)
- D. Work for your employer as though his eternal salvation depended on it!

III. When a man “Obeys” and works as serving Christ, he will always be rewarded (Eph. 6:8)

“Yea, you say if I work as hard as I can for an employer who wants to get as much as he can out of me and pay me as little as he can, I might be poor all of my life, but when I get to Heaven I will be repaid.” **THAT IS NOT AT ALL WHAT THE APOSTLE IS SAYING!**

- A. God keeps accurate records and will reward every man according to: (Galatians 6:7)
 - 1. His services may not be appreciated by his employer, but he will be repaid
 - a. “...in this life”
 - 2. In the next life, he shall hear the Lord say,
 - a. “Well done my good and faithful servant.”
- B. We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - 1. This includes rich and poor – masters and servants – honest and dishonest
 - 2. In that day – there will be no such distinctions (II Cor. 5:10)
- C. In that day, those who have served “according to the scriptures” shall hear:

“Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:23)

THE MASTER’S PART IN SUBMISSION

I. Masters are exhorted to act on the same Christian principles at the Servant (Eph. 6:9)

- A. This means that masters are to rule their servants “...as unto the Lord.”
- B. As loyalty and fairness are required by servants
 - 1. Because the master is the one “in authority...”
 - 2. The same virtues are required by masters, and in a great measure
- C. The LORD to whom the servant must answer
 - 1. Is the same LORD to whom the master must answer

EXAMPLE: Boaz in Ruth 2:4 (Master and servant)

- D. Our position on earth will not influence the LORD’s decision in the day of Judgment
 - 1. Ephesians 6:9
- E. The LORD will condemn the unkind master - equally with the disloyal servant.

EPHESIANS

LESSON #20

The Victorious Christian Life

INTRO: Last week we concluded the second of the “three phases” in the Book of Ephesians

- A. Chapters 1-3:21 – **We studied the Wealth we have in Christ**
 - 1. We are told of our present position in Christ
 - 2. We are told of our past position in the world
 - 3. We are told of our prospective place in Heaven
- B. Chapters 4 - 6:9 – **We studied the Walk we have with Christ**
 - 1. We move into the “practical” side of Christianity – our walk with Christ.
 - 2. There is a sudden change in subjects between the first two sections and the third.
- C. Chapter 6:10-24 – **We will now study The Warfare we have for Christ.**

OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST

Ephesians 6:10-11

Part #1

The Encounter

I. The Admonishment to “Prepare for War.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

- A. We always expect Paul to admonish us to serve Christ
 - 1. But, now he gives us “**A Call to Arms!**”
 - a. We are Saved
 - b. We are Servants
 - c. We are Soldiers
 - 2. This in Ephesians, Christians wear “three-different” caps!
 - a. Walking
 - b. Working
 - c. Warriors.
- B. We moved from the quiet peaceful life of home with wife, children, and employment to
1. **The Battlefield! (Every Christian needs to understand this!)**
- C. This is a subject that is sadly neglected in churches today.
 - 1. Young people trust Christ as savior – they are **never warned** of the Spiritual conflict

Our Enemy

I. The Enemies with Whom We War (Ephesians 6:12)

- A. We wrestle not against “Flesh and Blood.”

1. The Greek word “wrestle” is “*pale*”
 - a. It seems to refer to the Greek games where it meant: “struggle”
 2. That does not mean that Paul, or us, do not have **people** who are our enemies.
 - a. **Paul** was opposed on every side by “men.” The same is true today
 - b. He was arrested, put in jail and beaten by “the powers that be” (men)
 - c. **John** was put on the Isle of Patmos as punishment –
 - d. This was done by “men” enemies of Christ.
 - e. Men HATE Christ and therefore hate us! They persecute Christians.
- B. We wrestle against: (This includes men – Driven by Satan)
1. Principalities
 - a. Refers to rank and order of the fallen angels
 - b. There seems to be different “ranks” among angels, **both evil and good.**
 1. Realize this: These, both evil and good angels – are **REAL BEINGS**
 - c. In this text, “principalities” **seem to be** men through whom Satan works. This is true in the first three categories: Principalities – Powers - Rulers
 2. II Kings 6:13-17 – “They that be with us...”
 2. Powers
 - a. Refers to: Thrones, dominions, kingdoms, and world **governments** (men)
 3. Rulers (plural) of the darkness of this world
 - a. This is referring to individual leaders of wicked governments
 - b. There is no doubt that Satan is behind these leaders. (II Thess. 2:9)
 - c. Darkness is an emblem of ignorance, misery, and sin.
 - d. Nothing could better describe the day in which we live
 - e. This is the longest reigning empire the world has known.
 1. Today, it has the backing of the “**law of the land**”
 4. The above are men controlled by Satan, the WICKED ONE, who has super-natural powers!
 5. Spiritual wickedness in **high places**
 - a. This enemy is not “men” rather invisible demons that torment Christians
 - b. Refers to “wicked spirits” – in high places
 - c. These “wicked spirits” seem to inhabit the atmosphere around us. (Barnes)
 1. These are the forces that attack “**our minds!**” Torment us!
 6. We are not in warfare against flesh and blood – **or evil influences** (Ephesians 6:12)
 1. Christians are in a warfare with Satan and Satan controlled men.
 2. **Please consider this truth – confess that YOU are no match for the enemy!**
 - a. Face your deficiency and Embrace His sufficiency!
 - b. Come to where you desperately need “his power”**(There is no substitute)**
 3. **You do not need “Mastery over the devil”**
 - a. **You need the “Master of the devil”**
 7. We are more than conquerors in Christ (Eph. 1:20-21) “He FAR ABOVE...”

EPHESIANS
LESSON #21
OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST
Ephesians 6:10-11 Part #2
Our Entitlement In Christ

I. The Promises for Which we War” (Ephesians 1:11)

- A. God gave us inheritance: “...all spiritual blessings,” Those are ours **NOW** – in **THIS LIFE**
1. Satan does not want to see us enjoying our possessions.
 2. The minute you begin to possess your possessions
 - a. You discover we have an **adversary** – Satan!
- B. **JOSHUA: OLD TESTAMENT PICTURE:**
1. **God Promised Israel the “Promised Land” (Canaan)** - (Genesis 15:18)
 - a. Under Joshua we have the Israelites **entering their possession** (Deut. 1:20-21)
 2. The Israelites are commanded to “**smite and utterly destroy the inhabitants**” (Deut. 7:1-7)
 3. Joshua is commanded to “Go up and possess the land...” Joshua 1:11-16) (Canaan)
 4. Many people **think of the Jordan River as death and Canaan as “Heaven”**
 - a. **Neither is true! (Songs written – But, IT IS NOT HEAVEN)**
 5. The Israelites crossed Jordan to “**possess their possession**” (Vs. 11)
 - a. That is when their REAL conflict began – **It was filled with the adversaries!**
 - b. The Crossing of Jordan - Joshua 3:10
 - c. The Conflict of Jericho – Joshua 6:1-3
 - d. The Conflict of Ai – Joshua 8:1-2
 6. The Israelites began to destroy ALL the adversaries – **as God commanded.**
- C. Satan Changes his Plan of Attack Quickly!
1. The Gibeonites and their “**sad story.**” READ - (Joshua 9:1-14)
 - a. **Israel was ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND – VICTORY!**
 - b. The agreement with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:1-14) – **See: Deut. 7:3)**
 - c. **They sought not counsel from the Lord** (Verse 9:14)
- If it is contrary, in any way, to the Bible – it is not of God!**
- D. This is a picture to WARN the New Testament believer. (I Corinthians 10:11)
1. We have a **promised inheritance** – **not when we get to heaven - but here and now**
 2. God has blessed us with “all spiritual blessings” (Eph. 1:3)

3. When we seek to possess our “spiritual blessings” – **The life of victory, joy, peace!**
 - a. **We find that we have an adversary!!! I John 4:1 – “Try the Spirits”**

II. The Devices of the One (Satan) with Whom we War”. (II Corinthians 2:11)

- A. Satan’s mode of operations is **DECEPTION!** John 10:10
 1. He was a **murderer and liar** from the beginning (**Genesis 3:1-7**)
 - a. He can change himself into an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:13-14)
 - b. Lucifer means “light-bearer”
 2. His motive is murder & his method is lying (John 8:44)
- B. Satan wages a furious warfare against true believers (Revelation 12:10)
 1. Satan has no hope of salvation for him and his fallen angels.
 - a. He has become known at the **“accuser of the brethren!”**
- C. Satan carries on a **continual personal warfare**, to get believers to fall – by **“seducing”** them to
 1. **Neglect** prayer (Luke 22:39-46)
 2. **Neglect** Bible study (II Timothy 2:15)
 3. **Neglect** attending church (Hebrews 10:25)
 4. **Neglect** Christian fellowship (I John 1:3)
 5. **Neglect** serving (Corinthians 4:2)
 6. **Neglect** witnessing (Acts 1:8)
 7. **Neglect** works prepared for them before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 2:10)
- D. Satan carries on a **continual warfare in churches** to cause disruption, which will destroy a church.
 1. Seven things which Satan uses to wreck a church (Proverbs 6:16-19)
 - a. A proud look
 - b. A lying tongue
 - c. Hands that shed innocent blood
 - d. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.
 - e. Feet that be swift in running to mischief
 - f. A false witness that speaketh lies
 - g. He that soweth discord among brethren.
 2. When there is a problem in a church, **Satan NEVER takes sides!**
 - a. He always remains “neutral” and provides ammunition to both sides!
 - b. He gives both sides things by which they can accuse the other.**
- E. Satan knows he can never remove you from the “nail-pierced” hand of Christ (John 10:28-30)
 1. He attempts to weaken our allegiance to Christ
 2. He wars to keep believers from entering **“their Promised Land.”**

III. The Power We Have to Win the War (Verse 10)

*“Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*

Put on the whole armor of God

...the ye may be able to stand....

A. “Be strong” is “*endunamoo*”

1. It is in the “**continuing**” tense. Meaning:

a. “*My brethren, **be (made) strong daily...***”

EPHESIANS

LESSON #22

The Victorious Christian Life

INTRO: Last week we told that we should “Prepare for War”

OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST

Ephesians 6:12-18

Part #3

“Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?”
I Corinthians 9:7a

- I. The “Preparation” for Putting on the Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:12)**
 - A. Our warfare is not with flesh and blood.
 - 1. It is not fought with carnal weapons (II Corinthians 10:4)
 - B. Therefore, our preparation **must begin** by “Mortifying the Flesh”
 - 1. Galatians 5:24
 - 2. Colossians 3:3 & 3:5
 - 3. Romans 12:1-2
 - C. You and I ARE NOT ABLE to war against the ‘Rulers of Darkness’ in our flesh.
 - D. Our enemy, Satan and his fallen angels (demons), have “super-natural power.”
 - 1. Matthew 24:24
 - 2. II Thess. 2:8-10
 - 3. Revelation 16:13-14
 - a. Michael, the archangel, would not battle Satan (**Jude 1:9**)
 - b. No Christian is strong enough to do battle with super-natural power!
- II. The “Putting on” of the Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:11)**
 - A. “Putting on the Whole Armor of God!” (Eph. 6:11 & 13)
 - 1. Not just “part of it” – Put on the “**whole**” armor.
 - 2. When God says something once, we should listen
 - a. When He repeats it twice in one paragraph, **we should PAY ATTENTION!**
 - B. There is a total change of garments as we prepare for war.
 - 1. This is not speaking of the “Robe of Righteousness”
 - a. **God clothed** us in that “garment of His Grace”

2. **We are told to “PUT ON”** the armor of God!
 - a. God does not do this for us!
3. We are told to PUT ON “the **WHOLE** armor of God”.
 - a. Each article **has its purpose** of protecting us.
 - b. Do not leave yourself exposed to the wiles of Satan by neglecting any piece.
4. The **purpose** of this armor is that “*we may be able to stand against the wiles of Satan*”
5. We are not to TURN OUR BACKS and flee
 - a. None of the garments of war protect our backs!
 1. WE ARE TO FACE THE FOE!
 - b. We are to resist Satan until he flees! (James 4:7)
 - c. If we “turn our backs” we **expose ourselves** to the fiery darts of the wicked one!
6. And having done all, **TO STAND**
 - a. This indicates, that if we put on the “whole armor” WE WILL STAND!
 1. **Because we are standing in the “FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST”**
 - b. We have sure victory – in Christ – because He has already defeated him!
 1. Paul – Acts 26:23-25 – “**I believe God**”

The Equipment for Our Warfare

(1) Be strong in the Lord, and, (2) the power of His might!

Ephesians 6:13-18)

OUR DEFENSIVE ARMOR

I. The Girdle of Truth (Ephesians 14)

- A. This was a common expression to Orientals of that culture
 1. Their daily dress was a “long flowing, comfortable” robe
 2. They pulled it up and put a “girdle” around their waist for work and conflict
 - a. The girdle kept all the other garments in their proper place.
 3. This is not being sincere and truthful in yourself. – AS FAR AS “YOU KNOW”
 - a. You can be sincere and be sincerely wrong - **deceived**.
- B. The girdle of truth is “The Word of God” and convictions you would die for.
 1. We are to “Girt up the loins of our mind” (I Peter 1:13)
 - a. This means EVERY thought (II Corinthians 10:5)
 1. Someone says, “What do you think about _____?”
 2. It does not matter what I think! **What does God think!**
 - b. Our warfare is mental – you CANNOT allow a mental lapse
 2. The “Girdle of Truth” prevents us from being “blown by the wind” (Eph. 4:14)

- a. FBI and counterfeit money! (**Study ONLY the real thing**)
- 3. We **MUST** get back to the **BOOK**!
 - a. **EXAMPLE:** Man dies and goes to heaven – Meet Ezekiel – recognizes him
Ezekiel said, “This is Micah and Zechariah and Amos”
“We have all written a book. What did you think of the books we wrote?”
“The man responds, “Oh, I’m sorry, I never read your books. It seems I
remember such a book – was it in the old Testament or the New
Testament?”
 - b. How would you feel if when you meet these men, you had to say....
“Sorry, I never read your book.”
 - c. The Bible is the **ONLY** book that will last for all eternity. **READ IT!**
- C. This was the Armor” Christ used in Matthew 4:4,7, & 10
- D. The Word of God is “...sharper than a two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12)
1. *“Know the truth and the truth will make you free.”* (John 8:32 & 36)

EPHESIANS

LESSON #23

OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST

Ephesians 6:12-18

Part #4

Intro: HOW TO DEAL WITH SATAN

- A. We are **never** told to rebuke Satan!
 - 1. Even Michael the archangel did not rebuke him. (**Jude 1:9**)
 - 2. “The Lord rebuke thee” (**Zechariah 3:2**)
- B. We are told to “... *resist the devil and he will flee from thee*” (**James 4:7**)
 - 1. Satan loves to get a Christian in a conversation with him!
 - a. Why? He will always win!
- C. Have no conversation with Satan (**II Corinthians 6:11-18**)
 - 1. Come ye out – touch not... (**vs17**)

LAST WEEK: We studied “The Girdle of Truth” (The Written Word of God) Matt. 4:4, 7, 10
That was “believing” the right thing
Now we moved to “doing” the right thing

I. The Breastplate of Righteousness (Ephesians 6:14)

- A. This covers the front from the neck to the thighs
 - 1. It was designed to “protect the heart!” (**Romans 10:9**)
- B. End of Lesson “*Feet shod with the Gospel of peace*”
 - 1. The heart and the feet - go together!
 - a. They “complement” each other
 - 2. The “feet” must put into action what the heart “believes”
 - a. If they do not “match-up” together SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG
- C. This “**breastplate**” is not the “**imputed**” righteousness that God gave us. (**Philippians 3:8, 9**)
 - 1. We DO NOT PUT ON that righteousness.
 - 2. This is “**practical**” righteousness. (**Romans 6:13**)
 - 3. This is “**right living**” – Our walk must match our talk (**Titus 2:12 – 14 & 15 (works)**)
 - a. This is not something we put on “**one day a week.**”
 - 4. A man who **KNOWS** he is standing right – living right - can endure a multitude of wars!
 - a. DO RIGHT – IF THE STARS FALL – DO RIGHT! – Dr. Bob Jones Sr.
- D. This was Isaiah speaking of the Messiah, our Lord. (**Isaiah 59:16, 17**)

1. He speaks of Him putting on the “breastplate of righteousness”
 - a. This was something different from what was always His in eternity!
 - b. **Christ came into this world as “a man.”**
 - c. He put on this breastplate in obedience (**John 8:28, 29**)
 - d. You and I are to “imitate” Him by putting on the breastplate of RIGHT LIVING.
 1. Make it YOUR breastplate!

- E. Having on the “breastplate of righteousness” means you have a “**good conscience**” (**I Peter 3:21**)
 1. When a Christian falls some people say: 24/7
“That is so sad – just like that – and so sudden.”
 2. It was not sudden – The man had a **hidden sin** for weeks, months, maybe years.
 - a. What happened? His heart was exposed, and Satan knew it!
 - b. That is “one of the devices of Satan.” **Find a weak spot! (TOO LATE)**
 3. **A Christian “opens the door to disaster” by keeping “hidden sin” in their life.**

- F. If we fall instead of stand when Satan attacks us, it is because we have not been living right.
 1. He who binds himself with determined loyalty to a Holy God, is secure against attack.
 - a. A man conscious of being wrong is an easy prey.
 - b. A man conscious of being right can stand a conflict without fear.

- G. Some people today “will not come to church” **because** someone they know **claims to be Christian**
 1. But their “walk does not match their talk.”

II. The Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15)

- A. This has a “two-fold” meaning
 1. It means “walking” in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel (TRACTS)
 - a. **“Tell”** men that you are saved (**Acts 1:8**)
 - b. **“Show”** men that you are saved
 1. How? By walking in shoes “shod with the Gospel of Peace”
 2. **Illustrate:** Party

 2. It also means, “swift to carry the “Gospel” to other men.” (**I Peter 3:15**) (**Psalm 119:46**)
 - a. The word “preparation” implies “readiness and promptness”
 - b. Be **“prepared”** to share the Gospel with all men (**Luke 4:18**)
 1. **IN knowing the Bible (II Timothy 2:15)**
 2. **IN being ready! (I Peter 3:15)**

 3. Paul testified to these two truths.
 - a. **Romans 1:14-15** – **“I am debtor...”**
 - b. **Romans 1:16** – **“I am not ashamed...”**

 4. *“How beautiful the feet....” (Romans 10:15)*

EXAMPLE: The night of the first “**Passover**” Israel was under bitter attack by Pharaoh.

1. They were not fearful because they had the blood on the door post
 - a. God said: (**Exodus 12:11**)
 - b. They enjoyed their meal “**in perfect peace.**”
 - c. **Those shoes lasted 40 years! (Deut. 29:5)**

We are **never** told to rebuke Satan!

Even Michael the archangel did not rebuke him. (**Jude 1:9**)

“The Lord rebuke thee” (**Zechariah 3:2**)

We are told to “... resist the devil and he will flee from thee” (**James 4:7**)

Another reason: Satan loves to get a Christian in a conversation with him!

He will always win!

Look at (**II Corinthians 6:11-18**) – have no conversation with Satan

Come ye out – touch not... (**vs17**)

EPHESIANS

LESSON #24

OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST

Ephesians 6:12-18

Part #4

INTRO: The girdle of truth, breastplate of righteousness, the gospel shoes are all necessary, but

I. Above all, Taking The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)

- A. "...above all" or in addition to – and possibly more important – the shield of faith!
- B. Satan throws his "fiery darts" of
 - a. Pride
 - b. Envy
 - c. Jealousy,
 - d. Covetousness
 - e. Worry
 - f. Unbelief
 - g. Doubt
 - h. Impurity
 - i. ...MANY other darts are thrown at Christians...therefore,
- C. The New Testament - Only mentions – "Shield of Faith." (Eph. 6:16)
- D. The Old Testament - We find several mentions of "The Shield of Faith."
 - 1. The first mention of a shield is to Abraham in Genesis 15:1
 - a. "After these things" referring to the "first war mentioned in the Bible"
 - 2. The second mention is found "*the Lord, the shield of thy help.*" (Deut. 33:27-29)
 - 3. The third mention "*He is our help and our shield*" (Psalm 33:20)
 - 4. God is referred to as "*O God, our shield*" (Psalms 59:11; 84:9)
 - 5. He is referred to as: – "*For the Lord God is a sun and a shield*" (Psalm 84:11)
 - 6. "*For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*" (Psalm 61:3)
- E. Paul says, "**Taking....**" The shield of faith. – literally, "**Taking hold of...**"
 - 1. **BELIEVING** the promises of God! (Acts 27:23-25)
 - a. Psalm 34:7
 - b. Psalm 91:11
 - d. Luke 4:18
 - e. Hebrews 1:14
 - f. Exodus 23:20
 - 2. "*I know whom I have believed in and ...*" (II Timothy 1:12)

3. **EXAMPLE:** (II Kings 6:15-17)

4. “Taking the shield of faith, “Faith in who” – Faith in God wherewith ye shall be able to
a. **‘quench...all’** the fiery darts of the wicked.”

II. The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17)

- A. The word “take” in this verse is totally different from the word “Taking” in Vs 16:
1. Taking, in Vs 16 is the Greek word: “analambano” – “Taking hold of...”
2. Take, in Vs 17 is the Greek word: “dechomai” – “accepting a gift from the hand of another.”
- B. The head is exposed and vulnerable
1. This refers to “our minds” which needs ample and complete protection.
2. Wearing a helmet is a modern-day invention of warfare
a. Some form of “headgear” dates back to ancient Egypt. On display in museums.
3. Satan continually attacks our mind – **Wants to engage you in conversation**
a. **We are instructed to “gird up the loins of our minds”** (I Peter 1:13)
b. The meaning here is to be always prepared to:
1. Endure the mental trials of life
2. Discharge our duties
- C. The Knowledge of sins forgiven, and assurance of salvation is a **mighty fortress** against attacks
1. The blind man said: *“One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see”* John 9:25
2. Paul told us, *“We see through a glass, darkly...”* (I Cor 13:12)
- D. Forgiveness includes our past, our present and our future sins
1. It saves us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin.
a. The Scriptures teach that we “are” saved (Eph. 2:8)
1. The **death of Christ** saved us.
b. The Scriptures teach that “we are being” saved (II Corinthians 1:10)
1. The **resurrected Christ** is keeping us (Phil. 1:6)
c. The Scriptures teach that “we shall be saved.” (Romans 5:10)
1. The **coming of Christ** will preserve us safely throughout eternity
2. This knowledge makes us, “more than conquerors through Him that loved us”
(Romans 8:37)

EPHESIANS
LESSON #25
OUR WARFARE FOR CHRIST
Ephesians 6:12-18
Part #5

OUR OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

I. How to overcome the evil one (Revelation 12:11)

- A. By the Blood of Christ
 - 1. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 12:11)*
- B. *“By the Word of Your Testimony” (Revelation 12:11)*
 - 1. What does this mean?
- C. It means they “overcame” Satan by:
 - 1. Proclaiming their testimony, sharing that they are saved
 - 2. They have been washed in the blood of Christ
 - 3. They were children of God
 - 4. They are more than conquerors in Christ.

God communicates

I. The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. #6 Armor

- A. Every warrior needs an offensive weapon (Ephesians 6:17)
 - 1. This is also mentioned in Hebrews 4:12
 - 2.. The Sword is quick (John 6:63)
- B. What does it mean when it refers to “...the word of God?”
 - 1. The Greek word “logos” is used many times in the Bible.
 - a. “Logos” is NOT the Greek word **used in the text** – It is the Greek word “Rhema”.
 - b. There is a FINE-LINE between the two, but the Holy Spirit used them for a reason.
 - 1. The Greek word Logos is used 316 time in the Bible
 - 2. The Greek word Rhema is used 87 times in the Bible
- C. The difference is:
 - 1. The word “logos” always refers to the “Bible”
 - a. It gives us knowledge “about” God – **Factually** (II Corinthians 3:6)
 - 2. The word “rhema” is where God said something **PERSONALLY** to us.
 - a. When you are reading a text in the Bible that you have read many times -
 - 1. All of a sudden – God says something **“especially to you”** from the text.
 - 2. It then becomes **“personal.” God gave you something “by the Spirit”**
- D. Christ used this same offensive weapon (Isaiah 49:2)
 - 1. **“It is written.** Man shall not live by bread alone” (Matthew 4:4 – Deut. 8:3)
 - 2. **“It is written.** Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:7- Deut. 6:16)
 - 3. **“It is written.** Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve
 - a. See: (Matt. 4:10) “...get thee hence...”
 - 5. In our language, we would say, ***“This is what God said about”***

I John 5:13

a. This is the same word as used in Ephesians 5:26)

- E. With knowledge and ability of the Word of God, a Christian can ward off EVERY attack of Satan.
1. No amount of Satan's subtle ability can stand against the "Word" of God.
 2. No amount of hell's fallen angels can stand against the "Word" of God.
"Gates of Hell will not ..."

II. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)

- A. You must remember – the battle is **not ours** – but the LORD'S!
1. If we separate from Him – we break with the one who ALONE can empower us
 - a. Abraham took 318 men and conquered a coalition of kings (Gen. 14:1 & 14)
 - b. Gideon, with an army of 300 delivered Israel to victory
 1. (Judges 6:12) - Called Gideon
 2. (Judges 7:2 - Judges 7:7 Judges 8:10
 - a. Midianites numbered 135,000 (Judges 8:10)
 2. "With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles"
(II Chron 32:8) (Deut. 1:29)
- B. "Praying always" – We must be in prayer "without ceasing" (Acts 12:5)
1. We should "walk with Him in prayer at all times!"
 2. God does not ask us to do the impossible.
 - a. He asks us to let Him do the impossible THROUGH us
- C. "With ALL prayer and supplication" (Eph. 6:18)
1. There are:
 - a. Private prayer
 - b. Silent prayer
 - c. Audible prayer
 - d. Meal time prayer
 - e. Church meeting prayer
 - f. Scheduled prayer
 - g. Emergency prayer
 - h. Walking with Him in prayer (I Thess 5:18)
- D. "...in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18)
1. Thank God the Holy Spirit sees the battle and our adversary.
 - a. "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought (Romans 8:26)

III. And Watching thereunto - with all Perseverance and Supplications (Verse 18)

- A. Christians MUST be wakeful and watchful! – Not worn and weary
1. Jesus said to His disciples: **Watch and pray** (Matthew 26:40-41)
 2. Continuing instant in prayer (Romans 12:12)

IV. Finally! – We are to pray; “for all saints.”

- A. ALL believers everywhere are “Satan’s targets.”
- B. If you do not pray for all believers – Mexico – Europe – Africa – China – etc.
 - 1. You are omitting from your prayer life – the true cause of Christ –
 - a. Every believer
 - b. Every lost soul
 - 2. The devil’s victory is in lands where we have missionaries
 - a. ... is sometimes the lack of our prayers for our missionaries.
 - 3. Missionary returned home from Africa – slipped in back door of his church.**
- C. Last, Paul said, “...and for me...” that (Ephesians 6:19 – 20)
 - 1. Paul did not request prayer that he would be freed from Nero’s chain
 - 2. But for boldness to speak for Christ.
 - 3. No preacher is above the need for prayer.
 - a. God’s people need to pray for their pastor and missionaries more and criticize them less!

V. Paul, having completed his message, informs the church that his letter is being sent by Tychicus.

- A. Tychicus – just a errand boy - a messenger boy??? – Nothing more!???
- B. Much more! – Tychicus had the high honor of delivering this “inspired” letter to the church!
 - 1. Thank God for his faithfulness
 - 2. What a great loss it would be if he had not delivered this letter to Ephesus!
 - a. We would not have the priceless book in our hands today!
 - b. A letter which tells if of:
 - Our Wealth
 - Our Walk
 - Our Warfare

LAST ADMONISHION: “...love God in sincerity”

REVIEW

I. Girdle of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

- A. Matthew 4:4,7,10
 - 1. Quote the Scriptures when Satan torments you
 - 2. Do not rebuke him – have no conversation – **Satan can take “either” side and win!**

- B. He attacks our minds! - - - *gird up the loins of your mind.* I Peter 1:13

1. I John 2:15:

a. **Flesh – Do More Phil 4:11-12**

MEMORIZE: b. **Eyes – Have more – Matthew 6:33**

c. **Pride – Be more – Luke 14:11**

2. Phil 4:8 – Think on these things.

- C. Mediate until GOD gives you something especially for you.
 - 1. EXAMPLE: Eze. 3:4-6 & Isa.43:5:18-19

II. Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14) Right Acts!!!

- A. Out of the heart the mouth speaketh (Luke 6:45)
 - 1. **You cannot have hidden sin in your heart – and resist the Devil**

- B. Live Right! (Titus 2:12-15)

1. ARE YOU ZEALOUS???????

a. **People attend faithfully – DO NOTHING!**

III. Feet Shod with the Gospel of truth (Eph. 6 15)

- A. Put feet to the truth you believe
 - 1. Feet shod – **speaks of action**
 - a. To attend church IS NOT ENOUGH
 - 2. The first Passover
 - a. Keep your shoes on! (Exodus 12:11)
 - a. Look at Deut. 29:5 – **Those shoes lasted 40 years**

IV. Summary

- A. Girdle of truth: You hear – study – learn the truth
- B. Breast plate of righteousness If you BELIEVE it IN YOUR HEART:
 - 1. It will change your life (II Cor. 5:17)
- C. Feet shod - Results of change of life – get busy!
 - 2. Zealous of good works (Titus 2:14)
- D. **WHEN?** “Now...” (Jonah 1:1)
 - 1. “NOW” is the day of salvation (II Cor. 6:2)
 - 2. **“I must work...TODAY” (John 9:4)**

REVIEW

Part #1

I. Our Enemy (Ephesians 6:12) – Names the those Satan uses

A. Behind those names is **our real enemy** (Verse 11) - Satan

1. Satan is a real person or personality (Real created being – in an evil influence)

2. He is a “super-natural” being with “super-natural powers of deception
a. He **deceived** a great number of angels to follow him in rebellion

3. He is identified in Scripture as a real person.

- a. John 12:31 “...prince of this world”
- b. II Corinthians 4:4 “...god or this age”
- c. Ephesians 2:2 “...prince of the power of the air”
- d. Revelation 12:9 “...the great dragon”

4. Job 1:6 “Satan had a **conversation** with God.”

B. Satan’s “wiles” (Eph 6:11)

1. The word “wiles” is only used **twice** in the entire Scripture”

a. The Greek word is “*methodeia*”

1. **First use:** Ephesians 6:11

a. In today’s language it could be translated “**his methods**”

2. **Second use:** Ephesians 4:14 and is translated “**...they lie in wait.**”

C. Satan NEVER gives up on causing you to fall into sin (See Luke 4:13)

1. Satan departed “*...for a season.*”

D. Satan’s **first desire** concerning you me was to destroy our soul

1. Your souls is eternally safe

a. Your sins, past, present, and future are forgiven

E. Satan’s **present target** is “our sin nature” (I Peter 5:8-9)

1. Satan targets our brethren “world-wide” (I Corinthians 10:13)

2. Our sins are forgiven – **but we are not yet in our glorified body!**

a. WE STILL HAVE THE SAME SIN NATURE

1. **THIS is where he attacks!**

3. Attacks to make you lose your testimony and embarrass Christ

EXAMPLE OF THE TWO NATURES:

1. **The Man Job:** (Job 1:6) – (A man of victory over his sin nature)
A Satan accused God of paying Job for his faithfulness
B. Job suffered terribly, and in many manners
C. Job “won the victory” over Satan and his attacks
D. Job 13:15 *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust him...”*

2. **The Man Peter:** (Matthew 26:31-34) (A man who fell because of his sin nature)

A. (Vs 33) Peter declared that he would never deny Jesus
 1. (Vs 34) The Lord told him that he would deny him three times
 2. (Vs 35) Peter “corrected” the Lord and said he would DIE FIRST

- B. (Verse 74) Peter cursed and denied that he even knew him

- C. (Verses 36-43) Peter’s failure