

Outlines of Ephesians

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What an amazing family God has made us. His wonderful creative diversity shines through the human race. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made in His image; but we are all so different. We are tall and short, large and small, young and old – representing every tribe and race – so different, yet fundamentally the same. Beneath the diverse hues of our skin is a skeleton, God’s girders to lift us up.



This is a book of ‘skeletons,’ essential support for living messages from God’s Word – Paul’s letter to the Ephesians in particular. In almost thirty years of teaching and preaching in America, Uganda, and now Central Asia I have found Ephesians to be very beneficial to God’s people. Developing these outlines was an essential first step for me to formulate my messages, and I share them to encourage you in ministry. There is more than one way to correctly outline a text. In fact, I present more than one outline for the same passage sometimes. These bare outlines wait for your creative breath, as God’s Spirit fills you. Our messages for God will be as diverse and unique as He has

made us all. I am grateful to many commentators especially John Stott, James Boice, Warren Wiersbe, and John Calvin who have shaped my thoughts.

What should you do with these outlines? Their purpose is to help you better understand Paul’s message to the Ephesians, so that you might more effectively share with others. I pray they will point you to Him and His Word. If they are helpful, use them in your ministry. Carefully consider the most effective way to share with your listeners; alter and adapt these outlines as you think appropriate. As the best commentary on Scripture is Scripture, I provide a number of cross-references, more than would typically be shared in one message.

We must take care in how we actually refer to cross-references when we speak. Often a speaker will ask listeners to look up the references in their own Bibles. Be careful here. The goal is to understand Ephesians, not to bounce through the Bible

like a ping-pong ball! Every time you turn to a passage of Scripture you lose a certain percentage of your listeners. We all know that many people come to church without a Bible – shame on them! Some who do bring their Bibles do not know how to find what is inside. When you excitedly tell the church to turn and look at a wonderful verse from Zephaniah, you will hear the pages of many Bibles turning, and turning, and turning, and turning. Long after you actually read the text, some people still turn pages trying to find the place. Then when you go from Zephaniah to Leviticus over to Philemon and climax with a great verse from Ezra, you will hear a lot of pages turning! Soon people will get tired of turning -- even tired of listening.

Generally, it is best not to ask listeners to turn away from your teaching/preaching text. If they have found it and are following with you - keep going! I have two criteria for asking people to turn to a cross-reference; 1) the reference is essential to establish an extremely important point, and 2) the cross-referenced passage is long or complex. Some extremely important points can be clearly understood without looking up the text. You can say, “God is love” – an amazingly profound truth – without forcing the congregation to turn in their Bibles to 1 John 4.8, for example.

Nevertheless, I do use other passages to explain and apply my teaching/preaching text. Most of the time I write out the entire reference verse in my notes. Sometimes I can recite the verse from memory. Occasionally I have prepared listeners in advance with note cards of the Scripture references and ask them to be ready to read a passage. I do not always read the entire verse, usually just the key phrase that speaks to my point. Occasionally, I cite the exact reference of a passage - especially when the hearers should note the passage to look up later. But most of the time I do not cite the exact references. It can become quite tiring to listen to a speaker cite a long list of numbers, “chapter 7, verse 8, chapter 12, verse 2, chapter 9, verse 36...no wait, that is not verse 36, it is verse 37, no it is verse 38...” You understand my point. The same Bible that brings light in our preaching can hinder our understanding if we do not use it carefully. There are many distractions that steal away the attention of your listeners; do not make your own use of the Bible one of those thieves.

These outlines are certainly not perfect or inspired, only Scripture itself can rightly make that claim. But if they help you to understand Holy Scripture, and more faithfully share Him with others, they will have served their “hidden” purpose.

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1. God Gives Us All Good Gifts

a. Father: "Praise be to the God and Father"

The Father is the subject throughout verses 3 to 14.

3.14,15 "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

James 1.17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father"

b. Son: "our Lord Jesus Christ"

i. His Humanity - "the God of Jesus Christ"

As a man, Jesus related to God the Father as His God

Luke 23.34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Hebrews 10.5,7 "when Christ came into the world, he said: ... 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'"

Real Man who died a Real Death

5.25 "just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

Matthew 1.1 "Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham"

2 John 7 "Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist."

ii. His Deity - "the Father of Jesus Christ"

John 3.16, 1.18, 10.30 Unique, Eternal Son: "one and only Son"

Psalms 2.7 "He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'"

John 13.32 "God will glorify the Son in himself"

c. Holy Spirit: "every spiritual blessing"

1.13,14 "the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance"

1.17 "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation"

2. The Gifts God Gives

Temple of Diana in Ephesus was the Central Bank of Asia Minor, all the riches of people in the area came from there. Paul reveals all blessings to us come from God's riches in Christ.

a. Their Nature: "every spiritual blessing"

Paul asked disciples of John the Baptist in Ephesus:

Acts 19.2 "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

Romans 8.9 "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ"

i. Common Grace: God's gifts to all humanity

Matthew 5.45 "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

ii. Saving Grace: Blessings uniquely for believers in Jesus

1.1 "saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus"

1.4 "he chose us in him"

1.5 "adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ"

1.7 "In Him we have redemption through his blood"

1.13 "And you also were sealed in Christ"

2.5 "God made us alive with Christ"

b. Their Location: "in the heavenly realms"

Earthly Blessings are evidences of Common Grace. Many unbelievers have better 'things' on earth.

Psalms 103.2-5 "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Paul prays for us to see 'into the heavenlies':

1.17,18 "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"

"the heavenlies" Definition - "Unseen world of spiritual realities, where Jesus reigns, and His people reign with Him, not a geographical or spatial reference."
- phrase used five times in Bible, all by Paul in Ephesians

3. Jesus' is God's Gift Giver

a. Exclusive: "every spiritual blessing *in Christ*"

Only Jesus makes God known to the World

1.22 "God placed all things under his feet"

2.12 "you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

2.18 "For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

Acts 4.12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

John 14.6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 11.27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

b. Exhaustive "every spiritual blessing in Christ"

We will never find more of God than what Jesus reveals.

1.21 "far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title"

1.23 "the fullness of him who fills everything in every way"

3.8 "the unsearchable riches of Christ"

Colossians 1.19 "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him"

Colossians 2.9,10 "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"

John 14.8-10 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father' Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?"

4. Are you in Christ, God's Gift Giver?

Two meanings of being "in Christ" in Scripture -

a. **Federal:** what Jesus does for us as our Representative

1.5 "he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ"

1.11 "In him we were also chosen"

2.13 "now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ"

Romans 5.18 "the result of one trespass (*Adam in Eden*) was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness (*Second Adam on Cross*) was justification that brings life for all men."

b. **Experiential:** what Jesus does in us

1.18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know"

3.16-19 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Colossians 1.27 "Christ in you the hope of glory."

Galatians 1.16 "God revealed his Son in me"

Romans 8.10 "But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness."

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Ephesians 1.3-14

"Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"

1. The Father, Architect of Salvation (vs. 3 - 6)

a. Blessed by the Triune God

v. 3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

John 16.15 "All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you"

b. Chosen to be Holy

v. 4 "he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight"

v. 11 "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"

1 John 4.19 "We love because, he first loved us"

John 1.12,13 "to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision... but born of God"

c. Adopted as God's Children

v. 5 "he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ"

Galatians 4.6,7 "we have received the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son"

v. 5 "in accordance with the pleasure of His will"

Romans 9.15 "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion"

John 15.16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."

d. Our Confession

v. 6 "to the praise of His glorious grace"

Matthew 11.25-27 Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been

committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

2. The Son, Accomplished Salvation (vs. 7 - 12)

All of God’s Blessings to Us are: "IN CHRIST"

Galatians 2.20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

a. Redeemed by His Blood

v. 7 "In Him we have redemption, through His blood"

Mark 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

b. Forgiven by His Grace

vs. 7, 8 “the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding”

2 Corinthians 5.21 "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

c. Head over Heaven and Earth

vs. 9-11 “...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ...”

Colossians 1.16 “all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"

Romans 11.36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever."

d. Our Confidence

v. 12 "for the praise of His glory"

Romans 8.28 “God works all things together for the good of them that love God and are called according to His purpose"

3. The Holy Spirit, Applies Salvation (vs. 13 - 14)

a. The Promise Fulfilled

v. 13 “you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

Joel 2.28 "I will pour out My Spirit on all people"

John 16.14 "He will take what is mine and declare it unto you"

Acts 2.38,39 "Repent and be baptized...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you..."

b. Hearing and Believing

v. 13 "you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked"

John 6.37,44 "All that the Father gives me will come to me....No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him"

Romans 10.14,17 "How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?...Therefore, faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ"

c. Marked with a Seal

v. 13 "you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit"

4.30 "the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"

Romans 8.16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children"

d. Down-payment Guarantee

v. 14 "a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession"

Romans 8.23 "we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies"

Matthew 19.28 "at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne"

e. Our Celebration

v. 14 "to the praise of His glory"

Luke 10.21 "Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth"

Acts 7.55 "Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

2 Corinthians 3.18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Philippians 3.3 “we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus”

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1. Basis of Election

a. God's Initiative

v. 4 "before the creation of the world"

John 6.37,44 "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him"

John 15.16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."

Romans 9.10-13 "Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

b. God's Love

v. 5 "in love he predestined us"

1 John 4.19 "We love because, he first loved us"

Matthew 12.18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight"

1 Thessalonians 1.4 "we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you"

2 Thessalonians 2.13 "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

Colossians 3.12 "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved"

c. God's Glory

v. 6 "to the praise of his glorious grace"

Matthew 11.25-27 Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Romans 11.36 "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

2. Basic Objections to Election

a. Foreknowledge?

Romans 8.29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined”

Common Misinterpretation: First we choose God; then when He sees what we have decided, He chooses us.

But we are spiritually unable to choose God:

2.1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”

Correct Interpretation: “Foreknowledge” is God’s initiating love, He first loves us!

Isaiah 37.26 “Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass”

Amos 3:2 “You only have I chosen (lit. ‘known’) of all the families of the earth”

b. Big Picture Only?

Some acknowledge God’s Sovereignty in the “Big Details” of life, but say that He has left the smaller things, like our spiritual decisions, up to us. But God is concerned for big and small, everything!

Isaiah 46.10,11 “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.”

Matthew 6.26 “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Luke 21.18 “But not a hair of your head will perish.”

Romans 8.28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

c. Arbitrary?

Some say that for God to choose some is arbitrary; the choice has no meaningful basis. How could God do that? But everything God does is perfect and purposeful.

1 Corinthians 14.33 “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.”

Job 36.5 “God is mighty, but does not despise men; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose.”

Psalm 33.11 “the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations”

Psalm 40.5 “Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.”

Proverbs 19.21 “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.”

Isaiah 14.24 “The LORD Almighty has sworn, “Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.”

d. “All” or “World” Passages?

From Abraham to Jesus “salvation is from the Jews” (John 4.22). Beginning at Pentecost, salvation was extended to “all,” the “whole world.”

Acts 2.17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”

1 John 2.2 “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 Timothy 4.10 “we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe”

2 Corinthians 5.14,15 “we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

Interpretation: These Scriptures are not referring to every single individual in every nation. Rather, salvation is for those God has called from all nations throughout the whole world.

e. Unjust? - Some accuse God of being unjust in choosing only some for salvation. But if God gave us justice, none would be saved; all are guilty. Election is based on grace and mercy, not justice.

2.4,5 “because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”

Genesis 18.25 “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Ezekiel 18.32 “For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

2 Peter 3.9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

3. Blessings of Election

a. Humility

1.5,6 “in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace”

2.8,9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.”

b. Adoration

v. 3 “Praise be to God”

v. 6 “to the praise of his glorious grace”

v. 12 “for the praise of his glory”

v. 14 “to the praise of his glory”

1 John 3.1 “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

c. Holiness

v. 4 “to be holy and blameless in his sight”

1 Peter 1.1,2 “To God's elect, strangers in the world...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood”

Romans 8.29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son”

d. Assurance

Titus 3.5 “he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy”

John 10.27-29 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.”

e. Evangelism

John 10.16 “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

Acts 18.9-11 “One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and

harm you, because I have many people in this city." So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God."

Acts 16.14 "Lydia...The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."

Acts 13.48 "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed."

Isaiah 55.11 "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"

Romans 1.16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes"

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Ephesians 1.7-10

“Set Free in Jesus”

Work of God in the Past: Predestination, Redemption

Work of God in the Present: Adoption, Gift of Holy Spirit

Work of God in Future: All things placed under Headship of Christ

1. Redemption from Sin

a. Set free in Jesus

v. 7 “In him we have redemption through his blood”

Redemption: “to be set free through the payment of a price”

Ruth 4.14 "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!"

Mark 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Romans 3.24 “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus”

John 8.36 “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

b. Forgiveness of Sin

v. 7 “the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace”

Mark 2.10 “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”

Luke 24.47 “repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations”

Acts 5.31 “God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.”

c. through blood

v. 7 “redemption through his blood”

Matthew 26.28 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 20.28 “Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Hebrews 9.12 “he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption”

1 Peter 1.18,19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

2. Revelation of Salvation

a. In Christ we Know God’s Plan

v. 9 “he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ”

v. 11 “according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you”

2.14 “he himself is our peace”

3.4 “the mystery of Christ”

b. Christ is God’s Plan

v. 10 “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”

1.22 “God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”

Matthew 28.18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”

Colossians 2.13-15 “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

Hebrews 3.6 “Christ is faithful as a son over God's house”

Revelation 5.12 "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

3. Restoration of Society

a. We are Made Sons and Daughters of God

1.5 “he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ”

2.19 “members of God's household”

Galatians 4.5 “that we might receive the full rights of sons”

Romans 8.16,17 “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”

b. God is making a New Society

v. 12 Jew: “we, who were the first to hope in Christ”

v. 13 Gentiles: “you also were included in Christ”

v. 14 United Together: “our inheritance”

3.10, 11 “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

c. Grace and Glory

v. 12 “for the praise of his glory”

John 1.16 “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.”

Revelation 22.21 “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.”

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Ephesians 1.11-14

“Signed, Sealed, and Delivered”

Work of God the Father: Architect of Plan of Salvation

Work of God the Son: Builder according to God’s Plan

Work of God the Spirit: Brings believers into God’s House

Acts 19.1-7 The first Ephesians Paul met had an incomplete understanding of Holy Spirit; they followed John the Baptist and had not yet come to full faith in the finished work of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12.3 “no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit”

Romans 8.9 “if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ”

1. The Spirit’s Call

a. of God’s Elect

1.4 “he chose us in him before the creation of the world”

1.5 “he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ”

v. 11 “In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”

Acts 13.48 “When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed”

John 10.27 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

b. through God’s Word

v. 13 “you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation”

6.17 “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

John 16.8 “When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment”

Romans 10.17 “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ”

Romans 1.16 “the gospel...is the power of God for the salvation”

Acts 16.14 “One of those listening was a woman named Lydia... The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message”

1 Corinthians 1.18 “the message of the cross... to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

1 Corinthians 2.4 “My message and my preaching... a demonstration of the Spirit's power”

2. The Spirit's Seal

3 Meanings of ‘Sealing’

- 1) Confirms Truthfulness; like the seal placed on money notes by the government
- 2) Confirms Ownership; stamped upon property by the owner
- 3) Confirms Security; as the tomb of Jesus was closed by Roman seal

a. Seal of Hope

v. 12,13 “we, who were the first to hope in Christ... Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

4.4 “There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called”

Romans 5.5 “hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit”

Romans 15.13 “so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”

b. Symbol of Unity

v. 12 Jew: “we, who were the first to hope in Christ”

v. 13 Gentiles: “you also were included in Christ”

v. 14 United Together: “our inheritance”

2.14 “he himself is our peace, who has made the two one”

John 17.20,21 “My prayer is...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

1 Corinthians 12.13 “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

3. The Spirit-filled Believer's Future

a. Guarantee

v. 13,14 “the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance”

4.30 “the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”

Romans 8.23 “we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit...as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies”

b. Guidance

v. 11 “him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”

Romans 8.14 “those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”

John 16.13 “when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth”

c. Glory

v. 12 “for the praise of his glory”

v. 14 “to the praise of his glory”

2.8,9 “it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast”

2 Corinthians 3.18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

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1. Prayer - Claiming the Promises of God

Paul now prays that they will fully understand his teaching given in vs. 3-14

a. Triune: to Father, in Son, by Spirit

v 17 “asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit”

b. Reason: God's Work / Man's Response

v 15 “For this reason.... your faith”

2 Thessalonians 1.3 "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."

c. Immediate

v. 15 "ever since I heard"

Nehemiah 2.4,5 “The king said to me, "What is it you want?" *Then I prayed to the God of heaven,* and I answered the king”

d. Unending

v. 16 "not stopped"

1 Thessalonians 5.17 “pray continually”

e. Persistent

v. 17 "keep asking"

Luke 18.1-5 "Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up”

f. Informed

v 17 "to know Him better"

2 Kings 6.15-17 “...Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see..."

2. Prayer - Understanding the Grace of God

a. Past - Hope of our Call

v. 18 “that you may know the hope to which he has called you”

1 Thessalonians 5.24 "The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it"

Romans 5.5 "Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us"

b. Future - Riches of our Inheritance

v. 18 "the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"

Deuteronomy 32.9 "For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance"

1 Corinthians 6.19 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

Revelation 21.2, 22.14 "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband...Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

c. Present - Great Power for Believers

v. 19 "his incomparably great power for us who believe"

3.16 "strengthen you with power through his Spirit"

Acts 1.8 "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you"

Acts 10.38 "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power"

3. Prayer - Experiencing the Power of God

Bishop Phillip Brooks: "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your task. Then the doing of the work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle."

a. Resurrection Power

v. 19,20 "that power is like the working of his mighty strength which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead"

2.5 "God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions"

1 Corinthians 5.4 "When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present"

b. Unrivaled Power

3.20 “him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”

John 14.12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Colossians 1.16 "For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created for him and by him"

4. The Church - Prayer Made Visible

a. Focus of God's Power

v. 22 "head over everything for the church"

Matthew 18.20 “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

b. Fullness of Christ's Body

v. 23 “his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way”

4.10 “ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe”

Colossians 1.27 “God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"

* * * * *

1. Benefits of Prayer: Why Pray?

a. We are Weak

6.19,20 “Pray also for me...an ambassador in chains”

Matthew 26.41 “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Isaiah 40.30 “Even youths grow tired and weary”

Matthew 24.13 “he who stands firm to the end will be saved”

b. We are Sinful

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened”

4.17,18 “the Gentiles... are darkened in their understanding”

Zephaniah 1.17 “they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD”

c. We are Opposed

2.2 “ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”

6.12 “our struggle is...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”

2. Paradox of Prayer; if God has planned all, why pray?

a. God’s Plan is our Basis of Confidence

1.15 “For this reason...”

3.11,12 “according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Matthew 11.24,25 “...on the day of judgment than for you. At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth”

Acts 4.24-29 “they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them... They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

Daniel 9.2,3 “I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer...”

b. Scripture teaches both God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility

1.4,5 “he chose us in him...he predestined us”

6.19 “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel”

Luke 22.22 “The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him.”

Philippians 2.12,13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose”

3. Prompting to Pray; what moves us to pray?

v. 15 “since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints”

4.1 “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received”

5.1 “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children”

4. Persistence in Prayer

v. 16 “I have not stopped”

v. 17 “I keep asking”

1 Thessalonians 5.17 “pray continually”

Luke 18.1 “Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up”

Psalms 90.1 “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.”

5. Petitions of Paul; what does he ask for?

a. To Know God better

v. 17 “so that you may know him better”

Jeremiah 9.23,24 “This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.”

John 17.3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

b. Knowledge in Head and Heart

v. 18 “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know”

John 14.15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

1 Timothy 4.16 “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Titus 1.1 “the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness”

Revelation 2.4 “You have forsaken your first love”

c. Know the Hope of your Calling

v. 18 “that you may know the hope to which he has called you”

4.4 “you were called to one hope when you were called”

Titus 2.13 “the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”

d. Look forward to your Inheritance

v. 18 “the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

1.14 “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance”

Colossians 1.12 “the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light”

6. Power of God through Prayer

a. Risen with Christ

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

Acts 2.24 “God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him”

b. Enthroned over Evil

1.20,21 “seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come”

Psalm 110.1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Hebrews 2.14 "by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil"

7. Primary Focus of Prayer; the Church

v. 22 "over everything for the church"

2.22 "a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit"

Matthew 18.20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

8. Place of Blessing in Prayer

a. Strength in Weakness

6.20 "I am an ambassador in chains"

2 Corinthians 12.9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Deuteronomy 34.12 "For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."

James 4.6 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

b. Hope through Suffering

3.1 "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles"

3.10 "through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers"

Philippians 3.10,11 "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

2 Corinthians 4.7 "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

c. Boldness in Conflict

3.20 "him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

6.19,20 “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Philippians 1.20 “I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

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1. Our Enemies Defined

a. the world

v. 2 “the ways of this world”

Romans 12.2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world”

John 8.23 Jesus: “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”

John 17.14 “I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”

1 John 2.15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

b. the devil

v. 2 “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”

6.11 “take your stand against the devil's schemes”

John 8.44 “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John 10.10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”

John 12.31 “now the prince of this world will be driven out”

Revelation 12.9 “The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray”

c. the flesh

v. 3 “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts”

Psalm 58.3 “Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies.”

Romans 7.18 “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.”

Philippians 3.3 “we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh”

2. Our Enemies Defeated

a. Kingdom of God Transcends the World

Zechariah 14.9 “The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.”

Matthew 28.18 Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Acts 2.36 “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Revelation 11.15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

b. Son of God Triumphs Over the Devil

Genesis 3.15 “he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Mark 3.27 “no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man”

Romans 16.20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

Colossians 1.13 “he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

c. Spirit of God Transforms the Flesh

Romans 8.2 “through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death”

Romans 13.14 “clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature”

Galatians 5.16,17,24 “live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

Galatians 6.8 “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

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Ephesians 2.1-10

“Knowing Jesus: A Christian Biography”

1. Living Death (vs. 1 - 3)

a. Just wages

v. 1 “dead in transgressions and sins”

Romans 5.12 “sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned”

Romans 3.23 “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Romans 6.23 “the wages of sin is death”

Transgressions: ‘what we have done but should not have done’

Sins: ‘what we should have done but failed to do’

Romans 3.11,12 “no one seeks God, all have turned away”

b. Following this world

v. 2 “you followed the ways of this world”

John 18.36 “Jesus said...my kingdom is not of this world ...it is from another place”

1 John 2.15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

c. Disobedient ruler

v. 2 “you followed... the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”

John 8.44 “he is a liar and the father of all lies”

d. Gratifying our cravings

v. 3 “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts”

1 Timothy 5.6 “the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives”

e. Objects of Wrath

v. 3 “we were by nature objects of wrath”

Hebrews 10.26,27,31 "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God...It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

2. Alive with Christ (vs. 4 - 10)

a. God's Riches At Christ's Expense = GRACE

v. 4 "His great love for us"

1 John 4.10 "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins"

v. 4 "God who is rich in mercy"

Titus 3.5 "He saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."

1 Peter 1.3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

v. 7 "incomparable riches of his grace"

v. 7 "kindness to us in Christ Jesus"

b. New Life with Christ

v. 5 "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead"

John 3.3 "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

c. New Position in Christ

v. 6 "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"

John 10.10 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

d. New Lifestyle for Christ

v. 10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

2 Corinthians 5.17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new is come!"

John 8.32 "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

e. Forsaking All I Trust Him = FAITH

v. 8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"

Romans 1.17 "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last"

f. No work, no boasting

v. 9 "not by works, so that no one can boast"

John 1.12,13 "To all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or of a husband's will, but born of God"

Deuteronomy 30.15,19 "See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction...This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses, now choose life so that you and your children may live."

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Ephesians 2.1-10

“New Life in Christ”

1. Old Life Outside of Christ

a. We were Dead

v. 1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”

Three possible views of the Human Condition:

i) Good: man is getting better and better

ii) Damaged: man needs repair through education

iii) Spiritually Dead: to God and things of the Spirit

1) All People are Spiritually Dead

Genesis 2.17 “when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Isaiah 59.2 “your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear”

Romans 3.10-12 “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Romans 3.23 “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

2) All Parts of Man are Tainted by Sin

v. 3 “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts”

4.17-19 “the futility of their thinking...darkened in their understanding...hardening of their hearts... given themselves over to sensuality”

“Not as bad as we could be; not as good as we should be”

Romans 3.13-18 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

3) All are Penalized

v. 3 “by nature objects of wrath”

Romans 5.12 “just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned”

1 Corinthians 15.22 “in Adam all die”

b. We were Enslaved

1) Rebels v. 1 “transgressions” – what we have done wrong

2) Failures v. 1 “sins” – what we have failed to do right

c. We were Condemned

1) Guilt

James 2.10 “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it”

John 16.8 “he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment”

2) Wrath

v. 3 “objects of wrath”

2 Thessalonians 1.8 “He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

2. New Life in Christ

a. Basis of our New Life

1) God’s Love

v. 4 “because of His great love for us”

1 John 4.8 “God is Love”

John 3.16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

2) God’s Mercy

v. 4 “God who is rich in mercy”

Romans 9.15 “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

Luke 18.13 “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Titus 3.5 “he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy”

3) God's Grace

v. 5 "it is by grace you have been saved"

v. 7 "the incomparable riches of his grace"

v. 8 "For it is by grace you have been saved"

Titus 2.11 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."

Mercy: God does not give us what we do deserve.

Grace: God gives us what we do not deserve.

4) God's Kindness

v. 7 "his kindness to us in Christ Jesus"

Titus 3.4,5 "when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us"

Acts 14.17 "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

Romans 2.4 "do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

b. Result of our New Life

1) We are Alive, No Longer Dead in Sin

v. 5 "God made us alive with Christ"

John 5.24,25 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."

2) We are Ascended, No Longer Enslaved

v. 6 "God raised us up with Christ"

Colossians 3.1 "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above"

3) We are Enthroned, No Longer Condemned

v. 6 "seated in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"

Philippians 3.20 "our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ"

Matthew 19.28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

3. How Do We Get this New Life?

a. Salvation: a Cry of Helplessness

vs. 8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast."

"Saved" - spared from death, desperate gasp of dying man

1.13 "you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed"

Mark 2.17 Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Romans 4.5 "to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness"

b. Service: a Call to Holiness

v. 10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

1.4 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

Matthew 25.34-40 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

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1. Saved by Grace

a. Gift

v. 8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”

Isaiah 43.11 “I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior.”

Jonah 2.9 “Salvation comes from the LORD.”

Romans 5.15 “But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”

b. Glory

v. 9 “not by works, so that no one can boast”

1.3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

1.6 “to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves”

1.12 “for the praise of his glory”

1.14 “to the praise of his glory”

Galatians 6.14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

2. through Faith

a. What faith is NOT -

1) Just a Feeling - Emotions are Fallible and Changing

4.19 “Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality”

Romans 7.15 “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.”

2) Wishful Thinking – What we Want to Happen, May Not

4.17,18 “the Gentiles...the futility of their thinking...They are darkened in their understanding”

Mark 14.36 "Yet not what I will, but what you will."

1 Timothy 1.7 "they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm"

b. What faith IS

1) Right Doctrine – Loving God with your Mind

4.4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

4.21 "the truth that is in Jesus"

3.10 "the manifold wisdom of God"

Acts 14.22 "strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith"

Romans 6.17 "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

1 Timothy 3.9 "keep hold of the deep truths of the faith"

2) Right Devotion - Loving God with your Heart

1.18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know..."

3.19 "to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"

Galatians 5.6 "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

1 Timothy 1.5 "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

Psalms 119.97 "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."

3) Right Decisions – Loving God with your Strength

John 14.15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Acts 6.7 "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

Romans 16.26 "so that all nations might believe and obey him"

Titus 1.1 "knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness"

3. and Works?

a. Not by Works

v. 9 “not by works, so that no one can boast”

1 Corinthians 1.30,31 “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Titus 3.5 “he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy”

b. Not without Works

v. 10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

1) Source “God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus... God prepared”

1.11 “him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”

John 15.5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

2 Corinthians 5.17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Philippians 2.12-13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

2) Sign “to do good works”

4.22-24 “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Matthew 7.16 “By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Titus 2.11,12 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age”

3) Security “we are...in Christ Jesus... prepared in advance for us to do.”

4.30 “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”

2 Corinthians 13.5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?”

1 Timothy 3.13 “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.”

Legalism: Salvation = Faith + Works

License: Salvation = Faith

Liberty: Faith = Salvation + Works

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1. Separation: What Sin Did to Us

a. Without Christ

v. 12 “separate from Christ”

Acts 4.12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

b. Without Citizenship

v. 12 “no citizenship in Israel”

Amos 3.2 “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth”

c. Without Covenants

v. 11 “uncircumcised”

v. 12 “foreigners to the covenants”

Exodus 19.5,6 “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Matthew 15.22-28 “A Canaanite woman... Jesus answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”... “It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.”

d. Without Hope

v. 12 “without hope”

1 Thessalonians 4.13 “the rest of men, who have no hope”

e. Without God

v. 12 “without God in the world”

Psalms 14.1 “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Romans 1.18 “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness”

2. Reconciliation: What Christ Did for Us

a. Between Jew and Gentile

v. 13 “brought near through the blood of Christ”

v. 14 “destroyed the barrier”

v. 14 “he is our peace”

v. 15 “create one new man out of the two”

3.6 “through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus”

Hebrews 10.19,20 “we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body”

b. Between God and Mankind

vs. 16-18 “in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

Acts 15.11 “We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Romans 3.22-24 “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

3. Unification: What God has Made Us

a. One Nation

v. 19 “you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people”

Matthew 21.43 “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”

Galatians 6.16 “Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.”

1 Peter 2.9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

b. One Family

v. 19 “members of God's household”

3.15 “from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name”

1 Corinthians 4.15 “in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel”

Galatians 6.10 “the family of believers”

c. One Temple

v. 20-22 “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

1 Kings 8.27 "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

John 2.19,21 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."... the temple he had spoken of was his body."

Colossians 1.17 “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

1 Peter 2.5 “you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”

Revelation 1.5,6 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”

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1. Mystery of Christ

a. Revealed

v. 3 “mystery made known to me by revelation”

v. 5 “revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets”

2.20 “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”

Galatians 1.15,16 “God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me”

b. Reading

v. 3 “written briefly”

v. 4 “in reading...you may be able to understand”

v. 5 “apostles and prophets”: New Testament

Acts 8.30,31 "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

1 Thessalonians 2.13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

1 Timothy 4.13 “devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching”

c. Relationship

v. 6 “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

2.14,15 “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace”

Genesis 12.3 “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”

Matthew 8.11 “I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”

Acts 15.8,9 “God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”

2. Central Role of the Church

a. First in Creation

v. 9 “mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things”

1.4 “he chose us in him before the creation of the world”

Revelation 13.8 “the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world”

b. In History

v. 10 “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms”

1.9,10 “he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”

1.22 “God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”

Proverbs 21.1 “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.”

1 Timothy 6.14,15 “the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time”

c. In Salvation: Jew + Gentile = Church

v. 8,9 “the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery”

2.21 “In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.”

1 Timothy 3.15,16 “God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”

3. Grace Revealed through the Church

Paul's example of how he met Christ guides us:

1 Corinthians 11.1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

a. to see

v. 3,4 "the mystery made known to me... my insight into the mystery of Christ"

Acts 26.17,18 "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

John 20.29 "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

b. to serve v. 7 "I became a servant of this gospel"

Galatians 1.23 "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

6.21 "Tychicus...faithful servant in the Lord"

c. to stand

v. 12 "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

6.19,20 "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

Acts 4.31 "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Hebrews 4.16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

d. to suffer

v. 13 "I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory."

2 Timothy 3.12 "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"

Romans 8.18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

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Ephesians 3.14-19

“Family Prayer”

Paul’s Pattern in Ephesians: Teaching followed by Prayer

1.3-14 Teaching / 1.15 “for this reason...I have not stopped...prayers”

2.1-22 Teaching / 3.1 “for this reason....”

3.2-13 Teaching / 3.14 “for this reason I kneel before the Father”

1. How to Pray

a. Promises

v. 14 “for this reason”

3.12 “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Martin Luther: “Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised.”

2 Corinthians 3.12 “since we have such a hope, we are very bold”

b. Posture

v. 14 “I kneel before the Father”

Luke 18.10 “Pharisee stood up and prayed”

Ezra 9.5,6 “at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God and prayed”

Matthew 26.39 “he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

1 Samuel 16.7 “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

c. People

v. 15 “whole family in heaven and on earth”

2.17-22 “He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household...And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Matthew 5.23,24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 6.12 "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

1 Peter 3.7 "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

2. What to Ask for in Prayer

a. Strength for the "Inner Man"

v. 16 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being"

1.18 "that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you"

2.7 "the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus"

Philippians 4.13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

2 Corinthians 4.16 "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

b. Christ's Indwelling

v. 17 "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith"

5.18 "be filled with the Spirit"

Romans 8.9-11 "And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

c. Rooted in Love

v. 17 "being rooted and established in love"

Romans 8.35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...no(t) anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philippians 1.9 “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight”

d. Understand Christ’s Love

v. 18 “power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ”

1 Corinthians 13.8 “Love never fails”

2 Corinthians 2.4 “to let you know the depth of my love for you”

1 John 2.5 “if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.”

e. Know that which Surpasses Knowledge

v. 19,20 “and to know this love that surpasses knowledge... Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”

1 Corinthians 13.8 “Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

James 4.14 “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

Matthew 10.28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

f. Filled with God

v. 19 “that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”

Revelation 2.4,5 “You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

John 14.23 “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

John 17.25,26 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

1 Corinthians 15.24-28 “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power... When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.”

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God's Ability to Answer Prayer

- 1) He is able to do
- 2) He is able to do what we ask
- 3) He is able to do what we imagine
- 4) He is able to do all we imagine
- 5) He is able to do much more than we imagine
- 6) He is able to do much more than we ask
- 7) He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine

1. God is Able

a. He is Alive

v. 20 “now to him who is able to do”

Psalm 115.4-8 “their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.”

Isaiah 41.22-24 "Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable.”

b. He is Abundant

v. 20 “immeasurably more than we ask or imagine”

Jeremiah 32.17 "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

Matthew 19.26 “with God all things are possible.”

Luke 1.37 “For nothing is impossible with God.”

2. God is in Us

a. Power

v. 20 “according to his power at work within us”

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

3.7 “the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power”

3.16 “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”

John 15.5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

b. Received through Prayer

v. 20 “all we ask or imagine”

Matthew 17.20 “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. ”

1 John 3.21-22 “Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.”

3. God is Glorious

a. Christ

v. 21 “glory in Christ Jesus”

Exodus 33.18,19 “Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence.”

John 1.14 “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

1 Timothy 1.17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Jonathan Edwards “Grace is glory begun, glory is grace perfected.”

b. Church

v. 21a “in the church throughout all generations”

3.10,11 “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8.17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

1 Timothy 3.15 “the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth”

c. Consummation

v. 21b “forever and ever”

Revelation 21.3,22-26 “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God... I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.”

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Ephesians 4.1-6

“Our Unity in Christ”

1. Fellowship of the Spirit

a. Humble

v. 2 “be completely humble”

Philippians 2.3-7 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

b. Gentle

v. 2 “Be completely...gentle”

Numbers 12.3 “Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.”

Matthew 11.29 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

c. Patient

v. 2 “be patient”

Galatians 5.22 “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”

2 Timothy 4.2 “Preach the Word...with great patience and careful instruction.”

d. Forbearing

v. 2 “bearing with one another”

1 Timothy 1.16 “for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life”

e. Love

v. 2 “in love”

1 Peter 4.8 “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

f. Unity

v. 3 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

2.14 “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”

g. Purpose

v. 4 “called to one hope”

Romans 15.13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

2. Focused on the Son

a. Doctrine

v. 5 “one Lord, one faith”

1 Corinthians 8.6 “there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live”

Romans 10.9 “if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”

b. Commitment

v. 5 “one baptism”

Romans 6.4 “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

3. Flowing from the Father

a. Relationships

v. 6 “one God and Father of all”

1.3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

1.17 “the glorious Father”

2.18 “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

3.14,15 “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

b. Goal

v. 6 “who is over all and through all and in all”

3.19 “that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”

Romans 11.36 “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

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1. The Giver of God’s Grace

a. Messiah

v. 8 “when he ascended on high”

Psalm 68.18 “When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men”

Acts 2.33 “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

2 Corinthians 1.20 “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.”

b. Savior

v. 9 “descended to the lower regions”

Philippians 2.8 “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!”

c. Lord

v. 10 “ascended higher than all the heavens”

Philippians 2.9-11 “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

2. The Gifts v. 11

a. Pioneering

1) Far: “apostles”

Acts 4.33 “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

Romans 1.5 “we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith”

2) Near: “evangelists”

Acts 21.8 “Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven”

2 Timothy 4.5 “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

b. Proclaiming: “prophets”

1 Corinthians 12.28 “in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers”

1 Corinthians 14.29 “Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.”

c. Perfecting: “pastors and teachers”

1 Timothy 3.2 “Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”

Titus 1.7,9 “an overseer is entrusted with God's work...He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it”

3. How the Gifts operate in the Church

a. Jesus: Head of the Church

v. 15 “him who is the Head, that is, Christ”

b. Believers: Priests and Servants of God

v. 7 “to each one of us grace has been given”

1 Peter 2.9 “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Revelation 1.5,6 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father”

c. Leaders: Equip Members for Service

v. 12 “to prepare God's people for works of service”

1 Peter 4.10,11 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Mark 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

4. Goal of God's Plan for the Church

v. 13 “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

John 17.17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 17.20,21 “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

a. Childish Christians

1) Not Stable v. 14 “infants, tossed back

2) Easily Deceived v. 14b “blown here and there

b. Christ-like Christians

1) Talk the Truth

v. 15 “speaking the truth in love”

4.21 “the truth that is in Jesus”

John 1.14 “Word...full of grace and truth”

2) Walk in Love

v. 15 “truthing in love”

1 Corinthians 13.1,2 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

1 Thessalonians 2.8 “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”

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Ephesians 4.17-19

“Picture of a Pagan”

1. Dark Minds

a. Intellect

v. 17 “futility of their thinking”

v. 18 “darkened in their understanding...ignorance that is in them”

Romans 1.28 “gave them over to a depraved mind”

Colossians 1.21 “enemies in your minds”

b. Ignorance

v. 18 “because of the ignorance that is in them”

Romans 1.22 “although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

c. Influence

v. 20 “you did not come to know Christ in that way”

v. 23 “made new in the attitude of your minds”

Romans 12.2 “transformed by the renewing of your mind”

2 Corinthians 10.5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

John 8.32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2. Hard Hearts

a. Result

v. 18 “due to the hardening of their hearts”

Romans 1.21 “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Proverbs 4.23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

b. Rejection

Romans 1.23 “exchanged...

Romans 1.25 “exchanged the truth...

Romans 1.26 “because of this, God gave them over...”

Romans 1.28 “God gave them over...”

Exodus 4.21 “The LORD said to Moses, "...see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.”

Exodus 7.13,22 “Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said... Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8.15 “when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said”

Exodus 8.19 “The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.”

Exodus 8.32 “But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.”

Exodus 9.7 “Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.”

Exodus 9.12 “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.”

Exodus 9.35 “So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.”

Exodus 10.1,2 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD."

Exodus 10.20 “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.”

Exodus 10.27 “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.”

Exodus 11.10 “Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.”

Exodus 14.4 “And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.”

Exodus 14.8 “The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites”

Exodus 15.4 “Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.”

Exodus 25.2 “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.”

1 Corinthians 10.11 “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

c. Renewal

Ezekiel 36.26 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Psalm 24.3,4 “Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”

Psalm 51.10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

1 Timothy 1.5 “The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

2 Timothy 2.22 “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

3. Perverse Wills

a. Given Themselves

v. 19 “given themselves over to sensuality”

Romans 6.13 “do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness”

b. Lost Themselves

v. 19 “with a continual lust for more”

2 Timothy 2.26 “the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will”

John 8.34,36 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin...So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

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Ephesians 4.20-24

“The School of Jesus”

God’s Truth Transforms

1.13 “you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

5.26 “cleansing her by the washing with water through the word”

6.17 “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

Acts 20.32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

1. Know Him: Subject we Study

a. Facts not Feelings

v. 21 “the truth”

John 14.6 “I am the truth”

2 Corinthians 5.7 “We live by faith, not by sight.”

Habakkuk 3.17-19 “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength”

b. Revelation not Self-Realization

4.18 “darkened in their understanding

3.3 “mystery made known to me by revelation”

4.13 “knowledge of the Son of God”

Matthew 16.16,17 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”

John 1.12,13 “those who believed in his name...children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

2. Hear Him: Goal of our Study

a. His Word

v. 23 “to be made new in the attitude of your minds”

John 1.1,14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 17.17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 3.21 “whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

b. His Voice

v. 21 “you heard of him”

4.17 “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord”

John 5.25 “I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.”

John 10.4,5,16,27 “his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice....other sheep that are not of this sheep pen...They too will listen to my voice...My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me”

1 Thessalonians 2.13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the *word of God, which you heard from us*, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it *actually is, the word of God*, which is at work in you who believe.”

3. Taught in Him: Place where we Study

a. Change

v. 22-24 “*put off your old self*, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to *put on the new self*, created to be like God”

Colossians 3.9,10 “Do not lie to each other, since you have *taken off your old self* with its practices and have *put on the new self*”

John 11.43,44 Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

b. Renewed in Image of God

v. 24 “true righteousness and holiness”

Colossians 3.10 “the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”

2 Corinthians 5.17 “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Old Self “corrupted” New Self “created like God”

Old Self “desires” New Self “righteous and holy”

Old Self “deceitful” New Self “true”

c. Commitment

v. 20 “you, however, did not come to know Christ that way”

4.25 “each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor”

4.28 “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”

4.29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Romans 13.14 “clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature”

Deuteronomy 6.4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

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Ephesians 4.25-32

“Living out Christ’s Resurrection”

(As I preached through the book of Ephesians, these were the verses that we came to on Easter Sunday. So I linked these verses with the message of Resurrection.)

1. The Declaration of Resurrection

a. True – Historic; a real man who lived, died, and rose

1.9,10 “he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”

Romans 1.1-4 “the gospel of God...regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”

b. Power

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

Acts 2.24 “God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

c. Judgment

6.9 “masters...slaves... know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven”

Acts 17.31 “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

2. The Demands of His Resurrection

4.24 “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

John 11.43,44 Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

a. Stop Falsehood, Speak Truth

v. 25 “put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor”

4.21 “the truth that is in Jesus”

Colossians 3.9,10 “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

b. Resist the Devil, Control your Anger

vs. 26,27 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

v. 31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”

James 1.19,20 “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”

c. Stop Stealing, Work and Give

v. 28 “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”

Acts 20.35 “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

d. Don't Tear Down, Build Up

v. 29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Proverbs 12.18 “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Matthew 12.36 “I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”

e. Forgive, Because we Cannot Forget

v. 32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2 Corinthians 5.15 “He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

f. Not in our Strength, But His

v. 31 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

2.5,10 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved....For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

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1. New Commandment, results in:

a. New Liberty

5.1 “therefore”

4.31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice”

4.32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

5.2 “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us”

Hebrews 12.15 “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

b. New Love

5.3 “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people”

1 Timothy 5.2 “Treat...younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

Matthew 5.28 “I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

c. New Language

5.4 No “obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking”

Colossians 3.8,9 “now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other”

Exodus 23.13 “Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.”

d. New Loyalty

5.7 “Therefore do not be partners with them”

James 4.4 “Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

2. New Calling

a. to be God’s Child

5.1 “dearly loved children” -

1.5 “he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ”

1 John 3.1 “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

b. Heirs of the Kingdom

5.5 “For of this you can be sure...inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

Romans 8.17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”

Colossians 1.13 “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

Revelation 1.5,6 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father”

c. Guaranteed by God's Word

5.6 “Let no one deceive you with empty words”

2 Peter 1.4 “he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires”

d. Redeemed by His Blood

5.2 “Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”

John 3.16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Galatians 2.20 “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

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Ephesians 5.1-7

"Be Like God"

v. 1 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children"

God has qualities unique to Himself, for example He alone is:

- 1) Self Existent - God has no origins, is answerable to no one
- 2) Self Sufficient - God has no needs and depends on no one
- 3) Eternal - God has always existed and will always exist
- 4) Omnipotent- God is all powerful, nothing He cannot do
- 5) Omnipresent - God is always everywhere at once
- 6) Omniscient - God knows all, nothing hidden from Him

But God has qualities that we share in limited ways. Paul asks us to be like God in these ways:

1. God is Love

1 John 4.8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because *God is love*."

a. the Father

v. 1 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children"

1.4,5 "In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ"

1 John 3.1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

b. the Son

v. 2 "Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"

3.18,19 "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge"

1 John 3.16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Galatians 2.20 "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

John 15.13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

c. In His Family

v. 2 "live a life of love, just as Christ loved"

4.32 "forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you"

1 Corinthians 11.1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 3.2 “You yourselves are our letter...known and read by everybody”

2. God is Light

1 John 1.5 *God is light*; in him there is no darkness at all.

a. Holy Walk

v. 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Habakkuk 1.12,13 “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.”

b. Holy Talk

v. 4 “Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place”

v. 3 "not even a hint"

Colossians 3.16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God”

c. Holy Heart

v. 5 “For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Colossians 1.13 “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

1 Peter 3.15 “in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord”

3. God is Spirit

John 4.24 “*God is spirit*, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

a. Power

v. 18 "be (continually) filled with the Spirit."

Zechariah 4.6 “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.”

Galatians 4.6,7 “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts”

b. Positive

v. 4 "but rather thanksgiving".

1 Thessalonians 5.18 “give thanks in all circumstances”

4. God is a Consuming Fire

Hebrews 12.29 "God is a consuming fire."

a. Separation

v. 7 “Therefore do not be partners with them.”

2 Corinthians 6.14-17 “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?... "Therefore come out from them and be separate, the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

b. Salvation

vs. 5,6 “For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.”

Luke 17.28-32 "in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all...."It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife!"

Luke 18.8 “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

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Ephesians 5.8-21

“How to be Imitators of God”

Theme of Section: v. 1 “be imitators of God”

God is Love (1 John 4.8): v. 2 “live a life of love”

God is Light (1 John 1.5): v. 8 “now you are light in the Lord”

God is Truth (John 14.6): v. 15 “live...as wise”

God is Spirit (John 4.24): v. 18 “be filled with the Spirit”

1. Conversion

v. 8 “for you were once darkness”

v. 11 “fruitless deeds of darkness”

2.1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”

2. Consecration

v. 8 “now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light”

a. Light Reveals Truth

vs. 13,14 “it is light that makes everything visible”

John 3.20,21 “Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Psalm 18.28 “my God turns my darkness into light”

b. Light gives Discernment

v. 11 “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

v. 15 “Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise”

John 8.12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

c. Light transforms Darkness

v. 13 “everything exposed by the light becomes visible”

v. 18 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

3. Conservation

“As we grow in the soil of Truth by the light of Grace we produce spiritual fruit.”
John Stott

v. 9 “the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth”

v. 14 "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

v. 10 “find out what pleases the Lord”

v. 17 “understand what the Lord's will is”

v. 16 “making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”

4. Continuous

v. 8 “Live as children of light”

v. 18 “be (continually) filled with the Spirit”

Acts 1.8 “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you”

5. Celebration

v. 19 “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord”

v. 20 “always giving thanks to God the Father for everything”

Philippians 3.1 “my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.”

6. Confidence

v. 21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Psalm 112.4 “Even in darkness light dawns for the upright”

Isaiah 45.7 “I form the light and create darkness”

Proverbs 21.1 “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.”

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Ephesians 5.18-21

"Holy Drunkards"

Zechariah 4.6 "This is the word of the LORD... Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

1. Influence of the Spirit

a. Begins when we receive Holy Spirit's Baptism

Baptism = "union" - joined to Jesus by the Spirit of God

1.1 "to the saints in Ephesus" (def. 'set apart by Holy Spirit')

1.13 "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit"

Romans 8.9 "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ"

1 Corinthians 12.3 "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit"

1 Corinthians 12.13 "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

b. Continues by Constant Filling with the Spirit

5.18 "be (continually) filled with the Spirit"

Acts 4.8 "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them..."

Acts 4.31 "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Acts 13.9 "Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied"

Acts 13.52 "the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit"

1) Command - obligation not option

2) Plural - addressed to all Christians - not select few

3) Passive Voice - action is God's - no technique or manipulation we need to do or learn - no formula to recite

Luke 11.13 "how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

4) Spirit of God joined with Word of God

Colossians 3.16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"

5) Continuous Action "keep on being filled"

c. Controlling Influence of the Holy Spirit

v. 18 "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Proverbs 23.29-35 "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the glass when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

Acts 2.4,13 "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...Some, however, made fun of them and said, They have had too much wine."

Proverbs 31.4 "It is not for kings O Lemuel-- not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer"

1 Timothy 3.8 "Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect...not indulging in much wine"

"The comparison between wine and the Spirit does not suggest that the Spirit is a sort of fluid with which one may be filled, any more than the connecting of baptism in water with baptism in the Spirit suggests the Spirit is a sort of fluid in which one may be dipped! No! He operates as a person." F.F. Bruce

1) Believer under the influence of Holy Spirit, unlike alcohol, knows what they are doing.

2 Timothy 1.7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

2) Alcohol is Depressant; Spirit is Stimulant for Good

3) Drunkenness Dehumanizes; Spirit makes us more fully human - more like Jesus

4) Drunkenness is Wasteful of money, time, lives, families, community; "debauchery" = wastefulness. The Spirit fills believer with purpose, God's riches, love, and fruitfulness.

2. Evidence of the Spirit

a. Fellowship

v. 19 "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs"

Psalms 103.1 "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name."

Colossians 3.16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

b. Worship

v. 19 "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord"

James 5.13 "Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."

Revelation 4.11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

c. Gratitude

v. 20 "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

1.3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

1.16 "I have not stopped giving thanks for you"

1 Thessalonians 5.18 "give thanks in all circumstances, for his is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

James 1.17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

d. Submission

v. 21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"

1 Peter 2.17 "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

1 Corinthians 14.31-33 "For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace."

* * * * *

1. God Created Marriage: Genesis 2

a. Ultimate Human Relationship

v. 24 “a man will leave his father and mother”

b. Permanent Relationship

v. 24 “be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”

c. Intimate Relationship

v. 25 “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”

2. Sin Ruined Marriage: Genesis 3

a. Husband: Irresponsible

v. 12 “the woman you put here with me”

b. Wife: Dominates

v. 16 “your desire will be for your husband”

“desire” = seeks to control

Genesis 4.7 “sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you”

3. Salvation Restores Marriage

a. Salvation

5.8 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”

b. Strength

5.18 “be filled with the Spirit”

c. Submission

5. 21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

4. God’s Plan for Christian Marriage

a. Wives: Loving Submission

v. 22 “Wives, submit to your husbands”

1) Equal Status before God

Galatians 3.28 “There is neither...male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

2) Different Roles under God

1 Corinthians 11.3 “the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God”

3) Wife's Model of Submission: Jesus

Philippians 2.5-7 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant”

1 Peter 3.6 “like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear”

4) Extent of Submission

v. 24 “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

b. Husbands: Loving, Sacrificial Leadership

v. 25 “Husbands, love your wives”

1) Sacrificial Love

v. 25 “just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

Genesis 29.20 “Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.”

1 Peter 3.7 “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

2) Sanctifying Love

v. 26 “to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word”

3) Satisfying Love

v. 28 “He who loves his wife loves himself”

c. Ultimate Marriage: Christ and the Church

v. 32 “This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

Matthew 22.30 “At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”

Revelation 19.7-9 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”

* * * * *

Ephesians 5.22-24

Me!?! Submit to Him!?!

Proverbs 31.10,28,30 “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies...Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her...Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”

1. What Must the Wife Do?

a. Submit v. 22 “Wives, submit to your husbands”

1) In Christ we are Equal

Galatians 3.28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Submission does NOT mean subjection, subordination, or subjugation

2) In God we are not Identical

1 Corinthians 11.3 “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Submission means that the husband is the leader

v. 23 “For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”

b. In Everything

v. 24 “wives should submit to their husbands in everything”

5.21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

wives / husbands - children / parents - slaves / masters

6.9 “he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

2. Why Must She Do It?

a. Creation: the way God made the world

1 Corinthians 11.7-9 “the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”

1 Timothy 2.11-15 “A woman should learn in quietness and full submission...For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.”

b. Fall: perfect harmony between man and woman lost

2 Corinthians 11.3 “Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning”

Romans 5.12,19 “sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--....through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

c. Salvation: "saints in Ephesus"

2.4,5 “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.”

Romans 5.18 “Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.”

3. How Can She Do It?

a. Voluntarily - woman chooses to submit to husband

Titus 2.3,4 “older women... can train the younger women to love their husbands and children”

Proverbs 18.22 “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.”

b. As to the Lord

v. 22 “submit to your husbands as to the Lord.”

v. 24 “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands”

5.21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

1 Peter 3.1,6 “Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands... like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.”

c. As Response: Initiative is with Husband - Loving Leader

5.21 "submit to one another"

5.25 “Husbands, love your wives”

5.28 “husbands ought to love their wives”

5.33 “each one of you also must love his wife”

1 Corinthians 11.11,12 “In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.”

* * * * *

1. Sacrificial Love

a. Dying

v. 25 "Husbands, love your wives, *just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*"

5.2 "live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

1 Corinthians 13.5 "Love is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

b. Living

v. 25 "*Husbands, love your wives*, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

4.2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

Genesis 29.20 "Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her."

1 John 3.16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

2. Sanctifying Love

v. 32 "This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church."

1 Peter 3.3,4 "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

a. Priest - Cleansing

v. 26 "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word"

John 15.3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 17.17 "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

James 1.25 "the perfect law that gives freedom"

James 1.27 "keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

b. Prophet - Renewing

v. 27 “and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Titus 3.5 “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit”

2 Corinthians 11.2,3 “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

Colossians 1.28 “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ”

2 Corinthians 5.17 “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

c. King - Guiding

5.24 “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

Psalms 119.105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”

3. Satisfying Love

a. Wife

v. 28 “In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.”

1 Corinthians 7.3-5 “The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other”

Proverbs 5.18-21 “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.”

b. Oneself

v. 28 “He who loves his wife loves himself.”

v. 29,30 “After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body.”

1 Peter 3.7 “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers”

c. World

v. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Genesis 2.15,18 “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it...The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Ecclesiastes 4.12 “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Acts 18.26 “When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”

Conclusion:

v. 33 “each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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Ephesians 5.32

"A Wedding You Don't Want to Miss"

(also Revelation 19.6-9, 21.1-5)

1. God's Plan was made Before He Made World

Revelation 13.8 "all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world."

Luke 22.22 "The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed"

Acts 2.23 "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge"

2. Spiritual things come before Material; creation illustrates spiritual truths

Psalms 19.1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Examples:

Incarnation and Creation: Jesus did not become a man to be like us, man was created in the image of how Jesus would ultimately become incarnate.

Marriage and Salvation: Man is given marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

1. Profound Mystery

a. God the Husband

Isaiah 54.5 "For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is His name"

Hosea 2.19 "I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion."

Mark 2.19 JESUS: "the bridegroom was with them"

Jeremiah 31.33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel...I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

b. Believing Bride

Matthew 25.1 "the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom"

2 Corinthians 11.2 "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him"

Isaiah 54.1-10 "Sing, O barren woman...The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you."

Revelation 21.9-11 One of the seven angels...said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God."

c. Sacred Bliss

Jeremiah 2.2 "I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert"

Isaiah 61.10 "I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels"

Isaiah 62.5 "as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you."

John 3.29 "The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."

Revelation 19.6-9 "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

2. Perfect Marriage

a. Origin: Created by God - Genesis 2.20-25 "for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and she brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for he was taken out of man.'" For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame"

Matthew 19.3-6 "Haven't you read," (Jesus) replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

b. Purpose: Relationship with God

2 Corinthians 6.14 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

Hebrews 13.4 "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

c. Goal: Glory of God

1 Corinthians 10.31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Revelation 21.1-5 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

3. Powerful Motivation

a. God's Initiative

1 John 4.19 "We love because he first loved us"

Ezekiel 16.4-10 On the day you were born...No one looked on you with pity...
"Then I passed by and saw you... I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine."

b. God's Forgiveness

Ezekiel 16.15-17 "But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his...Such things should not happen, nor should they ever occur."

Jeremiah 3.1,20 "you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers...like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the LORD"

Hosea 3.1,2 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the(m)..So I bought her for 15 shekels of silver"

Romans 5.8 “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

c. God's Faithfulness

Lamentations 3.22,23 “Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Hosea 3.3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."

Philippians 1.6 “confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

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Ephesians 6.1-4

"Heaven in the Home"

1. Place of Blessing

a. in Church

Paul's instruction for children was at the end of the letter, that implies children were not been taken out of the service; presumably they were there listening.

6.21 "Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything"

Colossians 3.20 "Children, obey your parents in everything"

Matthew 19.14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

b. in the Lord

v. 1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord"

Matthew 11.25 Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

Acts 2.38,39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Romans 2.11 "For God does not show favoritism."

Matthew 21.15 "children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," They asked Jesus "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"

5.18 "be filled with the Spirit"

5.21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"

2. Path of Blessing

a. Obey

v. 1 "Children, obey your parents"

1) Order of Nature

v. 1 "for this is right"

Proverbs 13.1 “A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.”

2) Rule of Law

v. 2 "the first commandment"

Exodus 20.12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 6.6 “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Leviticus 20.9 "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head.”

3) Result of the Gospel

v. 1,4 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord...instruction of the Lord.”

1.3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

Colossians 3.20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, *for this pleases the Lord*”

Matthew 18.2-6 “He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Mark 10.15 “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

b. Honor

v. 2 "Honor your father and mother"

Exodus 20.12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

see Mark 7.9-13 – a sad example of dishonor to parents

Obedience to Parents: Required until Adulthood

Honor of Parents: Required for a Lifetime

3. Promise of Blessing

a. First

v. 2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise"

b. Long Life

v. 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Proverbs 19.18 "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death."

c. Enjoy

v. 3 "enjoy long life"

Acts 14.17 "God provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

John 10.10 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Romans 14.17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"

4. Parents who Bless

a. Delicate

v. 4 "Fathers, do not exasperate your children"

Colossians 3.21 "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

2 Corinthians 10.1 "By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you-I, Paul"

v. 4 "bring them up" // 5.29 "feeds and cares for it"

b. Discipline

v. 4 "instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"

Proverbs 22.15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a [child], but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."

Proverbs 29.15 "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother."

Hebrews 12.5-11 "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."...No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. "

Martin Luther "Spare the rod and spoil the child - that is true. But beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he has done well"

c. Development

v. 4 "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"

Proverbs 4.3-6 "When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender...he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."

2 Timothy 3.16,17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Proverbs 22.6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

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Ephesians 6.5-9

"Servants of Christ"

Does Paul support Slavery?

i. Accepted not approved

- Many Roman cities had more slaves than free people
- 60 Million slaves throughout Roman Empire
- "Ancient society was as dependent on slavery, as modern society is dependent on machinery"
- "Slaves" were political and military captives that included physicians, professors, and administrators
- Early Christians were politically, economically, and socially insignificant
- Christian faith was illegal in Roman Empire

John 17.4,15 "they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one"

1 Corinthians 5.9,10 "I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral...In that case you would have to leave this world"

ii. Temporary Opportunity

- Slavery afforded a means of survival to many
- If slavery ended, what would these millions do?

1 Corinthians 7.20-24,29,31 "Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you--although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to...What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. ...For this world in its present form is passing away."

1 Timothy 6.1,2 "All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered."

Philippians 1.21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"

iii. Kingdom Brotherhood

- Slaves held all kinds of jobs, with all levels of importance

Galatians 3.28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Revelation 11.15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Philemon 1.12,16 I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you...no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

iv. Message of Change

Colossians 1.13 “he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

Jeremiah 1.9,10 “Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

1. Christ's Servants

a. New Freedom in Slavery through Jesus

v. 5 “Slaves, obey...just as you would obey Christ.”

v. 6 “Obey them...like slaves of Christ”

v. 7 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord”

v. 8 “because you know that the Lord will reward”

1 Timothy 1.12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service”

Colossians 3.24 “It is the Lord Christ you are serving”

b. New Focus on Standards

1) Obedience

v. 5 “Slaves, obey”

v. 6 “Obey them”

Colossians 3.22 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything”

Proverbs 14.35 “A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath.”

2) Respect

v. 5 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect”

Colossians 3.22-4.1 “Slaves, obey...with reverence for the Lord.”

Romans 13.7 “Give everyone what you owe him...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

1 Timothy 6.1,2 “All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect...Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them”

3) Wholehearted

v. 5 “with sincerity of heart”

v. 7 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men”

Colossians 3.22 “Slaves, obey...with sincerity of heart. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”

1 Samuel 16.7 “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”

4) Trustworthy

v. 6 “Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you”

Colossians 3.22 “Slaves, obey...not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor”

Matthew 25.20 “The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 'His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

5) Accountable

v. 5 “fear”

v. 8 “because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”

Colossians 3:24,25 “you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

2. Mastered Masters

Colossians 4:1 “Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.”

a. Do the Same

v. 9 “And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

Jeremiah 9:23,24 “This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.”

b. Don't Threaten

v. 9 “Do not threaten them”

Colossians 4:1 “Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair”

Leviticus 25:43 “Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God”

c. Don't Discriminate

v. 9 “there is no favoritism with him”

Romans 2:11 “For God does not show favoritism”

1 Timothy 5:21 “I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus ...keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.”

d. Don't Forget Your Master

v. 9 “He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven”

Colossians 4:1 “you know that you also have a Master in heaven.”

1 Timothy 6.15,16 “God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”

Ruth 2:1 “Naomi had a relative....a man of standing, whose name was Boaz....Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they called back.”

Job 19.25,26 “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God”

* * * * *

2 Timothy 2.3,4 “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.”

1. The Struggle before Us

a. Seen

2.14 “the dividing wall of hostility”

4.17 “I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do”

Philippians 3.18 “For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11.23-29 “Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more...”

b. Unseen

v. 12 “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”

1 Timothy 4.1 “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

6.18,19 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me”

2. The Source of Evil Near Us

v. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

a. Powerful

v. 12 “the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces”

John 12.31 “the prince of this world”

Acts 19.13-17 “Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” Then the

man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.”

1 Peter 5.8 “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

b. Wicked

v. 12 “this *dark* world and against the spiritual forces of *evil*”

John 10.10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”

2 Corinthians 4.4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

c. Cunning

v. 11 “the devil's schemes”

Devil = accuser / Satan = adversary

2 Corinthians 2.11 “in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes”

2 Corinthians 11.14 “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light”

3. God's Strength in Us

6.10,11 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

v. 20 “for which I am an ambassador in chains”

Isaiah 59.17 “He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.”

Lists the pieces of armor as they would be put on by a soldier:

a. Belt

v. 14 “with the belt of truth buckled around your waist”

TRUTH - what we believe and what we put into practice

Titus 1.1 “the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness”

b. Breastplate

v. 14 “with the breastplate of righteousness in place”

1 John 2.1,2 “if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

c. Boots

v. 15 “with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”

2.14 “For he himself is our peace”

John 14.27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

d. Shield

v. 16 “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

1 Corinthians 16.13 “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

e. Helmet

6.17 “Take the helmet of salvation”

2 Corinthians 10.5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

f. Sword

6.17 “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

6.19,20 “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Hebrews 4.12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

4. Our Stand in Him

6.13 “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand

a. Feeble

v. 13 "after you have done everything"

2 Corinthians 4.7-11 "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body."

b. Final

v. 14 "Stand firm then"

John 10.18 No one takes (my life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

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Ephesians 6.10-12

"Our Terrible Enemy"

The Devil is:

Creature
Spiritual
Enemy
Knowledgeable
Evil

2.2 "the ruler of the kingdom of the air"

4.27 "and do not give the devil a foothold"

6.11 "the devil's schemes"

1. The Devil's Work

a. Death

John 8.44 "the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning"

John 10.10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy"

Hebrews 2.14 "him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil"

b. Lies

John 8.44 "...not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

4.25-27 "each of you must put off falsehood...do not give the devil a foothold."

2 Corinthians 11.3,4 "I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

c. Accusation

Job 1.8-11 "The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Revelation 12.9,10 “that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray...the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night”

d. Enslavement

John 8.34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

1 Timothy 5.6 “the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.”

2 Timothy 2.26 “that they (those who oppose) will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will”

2. The Devil's Workers

a. Religious Leaders

John 8.44 “You (Pharisees) belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.”

Acts 13.8-10 “Elymas the sorcerer... Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"

b. Apostles

Luke 22.3 “Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve”

Matthew 16.23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

c. Authorities

6.12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Colossians 2.15 “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

Revelation 13.8 “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”

3. The Devil's Ways of Attack

a. New Christians

Matthew 12.43-45 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

b. Afflictions

Job 2.7 "Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job"

2 Corinthians 12.7 "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."

c. After Success

1 Kings 19.13 "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

d. When Idle

1 Timothy 5.11-14 "As for younger widows...they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to."

2 Samuel 11.1 "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful"

e. Isolation

Hebrews 10.24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

f. At Death

Hebrews 2.14 "him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil...people held in slavery by their fear of death"

1 Peter 5.8 "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

4. The Devil Whipped by Jesus

a. Jesus' Indestructible Life

1 John 3.8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

John 10.10 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 11.25-27 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Acts 2.24 But God raised (JESUS) from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Revelation 20.2,3 "I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, holding the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended."

Revelation 12.10,11 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

b. Jesus' Irrefutable Truth

John 14.6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2 Corinthians 10.4,5 "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

c. Jesus' Everlasting Salvation

6.10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

John 12.31-33 "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die"

Luke 10.17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from

heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

* * * * *

Ephesians 6.10-13

“Know Your Enemy”

Paul has taught the Ephesians about Jesus’ Spiritual Victory:

1.20, 21 “he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion”

2.2 “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”

3.10 “through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms”

4.10 “He...ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”

4.27 “do not give the devil a foothold”

5.11 “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Now Paul closes his letter by joining these spiritual truths to the familiar image of the Roman soldier.

1. The Devil’s Schemes

a. Two Extreme Positions in the Church

1) Some think too little of the devil

2 Corinthians 2.11 “in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes”

2) Some think too much of the devil

1 Peter 5.8,9 “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith”

b. Two Important Truths

1) The Devil is fighting Against God

Genesis 3.1 “Did God really say...”

Matthew 4.3 “If you are the Son of God...”

John 8.44 “the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

2) The Devil is God's Devil; as a creature of God:

a) He is Not Omniscient – Only God knows all Things

Mark 5.7 "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"

b) He is Not Omnipotent – Only God has all Power

Revelation 20.2 "He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."

c) He is Not Omnipresent – he can only be in 1 place at 1 time

Mark 5.13 "the evil spirits came out and went into"

2. Our Struggle

a. Not against People

v. 12 "our struggle is not against flesh and blood"

2 Timothy 2.24-26 "the Lord's servant must not quarrel... Those who oppose him he must gently instruct... that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of *the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*"

2 Corinthians 3.14 "their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away."

2 Corinthians 4.4 "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

b. Against Powers of Evil

v. 12 "our struggle is... against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"

2 Corinthians 10.4,5 "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Mark 9.20-26 "When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth... Jesus... rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out."

Matthew 12.28 “if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you”

3. Our Stand in the Lord

a. Strong in the Lord

v. 10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

Zechariah 4.6 “‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.”

1 Samuel 17.47 “for the battle is the LORD's”

Revelation 19.11-16 “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war...Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

b. Stand your Ground

v. 13 “put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”

2 Corinthians 12.7-9 “there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”

Philippians 4.13 “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

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Ephesians 6.13-17

“Our Lord’s Armor”

1. The Lord our Strength

a. Sovereignly Guides His Servants

3.1 “I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”

4.1 “as a prisoner for the Lord”

b. Wears His own Armor

Isaiah 59.16,17 “His own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on *righteousness as his breastplate*, and the *helmet of salvation on his head*; he put on the *garments of vengeance* and wrapped himself in *zeal as in a cloak*.”

Isaiah 11.4,5 “He will strike the earth with the *rod of his mouth*; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. *Righteousness will be his belt* and *faithfulness the sash* around his waist.”

Revelation 19.15 “Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”

b. Armor is a Picture of Jesus

1) Truth (4.21, John 14.6, 2 John 3)

2) Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1.30, Philippians 1.11)

3) Peace (Isaiah 9.6, Acts 10.36, Romans 5.1)

4) Faith (Acts 3.16, Romans 3.26, Hebrews 12.2)

5) Salvation (Matthew 1.21, 1 Thess 5.9, 2 Timothy 2.10)

6) Word of God (John 1.1,14, Revelation 19.13)

2. Wearing the Armor

a. Belt: Held Together by Truth

v. 14 “the belt of truth buckled around your waist”

1) Knowing the Truth of Scripture

v. 17 “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

1.13 “the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation”

2) Showing the Truth of Scripture

v. 14 “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth”

4.15 “speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ”

1 John 1.6 “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”

b. Breastplate: Protected by Righteousness

v. 14 “with the breastplate of righteousness in place”

Job 29.14 “I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.”

Philippians 3.8,9 “that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith”

1) Imputed Righteousness: What Christ did For Us

Romans 3.21,22 “now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

Romans 4.3-5 “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

2) Imparted Righteousness: What Christ does In Us

4.24 “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness”

Romans 6.13 “offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness”

c. Footgear: Marching out to Preach God’s Peace

v. 15 “with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”

1) Mobility

2 Timothy 4.2 “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season”

1 Peter 3.15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”

2) Peace

2.14-17 “He himself is our peace...He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.”

Romans 5.1 “since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

3) Advancement

6.19 “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel”

Romans 10.15 "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 16.20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

d. Armor is from God: We must Put it On

Uniforms and equipment do not win battles, uniformed soldiers who rightly use their equipment do.

v. 10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

v. 11 “Put on the full armor of God”

Philippians 2.12,13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose”

* * * * *

Paul describes six pieces of armor; 5 defensive, 1 offensive

1. The Armor

Thus far we have considered:

- a. Belt: Hold Together by Truth
- b. Breastplate: Protected by Righteousness
- c. Footgear: Marching out to Preach God’s Peace

d. Shield: Faith which deflects Evil

Roman Soldier’s Shield – four feet by two feet, wood covered with leather that was soaked in water to extinguish flaming arrows.

v. 16 “take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

1) Primary – the first point of contact with the enemy

Hebrews 11.1,6 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see....And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

2) Definition

a.) Faith is NOT – Denial of the Intellect

Understanding Paul’s Letters requires thinking:

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you”

3.4 “In reading this, then, you will be able to understand”

4.13,14 “become mature...no longer... blown here and there by every wind of teaching”

4.23 “be made new in the attitude of your minds”

5.10 “find out what pleases the Lord”

5.17 “understand what the Lord's will is”

5.32 “This is a profound mystery”

6.19 “words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel”

2 Timothy 2.7 “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”

2 Peter 3.15,16 “our dear brother Paul...His letters contain some things that are hard to understand”

b) Faith is NOT – claiming or visualizing our will

1.4 “he chose us in him before the creation of the world”

1.5 “in accordance with his pleasure and will”

1.9 “he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure”

1.11 “the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”

2.10 “which God prepared in advance for us to do”

c) Faith is “Reasoning Trust – thoughtful confidence in the trustworthiness of God” (John Stott)

3.18,19 “to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge”

Philippians 3.10,11 “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

d) Faith’s Object is Jesus Christ

1.3 “every spiritual blessing in Christ”

1.6 “his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves”

1.10 “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”

1.15 “your faith in the Lord Jesus”

3.6 “the promise in Christ Jesus”

4.13 “unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God”

e) Faith's Experience is Corporate

Shield edges were grooved to interlock with the soldiers on each side; Roman Army moved as Phalanx

6.18,19 “always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me”

4.13 “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature”

2.19 “fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household”

e. Helmet: Thinking of Salvation

v. 17 “Take the helmet of salvation”

Psalm 140.7 “O Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle”

1 Thessalonians 5.8 “the hope of salvation as a helmet”

1) Danger of Wrong Thinking

2.3 “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.”

4.17,18 “Gentiles... the futility of their thinking...darkened in their understanding... the ignorance that is in them”

2 Corinthians 10.5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2) Importance of Right Thinking

5.17 “do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is”

6.7-9 “Serve wholeheartedly...*because you know* that the Lord will reward everyone...*since you know* that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven”

Matthew 22.37 “Love the Lord your God with all your... mind.”

Acts 19.8-10 In Ephesus: “Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God....he had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.”

f. Sword: Conquering Power of Word of God

v. 17 “Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

Acts 2.37 “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart”

Hosea 6.5 “I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth”

1) Belt and Sword: Truth Within and Without

Belt of Truth: Truthful Character, Integrity, Lifestyle

Sword of Truth: Truth in Ministry, Right Teaching

1 Timothy 1.5 “The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

1 Timothy 4.16 “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Titus 1.1 “the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness”

2) Word and Spirit work Together

2 Peter 1.21 “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”

1 Corinthians 2.11 “no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God”

2 Timothy 3.16 “All Scripture is God-breathed”

John 6.63 “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

3) Sword demands Wise and Careful Use

2 Timothy 2.15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Hebrews 4.12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

1 Timothy 1.6,7 “Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.”

2. Applying the Armor

a. Necessary for All Believers

1.1, 6.11 “To the saints in Ephesus... Put on the full armor of God”

1 Peter 5.8,9 “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith”

Matthew 26.41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

b. God Works In and Through Us

v. 10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

v. 11 “Put on the full armor of God”

Philippians 2.12,13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose”

c. Nothing for our Backside

v. 13,14 “you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then”

v. 24 “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”

John 12.31 “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

John 16.33 “I have overcome the world.”

d. Sufficient Protection

v. 10 “ be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

v. 11 “so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes”

v. 13 “you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”

v. 16 “you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

Psalm 91.1-7 “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”

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Ephesians 6.17

"Our Mighty Weapon"

(Luke 4.1-13)

Three Weapons Satan often uses:

- 1) Active > Sin - some act of outright rebellion against God
- 2) Passive > Anxiety – Accuser raises doubt, fear, questions
- 3) Dormant > Strongholds – Hopelessness we accept as Unchangeable; i.e. “my life will never change...my church...my marriage...my child...my job....my city...”

Matthew 24.12,13 “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Against these three tactics we are given five defensive weapons:

- 1) Belt of Truth vs. Satan the Liar
- 2) Breastplate of Righteousness vs. Satan the Accuser
- 3) Sandals for the Gospel of Peace vs. Satan the Serpent
- 4) Shield of Faith vs. Satan the Tempter
- 5) Helmet of Salvation vs. Satan’s Condemnation

One Offensive Weapon:

6.17 “Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

Let us see this sword wielded by our Commander in Chief:

Luke 4.1-13 “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert...”

Hebrews 5.8,9 “Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”

1. The Attacks of Satan Against Jesus

a. on His Person

Luke 4.3 "IF you are the Son of God"

Luke 4.2 “for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry”

Mark 1.13 “he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals”

Luke 3.22 “the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Hebrews 1.3-6 “The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Hebrews 2.17,18 “For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

Temptation Reveals Jesus in all Three of His Offices:

Prophet: Speaks the Word of God with power

Priest: Suffers on behalf of His people

King: Stands against Satan’s attack and sends him running

b. on His Purpose

Luke 4.5-7 “The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

1 John 3.8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.”

Genesis 3.15 God to Serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

John 12.31-33 “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.”

c. on His Purity

Luke 4.8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

Philippians 2.6,7 “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Exodus 20.3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20.4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God"

Exodus 20.7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

Exodus 20.8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Hebrews 10.5,7 "Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;...Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'"

A Lifelong Battle: Luke 4.13 "When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time."

2. The Attack Successfully Repelled

a. Word of God

v. 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

Isaiah 11.2,4,5 "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power...He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist."

John 1.1,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Revelation 19.11-13,15 "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God... Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations."

b. Specifically Applied

Two Greek words for 'word'

'Logos' = embraces everything - all the Scripture

'Rhema' = word with less weight, "a saying," particular verse

Ephesians 6.17 Paul uses 'Rhema'

Word used for sword in Ephesians 6.17: Roman Soldier's short sword, used in close encounter fighting

Application: Jesus' example and Paul's instruction teaches believers to have an exact and appropriate Word of Scripture to use in our struggle.

Luke 4.4 "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

Luke 4.8 "It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only"

Luke 4.12 "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

1 Timothy 3.16,17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"

c. Rightly Interpreted

Luke 4.9-11 "The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

2 Peter 3.16 "ignorant and unstable people distort (Paul's letters) as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction"

Luke 4.12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

2 Timothy 2.15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

3. The Advantages of God's Sword

a. Compelling

Luke 4.22 "All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips."

Luke 24.32 "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'"

Acts 2.5-11 "there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.... Utterly amazed...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

b. Convicting

4.21 "Surely you heard of him" (lit. 'you heard him')

John 16.8 "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment"

Acts 2.37 “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Hebrews 4.12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

c. Converting

Acts 16.13 “One of those listening was a woman named Lydia... The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.”

James 1.18 “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth”

Romans 1.16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”

d. Consoling

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

John 14.1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”

Acts 20.32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

2 Peter 1.4 “he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world”

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Ephesians 6.10-24

"Our Only Strength"

Jeremiah 9.23,24 "This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD."

James 4.7,8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you"

We should be aware of the devil, but impressed with God...

1. Impressed with God's Person

a. Truth

4.21 "Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus."

John 14.6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth

6.14 "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist"

4.13 "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"

4.25 "speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body"

b. Love

2.4 "his great love for us"

4.15 "speaking the truth in love"

2.8 "For it is by grace you have been saved"

3.17-19 "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge"

c. Holiness

4.24 "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"

5.5 "For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

5.8 "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light"

2. Impressed with God's Power

a. In Christ

1.18-20 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know....his incomparably great power... That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

4.8 "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

b. In Us

1.19 "his incomparably great power for us who believe"

2.1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins"

2.5,6 "God in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions... God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"

3.20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

6.10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God"

2 Corinthians 12.9 "(God's) power is made perfect in weakness."

Philippians 4.13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength"

3. Impressed with God's Plan

a. from Eternity to Eternity

1.9-11 "And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"

2.10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

John 15.14,15 "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have

called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

b. Transforming Evil

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”

2.13,14 “now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”

6.7,9 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men And masters...know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

Gen 50.20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Romans 8.28 “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

4. Impressed with God's Presence

Matthew 28.18,20 “Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

a. Prayer

1.16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

6.18 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

b. Salvation

1.13,14 “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.”

2.10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Acts 19.17-20 “When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

c. Healing

2.15,16 “His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

4.31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”

Acts 19.11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

Matthew 12.28 ‘But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

d. Joy

1.18 “that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

5.18-20 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Nehemiah 8.10 "for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Romans 15.13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

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1. God’s Plan

a. All Loving

1.4,5 “In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons”

2.4 “his great love for us”

3.17-19 “being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love”

5.1,2 “as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us”

b. All Wise

1.4 “before the creation of the world”

1.8 “all wisdom and understanding”

1.17 “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation”

4.21 “the truth that is in Jesus”

2.10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

c. All Powerful

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”

3.20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”

6.10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

d. Therefore, believers in God have all Confidence

1.1 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God”

3.1 “Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”

4.1 “a prisoner for the Lord”

5.21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

6.5-8 “Slaves, obey... like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”

Romans 8.28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Genesis 50.20 Joseph said to them, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

2. God’s Person – His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

a. God’s Plan Accomplished through Him

1.9,10 “the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”

1.22 “God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”

3.11 “his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”

4.10 “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”

4.15 “we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

5.20 “always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

b. God’s People United to Him

1) Everything God does for us is because of Jesus

27 times in this letter Paul uses a phrase like “in Him”

1.3 “every spiritual blessing in Christ”

1.4 “he chose us in him”

1.5 “he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ”

1.6 “grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves”

2) Everything Changes when we Know Christ

2.1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ”

2.2 “you followed the ways of this world”

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

2.2 “you followed... the ruler of the kingdom of the air”

2.6 “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”

2.12 “without hope and without God in the world”

2.10 “we God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works”

2.13 “you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ”

2.19 “you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household”

3) Wondrous Union

5.32 “This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

4) Eternal Union

6.24 “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”

c. God's People must be Like Christ

4.13 “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

4.22-24 “put off your old self...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

4.32 “forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

5.2 “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”

5.25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church”

6.1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord”

6.5,6 “Slaves, obey...just as you would obey Christ... like slaves of Christ”

3. God's People

a. Revelation of the Mystery

3.6 "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

2.14 "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier"

2.19,20 "you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone"

b. Revelation of the Master

3.10 "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms"

4.1 "live a life worthy of the calling you have received"

4.17 "you must no longer live as the Gentiles do"

5.2 "live a life of love"

5.8 "Live as children of light"

5.15 "Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise"

5.19,20 "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

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Reflection Questions from Ephesians

1. Do I really know God's Son, the Lord Jesus, as Savior?
2. Am I growing in my relationship with Him? What are the evidences of this knowledge and growth?
3. Do I know there is no limit to His love for me? Or do I doubt whether He even cares?
4. Do I question God's wisdom? Or do I have confidence to rest in His sovereign plan?
5. Do I believe He has all power and gladly submit to Him?
6. Am I striving to submit to His Lordship in every area of my life; especially in marriage, with children, my work, and in all my contacts with the world?
7. Am I happy to be part of the Body of Christ - joined eternally with all those who love the Lord?
8. Am I actively doing all I can to maintain the unity of the Church in general, and my home church in particular?
9. What specific changes must I now put into place because God has spoken to me through the book of Ephesians; in my walk with God, in my family, in my work, in all my contacts with unbelievers, and my church involvement?
10. When will I implement the changes I need to make? Who will I ask to hold me accountable in my efforts?

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