

Ephesians

An introduction of Ephesians

As Passover was approaching, Jesus said to his disciples “Go loose the donkey.” His followers knew Zechariah 9:9 very well. Behold your king comes to you on a donkey. He was hailed as King by many as he rode in. But there was no repentance. A short time later we hear Jesus saying Mt 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets, and stone them who are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not!

Rewind almost 800 years Isa 5:4 What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

That’s a glimpse of Israel’s rejection of God. Bring it up to date a bit—let’s talk about the church

The great Christian missionary, Paul spent three years in Ephesus building up the church there. Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. Paul had poured his heart into the believers at Ephesus. The elders had gathered there on the coast, and he knelt down and prayed with them all, they wept and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, because he told them they would not see his face again.

He had warned that grievous wolves would enter not sparing the flock.

30 years later, John on Patmos received some words from Jesus for the church at Ephesus, He commended them for their labor, and patience, their rejection of false apostles—“you’ve found them liars”” hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans. *Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.* He urged them to repent or else he would remove their lampstand. Leave them to themselves without his light to guide them as a church.

How could this have happened? A church Paul spent three years building. How could a church so strong on certain doctrines leave their first love? They had neglected the doctrine of who they should love supremely. They left their love for Jesus. Something else had captured their hearts.

What do you think? Well was it because 30 years later people died off and they didn’t have any written instructions to carry on the apostle’s doctrine of loving Jesus?

No. A couple of years after Paul left them he wrote them an epistle—Had they continued to read and believe this epistle, they could not have left their first love. Paul wrote them such a Christ-centered theological epistle.

The letter of Ephesians is about God’s plan, purpose and power for his church (from God’s perspective in eternity past throughout eternity future). chosen before the foundation of the world...that in the ages to come

The story of redemption doesn’t start with me, doesn’t start with Calvary, it doesn’t start with Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created”

It starts with a master plan of God before the world was created (Ephesians lays this out).

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Unlike 1Corinthians where specific bad doctrine or behavior is corrected—Ephesians is discourse on the deep and profound truths of Christianity (what it means to be in Christ)—in/through/for Christ used 55 times

6 chapters,

doctrine and duty—foundational and practical--precept and practice (both are needed—as well as positive and negative—Behold the goodness and severity of God)

the riches we have in Christ (chs 1-3) How to use those riches(chs 4-6)

Deep (not necessarily hardest to understand), dense material (won't be able to fully decompress this—bottomless treasure chest)

6 chapters, 155 verses—going to try to move through it without doing topical studies along the way (six weeks??)

Not in a hurry...stop me as you have insights, questions, if you want to add or take away from my comments (Let's learn all we can together)

There will be a quiz/catechism —you have been forewarned..Helps sear in the major themes...use it with your children

But my prayer is that this class, Midway church, and all churches, will believe this epistle and let it transform our lives for Christ. If we believe this epistle, with all its glorious, profound truths and practical wisdom, we will never leave our first love.

We will always be able to sing, “If ever I loved thee, Lord Jesus ‘tis now.” Our love will grow. And our candlestick will continue to shine to those around us for his glory.

God gave the Ephesian church all they needed. What more could He have done?

How much more for us? What more could God have done for us? To whom much is given...

1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul, author—no question—(Who wrote Romans) Paul sometimes used secretaries—Tertius (Without God's supervision of Tertius, not even the originals would be perfect) Holy men of God spoke as they were moved... No mention of a secretary here

Liberals argue the authorship (If Paul didn't write it then the bible has an error. If it has one error, it could have thousands of errors, because it means God didn't inspire and preserve His words—it's up to fallible man's errant judgments—If that is true, I would quit right now and I'd say let's go to the lake together—or brunch)

Peter heard the voice from heaven but said scripture is a more sure word of prophecy... scripture is of no private interpretation.. holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit

So, If Paul didn't write it, then the bible is not inerrant. The bible is inspired and preserved. God doesn't inspire errors. Paul wrote it.

Written while in prison in Rome (twice he calls himself a prisoner—ambassador in bonds)

an apostle (one sent)—

1. APOSTLE Jesus sent by God the father-- *consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;* (Heb 3:1)

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2. Apostle (eyewitnesses of Jesus directly commissioned by the Lord to lay the doctrinal foundation of the church, with signs and wonders to confirm the word.
3. apostle (Barnabus and some others)—missionaries sent by the church

Paul talking about an apostle directly commissioned by Jesus Christ (Eye witnesses of Jesus... with signs and wonders)..Same authority as Peter and John...No Pope..Peter “an apostle”

Paul had to work at vindicating his apostleship. Why?

- a. used to be an enemy of the gospel
- b. he wasn't a follower and eye-witness of Jesus' life and ministry
- c. he received the revelation of the mystery of the Jew-Gentile church (seemed to have a better grasp on the new order) corrected Peter
- d. Judaizers undermining him at every turn because of his radical message of justification and sanctification apart from the law of Moses

Paul was one born out of due season (on the road to Damascus he saw the Lord Jesus and was specially commissioned to take the gospel to the Gentile world)—RG Lee—the more I read him or about him, he weighs a little more on God's scales to my mind and heart—Perhaps the great warrior of the cross to ever live—incalculable influence on the world...converted from an enemy and blasphemer of the church to it's greatest advocate—hunted and persecuted his entire ministry 2Ti 4:13 *The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when you come, bring with you, and the books, but especially the parchments--*William Tyndale would later say the same as he is imprisoned (English speaking), died in abject poverty, forsaken by many (Demas has forsaken me...), bring the parchments and cloak—his life might seem to be a failure-- but in lands unknown to Paul or his foes, in languages unimaginable, how many millions of minds have poured over the words of this apostle, and found the grace of God. How many reformers found Christ in the writings of Paul. How I have been blessed by this apostle.

An apostle **of Jesus Christ**—Jesus of Nazareth whose name became linked with the title Christ—anointed one, Messiah

an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**. Not a mama called, Daddy sent preacher. Paul was not self-appointed. There is no question, from his testimony, that God chose him and directly appointed him to the ministry.

Ga 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

As an apostle of Jesus Christ, the words in this epistle carry authority. These are the words of God and we would be wise to love and honor them as the very words of God.

1Th 2:13 For this cause also we thank God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe. (If I say Paul says...I could as easily say God says)

The will of God is an important theme in this epistle: This epistle is a declaration of the will of God for humanity, particularly for the church. If we believe it, this epistle will help us know and do God's will.

to the saints which are at Ephesus,: who is the letter to? saints (canonized and venerated dead Christians who did miracles and such? Dead folks don't read letters) No! living, breathing, set apart believers (holy ones, sanctified ones, set apart from sin, dedicated to God). To the saints at Ephesus

62 63 AD (after James, Thess, Corin, Galatians, Romans)

Ephesus was a coastal city on the Mediterranean sea. It's inland now due to silt build-up. It was a strong economic and political power. Harbor city and the center of three trade routes. Many

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cultures represented in Ephesus—this letter was to be distributed widely (strategic in the spread of Christianity)

Ephesus: The chief city of the Roman province of Asia (Acts: home of temple of Diana)

Paul spent about three years there (Acts 19). It is mentioned many times in scripture. It is a very important city in the development of Christianity.

By the time Jesus spoke to seven churches, Ephesus seemed to be doctrinally straight, but was rebuked for leaving their first love—Jesus. It is possible to be as strait as a gun barrel doctrinally and just as empty—Worship God in spirit and truth. On guard for an academic Christianity with no power--the air-conditioned offices with the books and coke machines. Form of godliness but deny the power thereof, from such turn away.

and to the faithful in Christ Jesus. Different group? Another adjective for the same group. Could say Ephesian Christians and all faithful Christians elsewhere—not just those living in Ephesus ...or those living in the first century. All believers then and now. It is also written to us—If we're the faithful in Christ Jesus).

Saints have faith—christianity is about BELIEVING SOME THINGS... and continuing in faith... steadfast until the end, saints are full of faith

Men and Women of God are people of faith ...people of prayer...people of conviction

(impressing the wise according to the world, gaining credibility by compromising the word won't get us anywhere, because we lose the power of God-he removes the lampstand)

It's impossible to please God without faith..increase our faith... the saints are more concerned with pleasing God (with faith) than looking smart to the world

The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God

1Co 1:27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

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

Lots of apostolic letters have this kind of salutation. Salutation that brings blessings from God the father and Jesus.

Deity of Christ. – no from Peter (peter has no grace and peace to give—but Jesus does)

The law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus
My peace I give unto you.. not as the world gives

Grace and peace are good things. God wants good things for us (he that spared not his own son...if ye being evil..ask him for good things). The bible brings good news (gospel) but it calls sinners to be honest with God and themselves (undeserving enemies of God)

Satan's deception: Can't eat of every tree? God is not good. This Bible stuff will mess your life up. Don't get carried away with this stuff. (Ephesians being filled with all his fullness). He calls Good evil and evil good. Media – Christians (no Muslims) are the hateful, intolerant bigots.. spirit of Antichrist that has been around since John wrote his epistles (since he showed u in the garden in Gen 3... Now the serpent was more subtle...change in the music)

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When you believe God is good, we can believe that living for his glory (self denial and cross bearing) is best for s in the long run

Grace for the undeserving
Peace for the warring

If you believe you are deserving, you don't need grace—give me what I got coming to me
If you don't believe you're a sinner at war with God, you don't need peace with God

People think everything is hunky dory—it's not even hunky—we're enemies with God before being reconciled—
Eph ch 2

In this benediction, grace and peace for those already Christians. Do we still need grace and peace? Grace that teaches us to live soberly...peace of God that passes all understanding (keeps our heart)

We still need repentance (self judgment), faith, submission, and humility (these very requirements for entrance into the family are needed throughout our lives

When people doubt their salvation, instead of being so concerned whether they are or not, I encourage them to repent and trust Jesus with all their heart

We'll learn more about the grace and peace God has for us as this epistle unfolds

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Read through verse 14

As if we're just listening in on Paul's private worship time—given as a praise (doxology)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (a praise akin to praises in Psalms “Blessed the Lord, oh my soul”—New Covenant doxology: God and Father of Jesus (unique way in which Jesus is God's son—in eternity past and in the virgin birth)

God has a Son. He's a proud Father. Never been a prouder Father. Jesus said that he did all things which pleased the Father—Father said “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” There is this honor and love and delight within the Godhead—One god, three persons, The father, son, and holy spirit, having attributes that only God has and acting in unity doing things that only God can do.

By the way, if God almighty is pleased with Jesus, I have no complaints. I've disappointed myself. Everybody will disappoint you at times. Not Jesus. We have no right to be ashamed of Jesus.

So many Christian haters today. As in the apostles' day. a spirit of Antichrist .

who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: This God has blessed us (faithful in Christ) with all spiritual blessings. He's not held back anything good from us. This epistle is about these spiritual blessings.

Blessings in heavenly places. These blessings are from another world. The earth has nothing like it to offer. How many of you have tried to find fulfillment from he world? How did it go? “do things the world's way, get world's results”.

Blessings from heaven.. and they're spiritual blessings (blessings the Spirit of God bestows—the work of the Spirit)

Materially, physically we're not all blessed the same—but all spiritual blessings are for all believers

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Heavenly places (divine realm) is the place of

- 1) all spiritual blessings (1:3) where our resources are
- 2) Christ's sovereign dominion at the Father's right hand (1:19)
- 3) Our union and communion with him (2:6) (we're seated there already)

in Christ—these heavenly spiritual blessings (riches) are not in a bank—but in a person—and that person is Christ. The only way to experience these blessings is to be IN CHRIST.

To be in Christ is to be in spiritual, saving union with Christ

We bless (praise—to speak good of—our words) Him because he has blessed (does good to us—his deeds) to us.

Marvelous truth: All Our blessings are in Christ—We are secure as Christ—We have what he has--Rom 8 joint heir with Christ. He is our brother (Heb 2; Rom 8). We have the same Father. We are as rich as he is. (Predestinated unto adoption)

All that is Jesus' is ours

His election is our election

His position is our position

His possessions are our possessions

His inheritance is our inheritance

His privilege is our privilege

His access to the Father is our access to the Father (no priest class in the New Testament)

His righteousness is our righteousness

His practice is our practice (we are his body in the world—we are Jesus manifest in the world)

Where he is, I am

What he has, I have

What he does, I do

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Let's look at God's eternal plan

In the past; election

In the present: redemption

In the future: inheritance

Verse :4 election

See what these verses say

Make some statements about election (that we all can rejoice in)

Look briefly at four different explanations of election (where we differ)

Talk a little about our approach to the subject

4 According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

He (who? God the father) has chosen us (Who? the faithful in Christ. Those who've trusted Christ v.11) (when? before the foundation of the world). (2Tim 1:9--a Pre-creation choice)

We're blessed in accordance with God choosing us (No choosing –no blessings)
Our thanksgiving starts with thanking God for choosing us—We didn't deserve his blessings. He wasn't obligated to bless us. But out of his infinite love (the riches of his grace), he's blessed us

The chosen = the elect = believers = faithful

We didn't exist before the world began. So election is in accordance with foreknowledge (1Pet 1:2; Rom 8). (God knew us beforehand. He knew us before we existed).

What are some things that happened before the foundation of the world?

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The father loved the son Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which you have given me: for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Christ was a lamb slain (1Pet and Rev) no afterthought—Christianity oldest religion =no revision of paganism—before there were pagans.

We were chosen

What is the God's purpose: chosen for what? Cannot assume. *John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?* Judas was chosen for apostleship—not for eternal salvation

Chosen to be holy and without blame before him (at his coming when we stand before him)

holy different (separate)

blameless (perfect, without blemish, [like Jesus] no one can blame us)

Be ye holy as I am holy (Peter reiterates the Old Testament passage)

1Co 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Positionally holy and righteous already (imputed), practically growing toward perfection (completed at his coming) (redemption of our body).

A. God purposed to save some sinners before the world began to make them holy

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Chose us in Christ.

Notice what it does not say:

Chose us “to be in Christ”

Chose us “because we are in Christ”

Both add to the text

I said earlier, What Jesus has, we have

Here is a truth: Jesus is God’s precious, beloved, chosen, elect One;

What Jesus has, we have

We are chosen because he is chosen. We’re elect because Jesus is God’s elect one

1. Jesus, God's precious, chosen, elect One

1 Pet 1:18 Forasmuch as you know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

*20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, **(the cross was no afterthought. We’re in the last times)....***

2:4 ¶ To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

*5 You also, as lively stones **(like Jesus)**, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood **(priesthood of all believers)**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. **(the fruit of our lips—we bless him)***

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

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2. God chose us in Christ before the world began (Eph 1:4; 2Tim 1:9; Matt 25:34), Christ himself being foreordained to be a lamb slain before the world began (1Pet 1:18-2:6; Rev 13:8)

Eternal election doesn't start with us, and then Christ becomes the means to accomplish that purpose. It starts and ends with Christ.

"Election is grounded in God's grace--in Christ's sacrifice planned before the world began

3. Election is in accordance with God's foreknowledge (Rom 8:29-33; 1Pet 1:2)

The word (prognosis or progonosko) is used 7 times (twice in reference to our salvation) It is foreknowledge of persons (Rom 8:29; 11:2; 1Pet 1:20; acts 26:5) or of things (acts 2:23; 2Pet 3:17)

Different meanings of the word, it is debated. But I would be willing to say

God chose us in accordance with his wise planning, knowledge of us, and love for us before the world began. Election involves God's preplanning, prescience, and forelove)

In love God acknowledged us as His

4. God chose us to salvation in Christ *through belief* in the truth of Christ (2Thes 2:13)

God has mercy on whomever he pleases. And it pleases him to show mercy to those who trust in Jesus

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God's plan was to save only those who believe. What must I do to be saved?

"Believe ... (

No one is saved until they believe.

- a. God *gave* spiritual blessings *before the world began* for the benefit of the elect==those who would believe in Christ
- b. We *received* these blessings and were saved *in time after* hearing and believing the gospel
- c. Before faith, we Gentiles are described as being in Adam, enemies of God, dead in trespasses and sins, by nature the children of wrath, without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, without God in the world, and afar off

10. 2Thes 2:13 a. Eph 1:1-4, 11-13; 2Tim 1:9 **b.** Jn 5:24; 2:11-13; Col 1:21; Gal 3:26-28 c. Rom 5:10; 1Cor 15:22; Eph 2:1-13; Col 1:21

Chosen before the world began. Saved when we believed.

Before the world began, God chose out of humanity a people (in Christ) to be holy (like Christ). God foreordained spiritual blessings for these people before the world began. The elect receive these blessings in time when they are saved by grace through faith after hearing the word.

This is the essence of the doctrine of election found here in Ephesians

God had a master plan to make us holy (conformed to the image of his son) and that is the reason we can have assurance of a glorious future with him. And nothing or no one can thwart God's purposes

All Christians should rejoice in this glorious truth of election

It is by election we were chosen to be holy, and as a result we are *positionally* holy and one day will be *practically* holy (no more sin; no more sin dwelling in me; no more carrying around this corpse; body of death that wars with the Spirit; no more having to die to self daily; whatever we want to do will be right—no more enemies (world flesh devil) we will be holy as He is holy

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Digging in one layer deeper, Christians divide over the meaning of this doctrine.

I'm not going to go through it (we've done it before), but I have mapped out two of the most common views of election/salvation/faith and have tried to pinpoint the exact areas of disagreement. And while we have so much in common, the differences are substantial (and in some points, there is no middle ground, we are saying opposite things).

Quickly, Four views of election I have looked at (more, and variations on these four, so your view may differ or a mixture). It helps us to see other views than our own.

3 of these views will be election unto salvation, one will not

3 of these views will be individual election, one will be corporate

3 of these views will be election that leaves contingencies for sinners, one will not

Individual Election is not unto salvation

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Saved people were individually chosen to be holy and without blame (not to be saved) . We were chosen "in Christ" (by virtue of God placing us in Christ in time)—*Sinners* were not chosen "to be in Christ", but rather *Christians* were chosen to be holy and without blame unto the coming of Jesus—predestinated to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Corporate Election

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Those in the church ("us" corporately) were chosen to salvation and holiness. The good news of salvation is a bonafide offer of salvation to all who hear it. God loves all people and Christ died for all people. Thus the gospel (good news) applies to all people. Whosoever believes becomes a part of the chosen corporate body (i.e., the church) which was chosen before the world began. God corporately chose all those who freely believe in Jesus.

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Individual Election incorporates God's consideration of individuals' faith

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Believers are elect according to the foreknowledge of God (1Pet 1:2; Rom 8:29). God chose *to salvation* and holiness those he foreknew as being in Christ. God chose individuals to salvation through faith. God chose those He foreknew/foreloved *as believers*. God knew who would believe and who would not. The good news of salvation is a bonafide offer of salvation to all who hear it. God loves all people and Christ died for all people. Thus the gospel (good news) applies to all people. Individuals are free to receive or reject it.

Individual election does not incorporate any consideration of individuals' faith

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: God chose for salvation and holiness those individuals he wanted to save and bypassed for salvation those he did not want to save. God's election did not incorporate anything individuals would do or choose (Rom 9). Rather, God predetermined the choices of all individuals regarding saving faith in accordance with His electing forelove. The elect, whom he foreloved, must receive salvation. The non-elect, whom he did not forelove, must reject salvation. Christ therefore only died for the elect and God draws only the elect to salvation. The gospel is preached to all people as a means of calling out the elect to salvation.

I don't think the words in Ephesians settle it. If I read Ephesians only, I think all four of these views could work. I think other verses are more pertinent in deciding these four views

All Bible-believing Christians believe in the sovereignty of God, the love of God, the hatred of God, the Justice and Equality of God...but how we view election and predestination can greatly shape how we view these attributes of God

Or perhaps it is our God-view (how we view the character and nature of God from other scriptures or our own experience) that shapes how we interpret election

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This also intersects with and impacts our view of salvation, reprobation, damnation, faith, free will, drawing, regeneration, and the purpose and scope of the gospel

Important. Not trivial—So I don't think we can ignore it. But it is difficult (lots of verses). All these views have scriptural difficulties (if you think any of these four views are without a problem, I want to talk with you offline—either you're not reading widely enough or you've studied this enough to explain how to solve these problems to me).

The strength of an interpretation is not in whether or not you can string some verses together to teach that view. (JWs can take verses on the humanity of Christ and make a convincing argument that Jesus is not God—he's the son of God (had a body, one place at a time, didn't know the day or the hour of his coming, "my Father is greater than me", he died, etc.)), **The strength of an interpretation is how it holds up under the scrutiny of all the verses pertaining to the subject. How well does it harmonize all scripture?** (For JWs, start looking at 1Tim 3:16; John 1:1, Acts 20:28; Heb 1: Col 1, etc, etc.), to deny the deity of Jesus becomes unthinkable. So you have to acknowledge both the humanity and deity of Jesus.

Be patient, Be courteous, Be studious, Be open minded to all scriptures, Let's not take the easy way out and (confirmation bias) read only the side you already agree with to confirm your current beliefs (that is like JWs). Let's read broadly. Know the arguments well, identify the strengths and weaknesses of all the views, See if there is a way around those problems or if the problems make the position untenable, discuss it with those who can discuss it in a Christlike way, convince or be convinced, follow the truth wherever it leads.

Always going back to the word (chapter and verse for every conclusion)

Questions or comments before we move on?

Do you want to be sure of your election? Work hard to add some things to your faith

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2Pet 1:1 ¶ *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

2 *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

3 *According as his divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:*

4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

5 ¶ *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

6 *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;*

7 *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

8 *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9 *But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure**: for if you do these things, ye shall never fall:*

11 *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Election

All believe election is pre-creation (Eph 1:4; 2Tim 1:9; Matt 25:34). Calvinists believe election is individual and unconditional (Jn 6:35-45; 10:25-27; Acts 13:48; Rom 8:29; 9:11-21; Eph 1:4-5; Rom 9:11-13,16). Non-Calvinists believe election is corporate (1Pet 2:6; Eph 1:4-5; 1Pet 2:8-9; Eph 5:27; Rom 9:30-32; 11:16) and/or individual in accordance with foreknowledge of the elect which encompasses their free choices (1Peter 1:2; Romans 9:29)

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1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

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

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Predestinated--Fixed our destiny ahead of time—what were we predestinated unto-- to be adopted as children.

We weren't always his children, (children of wrath) but God had a plan to adopt us.

Look Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Adoption and conformance (sounds like holy and without blame)—

According with his foreknowledge of us, he chose us in Christ (grounded in Christ's election—what he has, we have) to be holy and blameless

and predestinated us to adoption of children (full status as children—brothers of Jesus—what he has, we have) and conformance to his image

Why? It pleased him to do it
Pleased the Lord to adopt us,
Isa 53 ...it pleased the Lord to bruise Christ.

God didn't want Jesus to be an only child—Jesus be the firstborn among many brethren

Ephesians

Before the world began, God loved his son

Before the world began, Christ was a lamb slain

God purposed that we would be saved by Jesus,

We would be required to trust in Jesus (not going to be adopted into the family if
you have no regard for the elder brother)

We would be conformed to Jesus image (holy and without blame)

This is God's master plan. We are being told something hugely significant here. Can't be overstated.

All believers should rejoice in predestination. Glorious truth. Our destiny is fixed ahead of time. Because he predestinated us, we can have security and assurance about our current relationship and our future destiny (We have been predestinated to the adoption of children (I am his child, Jesus is my brother, I am a joint heir, I can cry Abba Father and he hears me, he knows me, he foreknew me before I even existed). And we have been predestinated to be conformed to Jesus image (holy and without blame). He that began a good work, will perform it—and we will be presented blameless at his coming.

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has made us accepted in the beloved.

This predestined adoption is to the praise of the glory of his grace (His plan. He gets all the glory. We get none).

Predestined to adoption and praise and conformance.

We were created to praise God. We were created to worship, not to be worshipped. Why I think fame is hard for people to deal with.

God's grace is glorious—it's amazing against the backdrop of what we deserve). Praise his grace—in that grace we are made accepted (He accept us is the question) He accepts those who receive Him. To as many as received Him to them gave the power (Jn 1)

Ephesians

Accepted in the beloved (beloved of God and us) Had the church at Ephesus paid attention right here (praise his grace, blessings, IN CHRIST, IN CHRIST, IN THE BELOVED.....they could have never left their first love)

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Redemption—purchased from the slave block. We've been bought with a price.

Boy's boat—Made us and bought us.

Forgiveness—powerful thing to release someone of a debt (human relations) How much more with God

I think I'll reform and start living right. You can't apart from Christ... Furthermore, what about the sins you've already committed.

How cleanseth thou this red right hand?

You are guilty (regardless of how a sinner feels—stand guilty judicially) Sinners need forgiveness.

In redemption. We have it. Positionally, as we confess (fellowship)

Through the blood (precious blood) liberals on the panel

Glory of his grace, the riches of his grace—sin abounded grace did MUCH MORE abound (no pit too deep)

We are rich—Have Christ, you have it all, without Christ, you're poor (Envy the materially wealthy who are unsaved --saw their end—never envy the wealthy in this world)

Laodeciaen church--Re 3:17 Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (describes many churches today)

Ephesians

8 Wherein he has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

(all spiritual blessings in Christ: adoption, praise (which is a blessing to us), forgiveness, acceptance,... and now: wisdom and prudence—Through grace he gives us wisdom to trust him, and grace teaches us to live soberly and righteously...

Abounded--not sparingly—not Brill Cream- little dab—....abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence

Wisdom—deeper profound things of God and eternity
Prudence –day-to- day decision making wisdom

In Christ, we are complete having both a deep and practical insight

9 Having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself:

We can get this wisdom and prudence because he has made known some things to us (being aware of these spiritual blessings is wisdom and prudence)

We are getting wisdom and prudence in this room this morning as we open this book

Many mysteries made known in Bible (I would not have you be ignorant brethren). God didn't just save us and leave us in the dark. Even the fact that God requires us to believe in order to be saved shows God wants us to understand what He's done along the way. How can we praise his grace if we don't have an understanding of his grace? Keep learning what He's done (who he is). There's no reason to be cooling on God. Dooder and dooder and tweeter and tweeter. Every day with Jesus...Climbing to higher ground...we are to continue growing...conformance. (we need wisdom to do that) The more we learn, the more praise should come forth—unsearchable). God is always challenging us to go deeper. Leave the milk behind. Swim in some deeper waters--not always wade around in the shallow end

Ephesians

according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself:

God has a good intention and a wise purpose in all this. God knows what he is doing.

Why has God done all this?

Ephesians

God didn't want Jesus to be an only child—Jesus be the firstborn among many brethren

Before the world began, God loved his son

Before the world began, Christ was a lamb slain

God purposed that we would be saved by Jesus,

We would be required to trust in Jesus (not going to be adopted into the family if you have no regard for the elder brother)

We would be conformed to Jesus image (holy and without blame)

This is God's master plan. Here is THE mystery revealed. Secret hidden in ages past.

10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

There is a point to this life. There is a rhyme and reason to history. It is now revealed.

All of history is working out this divine plan. Everything, even sin, is moving toward this final goal according to his will. There is a purpose to it all.

gather together in one all things in Christ

In this day, the Jews and Gentiles were sharply divided. A unity here is already realized (we'll look at this a little later—details of the mystery—not that gentiles would be saved). Big picture

The great separation day is a great gathering day. Gathering together those of like kind (sheep and goats. Wheat and tares.)

Ephesians

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:

An inheritance is something we receive from someone else. It's based not on works, but on relationship. It is not wages, it is a gift. We come with nothing and yet have already obtained an inheritance (Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, who has made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light....Made suitable by election, predestination, redemption, grace,

However, earthly inheritances are uncertain. The prodigal son received his early and blew it. As an advisor, 2nd hand money can get gone in a hurry.

Or an inheritance can evaporate before being transferred (if the grantor makes a bad investment, there is no inheritance to bequeath. It's gone; it's faded away.)

But this spiritual inheritance in Christ is in good hands. We'll get it. We already have it. At least the earnest. 1Pet 1:4 begotten usto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you,

being predestinated A predestined adoption means a predestined inheritance (we're his—what's his is ours—we're joint heirs)

according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:

God has a purpose and he works all things after the counsel of his own will

He, unlike us, does not need counselors—after the counsel of his own will

A very comforting truth: All things are under God's control.

Does it say God's will is always done?

Is God's will always done? (raise hands)

Why do we pray for God's will to be done? Is sin God's will?

Ephesians

God's control over physical creation may be executed in a different way than his control over man—based on the different natures of his creation

One interpretation: All things God does he works after his will. Sin is not God's working, but man's. All things God works, he works according to his will. "I do all things to the best of my ability." It doesn't mean I do all things that can be done, without exception. It doesn't mean I climb all mountains, swim all seas, spelunk all caves, dial every phone number, visit every website....

Another interpretation: God works all things (including sin) after the counsel of his will. If this is correct, God works sinful decisions to His good ends, but the sin itself is not God's doings. God doesn't cause people to sin. Sin is against God's moral declared will.

Another way: Even sin is in accordance with God's will: His permissive will. It wouldn't have happened if he had not allowed it.

God's will has different aspects

a. Preceptive will: God's perfect moral will/desire for his people to obey his precepts (Do not lie, etc.) (1Jn 2:17; 2Pet 3:9)

1Jn 2:17 And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever.

b. Decretive will: God's governing will which decrees what comes to pass and cannot be thwarted by man (Dan 4:35; Psalm 115:3; Eph 1:11)

Dan 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

c. Permissive will: God's allowance of human behavior which does not reflect his preceptive or decretive will (Matt 19:8; Romans 1:21-28)
Matthew 19:8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

Ephesians

1. God permitted divorce due to their hardness—it wasn't sin technically, but wasn't as it was originally intended.
2. God permits sin to happen (heinous sins that he is angry with).

Some put permission under his decrees. Some think decree and permission are oxymorons. They would say God does not decree sin. He does decree outcomes that involve sin—the cross.

Sometimes, God works all things after his will through *divinely motivated human choices*

Some things God has chosen to do irrespective of human instrumentality. Many things God does to work his will is through human instrumentality. God is a God of means. Effectual prayer of believers is one of God's means. Our witnessing and turning men from unbelief is God's means of saving people. These human activities are not inconsequential. It would make the bible nonsensical to say: "God is going to do what He's going to do regardless of our actions." No. God has chosen to accomplish his purposes through our actions.

Even our own salvation God chose to condition upon our divinely motivated faith (not works).

Divinely motivated. Any move we make toward Him (By choice or by works after salvation) is by his power.

He works all things after his will

"The same God which *worketh* all in all," [1 Corinthians 12:6](#).

[Philippians 2:13](#). For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which works in me mightily.

God works all things together for good for us...according to his will (many times through human instrumentality
Sometimes through Spirit-motivated choices, sometimes through sinful choices

Ephesians

You cannot judge the soundness of a decision solely by its outcome

Some argue the founders of America were unbiblical in rebelling against England—but good things come out of it

From fornication can come a beautiful human being

I think most would agree with what I just said. Here is where it gets difficult

Be more practical later. But we are in the perhaps the deepest waters of theology here in Eph 1. So it just begs for more attention

How does God's control relate to human decisions?

Three different views

1. God's control is exhaustive, predetermining all choices, allowing no open choices

God foreknows all things. The way he foreknows all things is that he predetermines all things. They can't be foreknown otherwise. If all things are predetermined, then no choices are open. There is only one path available.

a. There are no open choices, including amoral ones

If, in my pantry were post-toasties and corn flakes, and I chose to eat the post toasties this morning, then I had no option to eat the corn flakes. It was predetermined that I eat the post toasties and not the corn flakes. God may know that the corn flakes takes 1 minute longer to eat, allowing me to avoid a car accident, which saved the life of a person who would later give birth to a son that would grow up to marry my grand-daughter, etc.

Guy accidentally hits his thumb with a hammer and says, I'm glad I got that over with

Ephesians

b. Adam had no contingencies (Christ was lamb slain. God ordained Adam to sin. Adam had no alternate path other than the one he took)

c. Unbelievers have no contingencies (God's elect individuals must believe. God's nonelect individuals must reject Him.)

d. Believers have no contingencies (If God is sovereign, no creature, not even believers with the indwelling Spirit, do anything that was not predetermined. When a believer sins, that sin was predetermined (through secondary causes and permission) and works in some way for God's greater glory.

Exhaustive view, God is the writer of the play. It has all been written ahead of time. The actors must quote each line exactly as written. We do what he has decreed. We must take a single predetermined path in every instance. God's exhaustive sovereignty requires it.

Free will is an illusion

or

Compatibilism—God's exhaustive control and man's free will are compatible: Man is not forced to take the one path, but chooses it based on his own desire. Desire is the means by which God causes individuals to choose the predetermined path. God decrees the desires and the will of man to choose the one path in every instance.

Man is free in this sense: he is not forced to choose against his will. But God controls man's will and thus controls all of man's decisions with no contingencies.

What would be some problems? God holds all people accountable for their sins, He is angry with them, He commands them to do otherwise, and implores all people to repent, and blames them for their disobedience. God's sovereignty must be harmonized with his love and holiness and equity (which are also divine attributes)

If every sin was inevitable, there would be no way of escape for believers (1Cor 10:13)

Ephesians

If there is only one will in the world (God's will). God is really fighting against himself. Angry with his own decrees.

2. God's control is over-arching, allowing foreknown open choices

God has sovereignly chosen to give man open choices. Created in His image, man has been given free moral agency to make self-determining choices within God-ordained freedoms and limitations.

Man is not totally free. Man cannot fly over a building without some equipment. Physical and mental boundaries God has set. Man cannot save himself. Man cannot be saved apart from Christ. Man cannot avoid judgment day. Man cannot escape the law of sowing and reaping. Man cannot do anything unless God allows it.

God foreknows all things, having omniscience (including middle knowledge—knowledge of what free creatures WOULD do under all possible scenarios).

What God foreknows is certain to occur (man will) but what men choose *is not necessary (not man must)*. God foreknows and foreordains all things through his knowledge of man's free choices.

a. People have all sorts of amoral open choices (right sock first or left sock first, etc.)

b. Adam had a contingency (No sin nature—unconfirmed favorable disposition toward God—His choice was free and open, so God held him accountable). It was certain to God he would eat (Christ a lamb slain), but still the choice was open to Adam. The day before, when Adam didn't eat, God knew with certainty he wouldn't eat.

c. Unbelievers have contingencies (They have a sin nature (unavoidable), Unbelievers cannot not sin, but they don't sin as much as they could and they do sin more than they have to—And God will judge them according to their works in the judgment. Unbelievers can respond to the drawing of God to salvation. God holds sinners responsible for their lack of repentance and faith)

Ephesians

d. Believers have contingencies (there is a way of escape for any temptation)

Over-arching view, God is the writer of the play. God chose to allow adlib within limits, albeit he knows exactly what each actor will say ahead of time, and has already written the play he wants through his actors' scripted and adlib lines. All our choices are certain to God in eternity but not necessary to us in time.

What would be some problems? How can a choice be certain to God and free to man? How can anything be foreknown with certainty if it is not predetermined and necessary? If God merely foreknows what we will do, is not man calling the shots rather than God?

3. God's control is self-limiting, allowing unforeknown future choices

Recent development (Open theism) This view by me and all I know would be deemed unsatisfactory

God foreordains many things and man has no choice but to comply with God's predetermined plans. However God has sovereignly chosen to give man open choices. Created in His image, man has been given free moral agency to make self-determining choices within God-ordained freedoms and limitations.

The choices for which God holds man accountable are open choices. If future choices are truly open, then they are not knowable. As God cannot lie or cannot know about square circles, so God cannot know the results of truly open future choices. The future outcome of open choices does not exist to be known by anyone. God is a personal God who is open to influence through the decisions and actions of people, as evidenced by His repenting and answering prayers.

Self-limiting view, God is the writer of the play, but the play continues to be written. While God does not foreknow every future line in the play, as a personal interactive writer, he uses every line to accomplish his predetermined ending. Our open choices are neither certain to God in eternity nor necessary to us in time.

What would be some problems?

Ephesians

Isa 46:10 God declares the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

If God does not know the future, his prophecies involving open choices are merely anticipations of the future, not declarations of the future. How could he declare the end from the beginning if he doesn't know the results of all choices that could influence the end?

If God changes his mind in relation to man, God is not immutable (unchangeable). God says "I change not". God repenting are anthropathisms, akin to anthropomorphisms of God having arms and ears, etc. (wings).

Fill out the chart (How does God's control relate to human decisions? Are our choices certain to God? Are our choices open to us?)

	God's Certainty	Man's Decisions
Exhaustive	Certain	Closed
Over-Arching	Certain	Open
Self-limiting	Uncertain	Open

Ephesians

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

His will: that we should be to the praise of his glory (created to praise)

The glory of God: the sum and substance of his intrinsic eternal attributes (We are to praise his perfections)

The first believers who have trusted in Christ (another word for those who have believed. Here we see man's part in his salvation. Faith involves trust—a decision point for the sinner). Trust is the sinner's responsibility. God leads, guides, persuades, calls, warns, draws. It is the sinner's responsibility to trust.

13 In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Later believers (could be Jew first then Gentile)

Means and order of salvation: sinner hears the word of truth (gospel), sinner trusts (or believes) after hearing, receives salvation (spirit sealing)

Rom 19:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaks on this wise, Say not in your heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what said it? The word is near you, even in your mouth, and in your heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.

10 For with the heart man believes to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

Ephesians

11 For the scripture says, Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich to all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our report?

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

the gospel of your salvation Rom 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 ¶ **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

Our eternal destinies hinge on a message—the gospel

The gospel is the good news, that when believed, saves sinners. What is the good news? Jn 3:16 God so loved the world ... Jesus is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world (1Jn 2:2). Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures and rose again (1Cor 15:1-3). The gospel is not the message that we have already been saved, but that our sins have been propitiated and Jesus has risen. We must believe that message for it to save us. The gospel only has power unto salvation to those who believe. God commands all men everywhere to repent and believe it.

Closes his book with an invitation Re 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

From God's view there is an elect. From our view, the gospel invitation goes out to all, "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"

Ephesians

About saving faith

- a. The scriptures state repeatedly that the requirement to receive salvation is faith (or to believe) (**Faith:** Acts 15:9; Rom 3:22, 25, 28; 3:30; 4:5, 9, 11, 13, 16; 5:1, 2; 9:30; 10:6; 11:20; Gal 2:16; 3:2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14; 22, 24, 26; Eph 2:8; Phil 3:9; 2Tim 3:15; 1Pet 1:9; **Believe:** Luke 8:12; John 1:7, 12; 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:35, 40, 47; 4:39, 41; 7:31, 38, 39; 8:24, 30; 10:42; 11:25, 26, 45; 12:37, 46; 20:31; Acts 8:37; 9:42; 10:43; 11:17; 13:39; 14:1; 16:31; 18:8; Rom 1:16; 3:22, 26; 4:3, 5, 11, 24; 10:9, 10; 1Cor 15:1-4; Gal 2:16; 3:6, 22; Eph 1:13; 2Thes 1:10; 2:12; 1Tim 1:16; Heb 10:39; 1Pet 2:6; 1John 5:1, 5, 10, 13; 20:31).

- b. All the blessings of salvation are received through faith.

Saw God's choosing planning redemption—now man's responsibility – received by faith

Chosen from the beginning through faith

- c. Through faith/believing, Christians are raised with Christ (Col 2:12), their hearts are purified (Acts 15:9), they have access into His grace (Rom 4:16; 5:2; Eph 2:8), they have His imputed righteousness (Rom 4:4,5,11,24; 10:10; Phil 3:9), they have life through His name (John 20:31), they have eternal life (John 3:15, 16. 36; 5:24; 6:47), Christ indwells their hearts (Eph 3:17), they have received the remission of sins (Acts 10:43), they received the Holy Spirit (John 7:39), they have been saved (Acts 16:31; Rom 10:9-10; Eph 2:8), they have been justified (Acts 13:39; Rom 3:28; 5:1; Gal 2:16), they have become His children (Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26), and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:13; 4:30). When sinners believe in Jesus Christ, they receive all these spiritual blessings and more.⁷

JWs know nothing of a past tense salvation—cultists join, baptized, work, hope to be saved

WE HAVE ALREADY passed from death to life.

- d. Faith is *the* pivotal response required for salvation. God hasn't communicated the message for receiving salvation in piece-meal fashion

Ephesians

throughout scripture to be added together to formulate all the requirements. Instead, He has repeated the simple requirement over and over: "believe". For instance, Paul did not omit critical conditions for salvation when preaching to the Philippian jailer that to be saved he must believe (Acts 16). Nor does the Apostle John omit the essential terms of pardon in his writings when he emphasizes that through belief in Jesus a person receives eternal life. The condition for salvation is sometimes worded differently throughout scripture to give a fuller understanding of what it means to believe—for example, receive, repent, trust, obey the gospel (*Receive Christ*: Jn 1:12; *Repent*: Luke 13:3; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:21; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; *Trust Christ*: Eph 1:12; Rom 15:12; Psalm 32:10; *Obey the gospel*: Rom 10:16; 2Thes 1:8; 1Pet 4:17). These words are not necessarily synonymous but are also not exclusive of each other. It would not be necessary or helpful to say that to be saved a person must receive + repent + believe + trust + submit + turn + come to + drink of + eat of + humble one's self + obey the gospel. Sometimes these words are used by themselves and sometimes they are used together. Repent and believe are the most common. A sinner is saved when he has a change of mind toward God and believes in Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19; 10:43; Acts 15:11; 20:21, 24; 26:20). A person being saved cannot repent without believing; nor can he believe without repenting. These words describe the heart attitude sinners must have to be saved. This repentant believing attitude is a gift from God as well as a choice of man.⁸

Faith is not the *ground* or *basis* of salvation; the grace of God exhibited in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is the ground and basis of salvation. But faith receives what grace gives. Repentant faith is the acknowledgment of God's gracious work and that that Jesus alone saves and that man *cannot* save himself (Luke 18:9-14; Rom 4:1-5; 9:30-10:4; Eph 2:8-9). Saving faith is *trusting* in Jesus for salvation (Jn 3:16; Acts 8:37; Rom 4:4-5; 10:9-10; Eph 1:12-13). Faith is God-ordained the means of receiving God's grace

Rituals such as water baptism follows initial saving faith and are not the means of receiving grace—salvation is by faith—not faith plus works or faith plus ritual (faith is a heart response and is separate from ritual—

Ephesians

can't redefine New testament faith to say it requires ritual (i.e. to believe is to be baptized).

Study bible –said “in baptism” inferring water, we receive salvation

Water baptism is an initiatory rite for new believers (not for infants of Christian parents)—but it is not normally the exact occasion of initial faith. Faith doesn't require water or a baptizer

Faith equals belief. Faith and belief are equated in scripture. To believe is to have faith (Matt 17:20; Mk 11:22; Jn 20:27; Acts 14:22; Rom 4:5, 11; 9:30-10:4; 2Cor 4:13; Heb 11:6). To not believe is to lack faith (Matt 17:20; Jn 20:27; Rom 9:30-10:4).

Faith is not works. Faith in Christ, by definition, is not a work; rather faith in Christ makes saving grace operative. Repentant faith is the acknowledgment that Jesus alone saves and that man *cannot* save himself (Luke 18:9-14; Rom 4:1-5; 9:30-10:4; Eph 2:8-9). Saving faith is *trusting* in Jesus for salvation (Jn 3:16; Acts 8:37; Rom 4:4-5; 10:9-10; Eph 1:12-13). Salvation is of faith, that it might be by grace (Rom 4:16; 11:6; Gen. 6:8; Ex 33:13). In scripture, grace and faith are together placed in contradistinction with works (Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Rom 4:1-6, 16; 9:32; 11:6).

Faith is rightly viewed as a gift of God. God purposed to save sinners before the world began. Jesus, God's precious, chosen, elect One, was foreordained to be a lamb slain before the world began (1Pet 1:18-2:6; Rev 13:8). God chose the elect *in Christ* before the world began (Eph 1:4; 2Tim 1:9; Matt 25:34). Election is in accordance with God's foreknowledge of the elect believers (Rom 8:29-33; 1Pet 1:2). In the fullness of time, God's Son came to the world and lived a sinless life, died for the sins of the world, and rose again from the dead. After Jesus' ascension, God sent the Holy Spirit to testify of Christ and build His church (Jn 15:26; Matt 16:18). **God calls (1Pet 5:10), reproves (John 16:8), invites (Rev 22:17), draws (John 6:44; 12:32-33), leads (Rom 2:4), guides (Acts 8:31), reasons with (Isa 1:18), preaches to (Rom 10:13-15; 1Cor 1:21), exhorts (Acts 2:40), testifies (1Jn 4:14), teaches (Col 1:28), persuades (Acts 28:23; 2Cor 5:11), convinces (Titus 1:9), and warns (Ezek 3:18-19; 33:7-8; Col 1:28) sinners. God hereby gives repentance and faith through His goodness, His word, His Spirit,**

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and His children, revealing who Jesus is, opening sinners' hearts to Christ (2Tim 2:25; Rev 2:21; Heb 12:2; Acts 14:27; 16:14; Matt 16:16-17; Acts 16:14). No sinner can have faith in God without God. God is the source and object of faith (Rom 10:17; Acts 14:27; Heb 12:2; 2Pet 1:1).

Faith in the beloved one (not works or ritual or birthright) is the means of receiving God's blessings—it starts and continues with faith. Faith continues, repentance continues, trust continues, grace continues (What gets us in is what keeps us)

Faith is rightly viewed as a choice of man. God ordained spiritual blessings to be in Christ and through Christ (Eph 1:4-7). God also ordained that the eternal benefits of Christ's gracious work be received *by faith* in Christ (2Thes 2:13). In accordance with this divine plan, God *gave* spiritual blessings to the believing elect in Christ *before the world began* (Eph 1:1-4; 2Tim 1:9). They *receive* these benefits and are saved *in time after* hearing and believing the gospel (Jn 5:24; Eph 1:13; 2:11-13; Col 1:21; Gal 3:26-28; Eph 1:13). Before faith, they are described as being in Adam, enemies of God, dead in trespasses and sins, by nature the children of wrath, without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, without God in the world, and afar off (Rom 5:10; 1Cor 15:22; Eph 2:1-13; Col 1:21). **God holds sinners responsible for having faith in Christ, since faith is the only acceptable response to His grace (Rom 4:16).** God so loved the world He gave His only-begotten Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2). God offers salvation to all people, **God commands all sinners to repent toward God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19-20; Mk 16:16; Acts 17:30; 20:21).** God does not believe for sinners. God does not force faith upon sinners against their wills (Gen 4:6,7; Joshua 24:15; 1Kings 18:21; Eze 18:20-32; Matt 11:20; 23:37; Luke 7:30; 12:48; Acts 7:51; 17:30; Rev 22:17). God calls sinners to believe and is angry with them and condemns them for their lack of repentance and faith (Matt 11:20-22; Mk 11:22; 16:16; Jn 3:16, 18, 36; Jn 4:4-29; 16:9; Rom 1:18-2:8; 3:3-18; 9:30-33; 1Pet 4:17-18; 2Thes 1:4-9; 2:9-12; Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-13; 10:22-31).

Ephesians

13 In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory.

The Spirit is earnest. God means business. Best is yet to come. God's kingdom is advancing. His program is progressing toward its ultimate end.

The best wine for last
New Covenant better than Old
The world to come is better than this one

What is this earnest? It is nothing less than God Himself—the blessed third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has not only reproved us, testified to us of Jesus, and regenerated us, He has made our bodies His permanent headquarters. The Spirit of God in us is God's seal that we are His—a mark of ownership that guarantees us that we will be redeemed from the wrath to come. We have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

until the redemption of the purchased possession—future redemption of our bodies too Romans 8—salvation in three tenses

redemption in two tenses

sanctification is in three tenses

The Sealing with the Spirit-- The indwelling Spirit is God's seal or mark of ownership and earnest that secures the believer's promised inheritance (Eze 9:4; Rev 7:2-3; 2Cor 1:22; Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15, 23; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30)

- A. The people who are sealed--all believers (2Cor 1:22; Eph 4:30)
- B. The time of sealing--at conversion (2Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13)
- C. The duration of sealing--unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:14; 4:30; Rom 8:22,23)

Ephesians

How do we know God will keep His promises to us? His word is sure and His Spirit is His seal.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love to all the saints,

Marks of true Christians (full of faith and love) no faithless love. No loveless faith.

Have faith, hope, and charity

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

What Christians do for each other—give thanks and make mention in prayer. We encourage each other—we do not tear each other down. Even church discipline is always out of love (has best interest of others at heart)

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Look at what the apostle prays for

This is how we should pray for each other (not just unbelievers are enlightened) believers understand the riches we have in Christ

So needed today—anemic christendom

spirit of wisdom (not Holy Spirit, not spirit of man, attitude or disposition)

The deep wisdom of God can only be understood by the Holy Spirit's revelation and enlightenment—not by the physical senses—not by the scientific method. Some of the most important things like beauty, love, morality can't be explained by science. All the deep things of God

Ephesians

1Cor 2:9 But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

10 But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.

Challenge this reductionist view that the physical is all there is. Science is the only way to know anything. Ask the person “Did you use the scientific method to know that?”

*God gives us reasonable evidence to believe (not contradictory with physical evidence) Physical evidence supports it
(fine tuning of the universe and the extreme complexity and order of DNA—just two examples)*

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

That we may KNOW—God’s Spirit which moves our human spirit to give us the spirit of wisdom-- knowledge, enlightenment, wisdom

Aren’t you happy God has opened your eyes about salvation? Unsaved people don’t know what they’re missing do they? People settle for scraps not knowing the riches in Christ.

Do we settle? Not knowing how much more there is for us? Ephesians challenges us to go for it: to be full, be filled.

Always be hungry for more. Humble and teachable. That’s the key to growth.
Prov 4:4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.

Ephesians

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

You can't have too much wisdom. You cannot be too full of God. You can be too full of other things--stuff.

Our problem is not being TOO heavenly minded. It is being wordly- minded.

Ephesians

Eavesdropping on Paul's prayer time
Praise to petition (Prayer is both)

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

You can know by the Spirit's revelation
The physical coincides (finetuning and complexity of the DNA code as two good examples—Antony Flew—most astronomers believe in God)

You can't have too much wisdom. You cannot be too full of God.

Our problem is not being TOO heavenly minded. It is being wordly- minded.

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Power toward us –exceeding greatness of His power

(according to—not just out of --His mighty power--resurrection power)

2 Tim 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Our power is in understanding God's mighty power toward us and living according to it

It is the power of godliness—being godly

Ephesians

He's not going to be like us.

*Psalm 50:16 ¶ But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth,
17 Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you?
18 When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers.
19 You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit.
20 You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son.
21 These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes.
22 "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver:*

He's not going to be like us. We can be like him. This is the power. Reflecting his character. Conformed to his image.

His mighty power... 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

resurrection power

Jesus the only one raised and exalted to the right hand of God (a place of highest honor)

Heavenly places—heaven itself—where we are seated, from whence our blessings come

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Jesus is greater than all—all creatures and all ranks of creature, now and in the future.

Mormonism is preposterous in asserting that one day we become a God like God is—all creature are forever beneath the Lord

Ephesians

Jesus didn't soft pedal the seriousness of sin and death and judgment (or worse, deny sin), he faced it head on, and conquered it

Nobody ever spoke like he did
Loved
Healed
Raised himself from the dead

Jonah was great. Greater...

Solomon was great...Greater

Moses was great...servant in the house—Jesus a son over his house

Angels are great. But unto which of the angels did the Lord ever say... Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

22 And has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that fills all in all.

Jesus is the head of the church—under whom is bishops and deacons (they answer to him)

The church is his body.

Israel was pictured as a bride, a family, a flock—but not a body. Developed more fully in 1Cor and later in this epistle—the mystery revealed has to do with this body (introduced here).

God wants to fill the church with all of himself—We are the church. He has held back nothing from us as individuals or corporately

CHAPTER 2

Ephesians

AND you has he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

We were dead. Now were have been quickened (made alive)
Before being in Christ, We were dead spiritually

Physical death (no physical life)
Spiritual death (no spiritual life—there is no indwelling Spirit of God)
Eternal death (second death) Permanent state of experiencing the wrath of God
in the lake of fire

One who is spiritually dead has physical life but is still **“in”** his trespasses and sins
The spiritually dead person is an unforgiven sinner
One who is not in a saving union with Christ
One who is not **in** Christ
One who is in Adam, IN his sins
In Adam, all die
In Christ, all are alive

We are dead before being in Christ
We have been made alive in Christ

1Jn 1:12 He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life.

This quickening took place when we trusted Christ--believed

Before faith we were dead; after faith we were made alive

Until we believed, we were dead

We were not made alive (born again, regenerated) in order to believe
We believed in order to be regenerated

*It is NOT dead in sins --> quickened from deadness (still unforgiven of sins;
alive but in sins; not joined to Christ)--> faith--> forgiveness of sins (in Christ)*

*It is dead in sins --> faith--> forgiveness of sins (i.e., quickening
from deadness in sins; alive in Christ)*

Ephesians

Dead → faith → alive

Regeneration follows faith. Summary. Before faith we were dead in sins, without spiritual life, unforgiven of sins, a child of the Devil, and without the Spirit of God. Upon believing, we were forgiven of sins, quickened from deadness in sins, given spiritual life, raised with Christ, born of God (i.e., made a child of God), and received the Holy Spirit. Until we believed, we were dead in sins. Therefore "dead in sins" does not speak of inability to believe but lack of spiritual life and relational separation from God due to unforgiven sins. "Dead in sins" does not mean inability to do anything which is a characteristic of physical deadness. If this were true spiritually dead people would have no *sinful* actions either, yet sinfulness is their problem. God draws, calls, invites, persuades, warns, teaches, guides, and convinces sinners prior to faith (see footnote ⁵E and ⁵J below). God must enable those who are dead in sins to believe. Spiritually dead people cannot believe without God's enablement. But God does not give life to (i.e., regenerate) sinners prior to faith. Spiritual life is a result of faith, not the means of faith. Spiritually dead people are enabled to believe while dead in sins and receive life upon believing.

Short Study. While the temporal order is not the primary concern (for example, faith and salvation may occur simultaneously in time), the logical order of events is critical (as in Romans 8:30). For example, salvation does not come before faith. We are not saved to believe. We believe to be saved. One must first believe to be saved. This order is important. So is the order of faith and regeneration important.

2 Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:

In time past, Satan's path (world's way world's results...)

Satan –the prince of the power of the air
God of this world

Three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the Devil

Ephesians

How they attack: not ignorant of his devices (garden Gen 3), Jesus temptation (Matt 4)

The Devil through the world system (opposed to God) appeals to our adamic carnal nature (the flesh)

In the world—lust of the flesh passions doing
 Lust of the eyes possessions having
 Pride of life position being

The letter of Ephesians is about

God's plan, purpose and power for his peculiar people from his predestinating, providential, perspective

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Lust and pride (desires—the root of sin—drawn away and enticed)

We yielded to that—we walked that path—we were fit targets of God's wrath

Whatever this world says, God is still angry with the wicked every day

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

But God—two greatest words in the Bible

Back to the very nature and character of God—rich in mercy (he has compassion for the needy)

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy

Ephesians

His great love (that little word “so” Jn 3:16)—While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Why did he save us? He loved us (He has our best interest at heart)

Why did he love us? He is love

The problem is: What his holiness condemns his love cannot embrace (sinners need to be saved)

5 Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;)

This quickening is being saved by grace (saved from spiritual death)

6 And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

We’re identified with Jesus Christ. What he has we have.

His election is our election

His righteousness is our righteousness

His wisdom is our wisdom

His inheritance is our inheritance

His death is our death

His resurrection is our resurrection

We’re raised spiritually when we believe in Jesus Christ (die to self raised to walk in new life)

This verse speaks primarily of Spirit baptism—but water baptism typifies this identification

Ephesians

7 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Trophies of his grace for the ages to come

He wants to be good to us forever

What a future

8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

This is what the world does not get

Why Dean says this every Sunday—for unbelievers

People are self righteous—like the Pharisee I'm glad I'm not as this publican

Not of ourselves (salvation or the faith) Nothing we have we did not receive from God. God is the author and finisher of our faith. Source and object.

Man does not and cannot save himself. We are not co-redeemers with Christ. Christ did part of the work; I do part of it. Christ's death and resurrection is the only ground and basis for forgiveness. And it must be received by faith as a free gift.

No person in heaven is going to boast about earning his salvation

Yet so many cults and religions have this type of belief system. We have to continue to teach that salvation is a free gift. 99% grace and 1% works is no longer grace (Romans 11:6)

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

Solves the puzzle of James 2 and Rom 4

Ephesians

Faith → Salvation → Works

Titus 3 : 5. *Not by works of righteousness (not even works of righteousness—**New Covenant works**) which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Judgment of the believer chart

11 Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

In time past—not now 1Cor 6—such were some of you. Gal 5. Christianity is not just positional. It's practical. We are new creatures. Partakers of the divine nature. We are a new man. The old man dominated by the flesh is dead. Reckon it so and yield our members to righteousness.

Christ not only died for us—redemption position
We died with him—walk practice

What are Gentiles in the flesh? Gentiles weren't in the covenant (They weren't biological descendants of Abraham Isaac and Jacob)

This Old Covenant was made with an ethnic people. Male circumcision was the sign of this covenant.

Under the Abrahamic Covenant, all male descendants of Abraham, as well as servants, both adults and children, whether believing or not, whether from believing parents or not, were to receive the bloody ritual of foreskin removal (Gen 17:1-14, 20, 25-26).

Ephesians

Based on Abraham's faith, circumcision was prescribed for all of his physical male descendents to mark out a *national* and *ethnic* people who *should have* the faith of Abraham.

By and large, they didn't have the faith of Abraham and they became proud and hateful and used their special position of advantage to ostracize Gentiles. *Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone.* Trying to establish their own righteousness by works.

Jews hated Gentiles and vice versa. Have Gentiles hated Jews? Nazi germany

Israel was always to be a channel of grace to others.

Acts 10:34 ¶ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him.

Quoting Deut 10:17

But they weren't good stewards of the blessings of God. They rejected God the Father in the Old Testament. They rejected Jesus in the gospels. They rejected the Holy Spirit in Acts. Lo we turn to the gentiles.

Instead of being thankful and having compassion on Gentiles, they had contempt for them. In this polarized political climate of ours in America, I feel myself being tempted to feel that way. We cannot give into the hatred that others have.

- A. Ethnic Israel has been cast away due to their unbelief (Mat 21:43; 1Thes 2:14-16; Romans 9-11), but not completely or permanently (Romans 11). Jews who do not believe in Christ are not saved (Luke 13:24-29; Jn 3:3-5; 1Thes 2:14-16; Rom 9-10). However, there is a present remnant of believing Jews who are saved (Romans 11:5). Jews and Gentiles have been made one in Christ (Gal 2:28-29; 3:7; Eph 2:14-16). Gentiles have become partakers of the promised blessings to Israel ([Matthew 8:11-12](#); [Matt 19:27-29](#), [Luke 13:26-29](#); [John 10:16](#); Romans 11:17; [Ephesians 2:11-22](#), [Ephesians 3:4-6](#); [Hebrews](#)

Ephesians

[11:39-40](#); Gal 3:6-29). While there is a remnant of saved Jews presently, in the future all Israel will turn to Christ and be saved (Rom 11:26-27). This will happen when the fullness of the Gentiles is come in (Rom 11:25; Luke 21:24) prior to Christ's second coming ([Zech 12:9-10 and 13:1](#); [Joel 3:14-16,21](#); Luke 13:35). When Israel is saved, their fullness will signify the final consummation of God's redemption, resulting in life from the dead and the full riches of the Gentiles and the world (Rom 11:12-14).

Jews→Gentiles→Jews (gathering of all in one—redemption of entire creation (Rom 8))

12 That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Gentiles didn't have the promises or the oracles of God--Jews

No basis to hope for a coming judge and king to set things right

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ.

But now

Far off—started geographically (Temple was in Jerusalem)(Gentile proselytes had to stay in the outer court of the temple) (2nd class)

The blood of Christ has brought us near to God (no more second class) Right into the holy of holies –direct access to the throne of God—find mercy and grace to help in time of need

14 For he is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Not only near to God—but to each other

Ephesians

Wall between Jew and Gentile is broken down

In Christ, there are no partitions (Equal spiritually) No male nor female, bond or free, greek or barbarian, Jew or gentile

Any other distinction you can think of—black or white, rich or poor

Christ has baptized all believers by his spirit into his body—We're one

Jews in the Old Testament were commanded to be culturally peculiar (diet, apparel, no intermarrying, customs and laws-that set them apart in every way)

Believers can become all things to all men “culturally” (Paul took a vow just to not upset the Jews)

A mark of a true believer—If a certain set of non-New Testament customs is so important to you that you feel like you would have to practice those things wherever on the globe you moved (diet touch not, taste not, etc) –at the least, that person is not understanding the liberty in Christ—at the worst is not a Christian (caught up in a works righteousness program)

We are a spiritual people—dress modestly not to draw undue attention or offend (no particular dress, no particular diet, etc) Believers can culturally fit in anywhere and be salt and light

In the Old Testament, God worked through an ethnic *nation* composed of believers and unbelievers. In the New Testament, God works through a spiritual organism composed of believers from *all nations*.

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Abolished the enmity (We're no longer enemies of God)

Ephesians

Abolished the law of commandments. (ordinances edicts or laws—something we are to obey) Even the law that condemned us has been abolished—law was fulfilled by Christ lived it perfectly, and died to pay its penalty. Mosaic code to Israel was temporary—until Christ should come. Why? the glory of the New Covenant supercedes it. A change of the covenant means a change of the law. We are not under the Mosaic code of the law of God. That particular codification of God's law was for a physical people, with a physical land and physical sacrifices who fought physical battles. The church is a spiritual people with a spiritual home and we offer spiritual sacrifices engaged in spiritual warfare. As a rule of life, God's law to us is codified in the teachings of Christ and the apostles. All scripture is given by inspiration and profitable for doctrine reproof, correction instruction in righteousness. It is all for our learning and hope and comfort and admonition. But scripture must be read in context. Who is saying what to whom? All scripture is for us, but all scripture is not to us.

Pick up Bible—Job's wife saying to God: curse God and die

Matthew : and Judas went out straightway and hung himself

Backed up a few pages: Whatsoever thou doest do quickly

Be careful where you put your punctuation:

The lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He maketh me to lie.....down in green pastures

He leadeth me beside the still.....waters

16 And that he might reconcile both to God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Jews were near—Gentiles were far off (Now all near in one body)

Jews were to be different in every way from Gentiles (God's law)

Pharisees had distorted it (Jews and Gentiles despised each other)

Ephesians

Paul is saying “You’re one in the same body”. See why the Jewish brethren who didn’t understand this was so opposed to Paul (Paul was tearing down distinctions—distinctions that the old Testament had taught)

The Old Testament had prophecied of another Covenant (sins forgiven, all know God from the least to the greatest)

As you read through Old Testament you’re left with a sense of incompleteness (there are unfulfilled promises, unexplained types, unrealized expectations)

The last word in Malachi is “curse”. Read through the New Testament—you’re not expecting another written revelation are you? Muhaamed won’t work. Joseph Smith, Russel, mary baker eddy—they are not needed.

God in these “last days” has spoken through his son (the son commissioned his apostles to remember it and communicate it.

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20 ¶ He which testifies these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

What kind of revelation are we expecting—glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour. Even so come Lord Jesus.

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

19 Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

citizens and family

Ephesians

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

OT prophets and NT Apostles are the foundation. Apostles laid the doctrinal foundation. Everything built around the cornerstone.

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together grows to an holy temple in the Lord:

The church is called a building—the people (not brick and mortar)

God is putting each member in the right place (I grew up thinking preachers and pew sitters—spiritual gifts (every member is a minister—part of your purpose in life is to exercise your spiritual gift in the context of the church)

Pray, read the word, be around others serving, and experiment
Whether you can name it or not—just do it

22 In whom you also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

God not only indwells us individually, but corporately (we the born again are the house of God)

.....

CHAPTER 3

FOR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Not “Prisoner of Rome”

Minister of the gentiles

Big parenthesis that picks up in verse 14 “I bow my knees”

2 If you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me toward you:

Ephesians

Dispensation (way of dispensing, stewardship or management)(Everyone believes God administers his rule differently in different stages of his unfolding plan of redemption)

Adam was under innocence (don't eat the fruit)

There is an Old Covenant and a New Covenant (while there is overlap, we believers are in the new Covenant)

The only way the bible can make any sense

God chose Paul for this particular economy of God where the message of grace (exhibited in the completed work of Christ) was to go out to the gentile nations

3 How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery; (as I wrote before in few words,

Some things are secret always (Deut 29:29)

Some spiritual truths are revealed to believers (Psalm 25:14; Prov 3:32; Amos 3:7)

Some things were secret and revealed in the New Testament—New truth for a New age

4 Whereby, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Mystery is a secret hidden , now revealed. Here it is in more detail

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

The mystery is not that Gentiles would be saved. But that Gentiles would get in on the promises made to Israel and be one in the same body

Ephesians

The new testament (not the books, but the testament-covenant itself) went into effect upon Christ the Testator's death (Heb 9:16-17). This new testament/covenant is currently in force (Luke 22:20; 2Cor 3:6; Heb 9:15; 12:24). In this new age, Jesus is building his church through the unifying operation of the baptism with the Spirit, which began on the Jewish day of Pentecost not many days after His ascension (Matt 16:18; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 10:47 with 11:16; 1Cor 12:13). Through the cross of Christ, the apostles and all believers, Jews and Gentiles, are placed into this one body (Eph 2:12-16; Rom 16:7; Jn 17:21-23; 1Cor 12:13, 27) which is the church (Eph 1:22-23; 1Cor 12:27). Many years after the one body's existence, the apostle Paul received the revelation (Eph 3:1-6).

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effectual working of his power.

8 To me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Paul saw no greatness in himself apart from Christ. Humility. Pride is thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought. Thorn to buffet him. Never forgot about his past life.

In humility we can acknowledge things God has for us and through us –give all the glory to him. As Paul did here. But Paul was a special vessel.

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

All things were created to demonstrate to all the angelic hosts the wisdom of God through his redemption of the church. So the angels look in on this salvation of ours. Things which the angels desire to look into (1Pet 1:12).

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Ephesians

13 Wherefore I desire that you faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Paul sacrificed himself for others (as Christ did)

1Co 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Don't lose heart for my troubles—It's worth the price I've paid

The Christian life is demanding and filled with tribulations—Anything else is not Christianity (the problem with the milquetoast stuff today)

But it is worth it—worth all the sacrifices (God is a rewarder....that is faith)

Ephesians

22 In whom you also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

God not only indwells us individually, but corporately (we the born again are the house of God)

.....

CHAPTER 3

FOR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Expounds the mystery—What is the mystery revealed? one body, new man, gentiles fellow-heirs and partakers of the promises with Jews, through the gospel (the old covenant is superceded by a new and better covenant—change in the priesthood (Aaronic to Melchisidekian) necessitates a change in the law (*Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.*) Old laws abolished because therein was the enmity between man and God and Jew and Gentile.

The law of Christ is the rule of life for Christians (some things dropped, some things the same, some things added). How do we know how to sort it out? Not by an arbitrary division of the Mosaic law that the Bible never speaks of, but by an understanding of the superiority of the new covenant as being a fulfillment and something NEW that supercedes the old. NT is not a continuation of the old. “Consistent with” but fulfillment of the old. The New Testament scriptures stress the newness of the New Covenant. The church is a NEW Man.

Forms of dispensationalism that make too many distinctions between old and new (fail to see the unity between them). Covenant theology on the other hand takes man-made categories (creation covenant, covenant of works, covenant of grace) and imposes this theological construct on the bible to flatten out the covenants. They fail to see the newness, the fulfillment of the new, distinctions between them.

Both sides fail to appreciate fully the “progression” and “advancement” of God’s kingdom. Old school dispensationalism sees the church as a parenthesis (no law for Christians) in which the church must be physically raptured out for God to resume his program with the Jews. Not a parenthesis where the kingdom is “on hold”. Progression where church gets in on the promises as planned.

Ephesians

Covenant theology flattens out the two covenants the bible speaks about into merely different administrations of the covenant of grace, thus in too many ways equate the old with the new, not giving enough weight to the progression and advancement of God's kingdom. Results in an arbitrary legalism and/or an arbitrary, inconsistent, wax-nose view of the Old Testament—the doctrine of infant baptism being undergirded by this theological system.

Gal 3:19 ¶ Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;

I think that is the answer to preterism. They overreach and put too much fulfillment in 70 AD. It looks to me that many prophetic prophecies have a short term and near term fulfillment (successive fulfillment—Satan's destruction, antichrist, 2nd Coming of Christ—judged generation of Jews that rejected him in 70AD, will judge the world in the future—some scriptures which speak of both)

Back to his prayer for them in view of this revelation **14 For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Cause: We are the habitation of God

Bow my knees—physical posture reflects humility—we are beneath God

Ps 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker

I remember many prayer meetings where everybody was on their knees
Get together with the men and boys and all get on our knees go around the room
(or as someone thought of a need, or someone would pray a psalm)

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Of Christ, the whole family of God is named after (Christians regardless of location [heaven and earth], gender nationality, race, age, etc.)

All his family is named after him (I'm not ashamed to bear his name—thrilled about it) others despise it

Ephesians

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

The prayer of the great apostle—strength “mighty strength” God almighty’s strength

In the inner man (That’s the focus)

Primping and pumping up the outer man—for what

The older I get the faster I was
Gravity takes it’s toll (things begin to droop and sag and wrinkle and dry up
(crunchy brain, brittle body)
Hair falls out where you wish it would grow
Hair begins to boldly grow...

The outward man perishes, but the inward man is renewed day by day

We can keep getting better (inner man)...growing stronger...

Lucille...Physically she was growing weaker and weaker, spiritually she was growing stronger

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

He is there in all his fullness. He’s on the throne. We’ve not shut him off by sin. He’s open to every room of our heart—thinking, ambitions, desires, appetites, pleasures, intellect, effections, emotions, will)

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Christ flows out) Overflow with him

WWJD. More than an example. Christ in you...the hope of glory.

It’s letting Christ (today, now) live his life uniquely through mine (using my distinct personality and gifts).

Why do we hold on so tightly to living our own selfish lives when we can live a Christ-like life that can be a blessing to God and everyone we come in contact with.

Ephesians

Rooted and grounded in love (the chief characteristic of Christians)

Rooted (tree roots). Grounded (building foundation)—firmly established in love

(We seek what is best for others. We have others' best interest at heart)

We wish no harm on others. We are not jealous of others (we're glad for their successes). We are not mean and rude. We're not demanding. We're compassionate and courteous. Be put others first.

1Cor 13:1 THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing.

4 Charity suffers long, and is kind; charity envies not; charity vaunts not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil;

6 Rejoice not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 Bears all things, believes all things, hope all things, endures all things.

Jn 17. We are to be a loving people in the midst of an unloving world.

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

God wants us to comprehend how great his love is in all its dimensions

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fulness of God.

God wants us to know the love of Christ (human knowledge cannot impart)

That is *how* we can be filled with all of God's fullness (You cannot have too much God)

Too much God

Ephesians

So we live in the climate of the cross (constantly musing on the love of Christ)
Briars and stinkweeds of bitterness and lust and envy can't grow in the climate of the cross

RC Chapman—apostle of love 1800s. Robert C. Chapman (1803-1902). Charles Spurgeon called him “the saintliest man I ever knew,” and his life had a profound effect on many souls, not the least of which was the great pioneer missionary Hudson Taylor.

Early in his life, he announced that the Lord had called him to proclaim the Gospel, and many of his friends said, “Robert will never make a preacher.” In response, he exclaimed, “There are many who preach, but not so many who live Christ. My aim shall be to live Christ.”

**20 Now to him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
21 To him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

Cycle of prayer--He allows us to have a need, we pray, he answers (in greater ways than we thought), we're blessed, and he gets the glory

Is this the way we pray? Do we pray for each other's strength in the inner man?

Let's pray this prayer for each other this way

CHAPTER 4

Paul teaches and prays

Now he turns to the responsibility of the believer based on all these privileges

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called,

Beseech you (Paul begs people for all kind of spiritual reasons)

Walk is practical—conduct, how you live, verses “positional”

Ephesians

Summary statement of the rest of the book—We are greatly blessed, THEREFORE walk worthy of vocation wherewith we are called

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Seated in heavenlies spiritually. It's lived out down here through lowliness (humility)

God exalts the lowly and resists the proud (He has respect unto the lowly)

Meekness—not weakness, not cowardice—power under control, quiet willing submission to God and others—not retaliatory, not offensive, not boisterous and opinionated, manifestation of humility

Longsuffering—patient, long-tempered vs. short tempered (doesn't yield to negative circumstances—endures it with grace) patience with people (putting up with jerks, taking reproof without being defensive) patience with God (God doesn't get in a hurry)

Forbearing one another in love—Not only can endure it, but I can love you through it (overcoming evil with love)

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The goal of it all—unity (Spirit baptism--work hard to maintain it)

Humble, loving, unified people in the midst of an angry, fighting, divided world

The best way to influence our world—to walk the worthy walk (live Christ)
That they see our supernatural love and oneness in the Spirit

(Can't have oneness without lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing love)
In the world, in the church, at home

Love of Christ expressed through us

Ephesians

Being real—being authentic--same Saturday as Sunday (no switch—hardwired)

Our nation may not survive; our institutions (entertainment, news, education, science) are all dominated by antichristian thought (we often pay for our children to be destroyed by them). 2/3rds of children

The world has painted evangelicals as being haters (we hate homosexuals, we hate women, we hate people of other religions, we are racist bigots). Good is called evil and evil is called good. What a falling away since the 1960s.

The church is the answer. And the church will survive; the gates of hell....I'm so glad to be a part of it. I've been out in the world. They are mean. I have always found tremendous love in the church.

Missionary story. Jack wood on horse back after desert ride, approaching a lady and her children all alone. We are Christians! Relief! Let's be relief to folks who are used to being abused. Let's be Christ's body reaching out to them.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling;

How many bodies of Christ are there? Etc.

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Baptized in the name of the Lord

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

God is one. There is one faith and baptism. Endeavor to keep the unity. Relationally and doctrinally. There needs to be unity around the truth—not in spite of or by neglect of the truth.

Ephesians

4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

But...Oneness/unity... diversity in this oneness (Many members in one body)

Diversity—grace measured according to unique gift (not saving grace)

—the key to keeping peace is understanding our unity and diversity

I don't judge you for being more concerned with helping the needy than doctrinal nuances—you have that gift of mercy

Appreciate our differences—the key to marriage too

Chosen us, redeemed us, gifted us—all by grace

8 Wherefore he says, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.

68th psalm—conquering king ascending Mt Zion with the released captives

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians

Speaking of Christ as the one who ascended after he won the victory for us (died and descended into the lower parts of the earth—the grave or Scheol/Hades)

Captives (sinners or OT saints in paradise below (two compartment theory) were set free by Christ and given gifts

He earned the right to give us these gifts (These spoils of war come at His great sacrifice) How can we ignore our spiritual gift?

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

To the body is given gifted men

Apostles: those directly sent by Jesus—foundation of the church (signs and wonders)

Prophets: Received the revelation (today proclaimers or preachers—no new revelation)

Evangelists: Men who have a special capacity to reach the lost

Pastors and teachers: those who feed the flock

Only place in King James that pastor (plural) is used in the New Testament (Elders)

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

God uses these gifted men to perfect the saints (moving toward maturity—Christlikeness—be ye holy, be ye perfect)

Positional perfection (1Cor 2:6)

Ultimate perfection (Phil 3:12) Like Christ

Experiential perfection—day to day (practical)

Perfect--Complete, mature, full grown, fully equipped

...For the work of the ministry (these gifted men equip individuals to use their individual gifts for the work of the ministry)

Ephesians

... For the edifying of the body of Christ
These gifted men build up the church

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The result is a mature, united, working church

Unity is a result of this perfecting.. or maturing (immature people are not united)

How to get unity: not running from doctrine, not milquetoast watered-down teaching

Unity through maturing the saints, and saints are matured through solid doctrinal teaching and preaching

The church is to be a mature church (reflect Christlikeness—to the **measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.**

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Children (immature) are tossed to and fro—not spiritually discerning—don't know much

Full grown Christians are strong because the words of God abide in us

Lots of false doctrine to deceive—Only defense is to know the word—stand firm

Never met a cultist who had been grounded before the cult got him

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Product of the equipping is that we can speak the truth in love

Ephesians

That is what mature people do: they know the truth and love people
Integrate these two. Maximize these two.

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love.

From Christ, the head, the body works together by His power and it grows as it should

Every Christian is needed to do his part in the body

How not to walk

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

empty vain thinking—selfish and proud

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

understanding darkened (veil over Israel's eyes), alienated from God, ignorant, blind (to the things of God)

Have you ever witnessed a more educated group of spiritually ignorant people

Alienated from the life of God through ignorance

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Past feeling –God says today is the day of salvation, if you hear his voice harden not your heart

Ephesians

People make choices, when they continually, willfully, choose to reject God, God confirms them in that choice—God hardens their heart

The punishment for hardening your heart is a hard heart (God confirms your choice and lets you have your way—gives you to it) The wind is at your back

Reprobate mind, seared conscience, insensitive to the things of God, undiscerning of right or wrong

Given over to lasciviousness—shameless, wantonness, obscene, associated with drunkenness and sexual sins

Sex-obsessed society, saturated with pornography

20 But you have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that you have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

this is not what you learn at Jesus' feet.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

22 That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Old man (BC man—before Christ) didn't have the divine nature. Albeit we did have a conscience. Our consciences need instructing.

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

In Christ old things are passed away...all things are become ?

We are new. Walk that way. Think like it. Live like it. New way of thinking. Renew your mind.

Old thinking self centered. New is Christ-centered

Ephesians

Old is vain empty futile. New is meaningful, purposeful.
Old is ignorant and foolish. New thinking is full of understanding and wisdom.
Old is corrupt and deceitful. New is righteous and holy

Put on the new man. Rom 6 We're crucified with Christ. The old man is dead.
Know it, reckon it to be so, and yield your members. Know reckon and yield.

The old man is dead. Lively corpse. He is a corpse.

Specifics

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Lying is not conducive toward unity. Sooner or later, lies are exposed for what they are. Satan Father of lies will be exposed.

Believers tell the truth. This is something we need to be very deliberate about

Why do we lie?

Refreshing when needed to fess up when we mess up

Do right and don't worry about covering up

Promises—easier to make than to keep. Under-promise and over-deliver

Don't even lie to flatter or joke and people will know your yeas are yeas

Ephesians

26 Be angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Anger can easily lead to sin. Deal with it immediately. Root of bitterness can grow in your heart.

Anger should never be with revenge, never in an unforgiving spirit—it could be for love and protection perhaps, righteous indignation

27 Neither give place to the devil.

Vengeance is God's. He will repay. You're giving the devil a place when you are angry without a righteous cause. Don't give him an opportunity. Make no provision for the flesh.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs.

Lying, anger, greed, “stealing”—these are not the worthy walk

Something-for-nothing mentality is not of God. The more ungodly a people, the more they will covet what others have worked for.

Hard work and voluntary giving is the Christian way

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Sin to shut up our bowels of compassion. Also sinful to use someone's hard-earned money to reward on a moocher who is too lazy to work.

Christians should be the most concerned with human suffering (poverty due to famine and such). But “some” people would rather be poor than to work. The poor we will always have with you.

Ephesians

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers.

Stewardship of information—sermon I heard many years ago

Some things tell, Some things hold. The test: does it build up? (does it minister grace?) Is it true, is it good, is it needful?

Evil speaking offends at least six persons.

1. the one you're speaking about
2. the one you're speaking it to (don't need to hear it)
3. yourself (sin and sin destroys and kills)
4. The Father
5. The Son
6. The Holy Spirit

Corrupt speech—any speech which has a corrupting influence (dirty jokes, filthy language, etc.)

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed to the day of redemption.

Spirit is a seal of ownership (we are not behaving as though we are His are we?)

God is a person. He has feelings. We can grieve God.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour (violent outbursts), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

Bitterness, anger and gossip is replaced with kindness, courtesy, tenderness

Forgiveness as God for Christ' sake has forgiven you....High standard

Ephesians

Why and how we forgive...back to the cross...all we have been forgiven... back to the very loving, generous, and kind nature of God

CHAPTER 5

BE therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Follow God. Why because he's God. He's God and we're not. Nobody else is either although they won't that kind of control over us. They'll always be pressure on believers to follow someone else. Someone out there is always trying to usurp God's authority.

The final antichrist will be revealed and be quite successful at that. Only to be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus power and glory at his coming.

Lev 11:45 Be ye holy for I am holy. We're to be like God. Follow him as a child does a father

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Christ's sacrifice of love was pleasing to God, as was pleased with the animal sacrifices in the OT

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes saints;

Sex outside of marriage, sexual uncleanness, covetous (neighbor's wife, and stuff)

Sexual sins are heinous to God. His wrath is all over it

let it not be ONCE named among you

We have Christ. Live Christ.

The world has seen enough half hearted, double-minded, hypocritical "Christians". Don't be as the hypocrites.

Ephesians

What good is a Christianity that doesn't make a difference in the way we live (where we go, what we do, how we speak, how we treat others, how we manage our family, our money, our time)

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid.

Too many "good for nothing Christians". If the salt has lost its savor, it is good for nothing but to be trodden under foot of men.

Sermon. Christians that make God sick—Laodecean Christians, Jesus said, "I'd rather you be hot or cold, luke warm. I'll spew you out of my mouth."

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Dirty minded (obscene), stupid talking, dirty jokes, levity (late night comedians)—not fitting, appropriate, proper, right

Giving of thanks—this is our breath—continually offering the sacrifice of praise—be thankful—we deserve hell

5 For this you know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

How people conduct their sexual lives may not matter to them; but it matters to God. Everybody will find that out one day.

Ephesians

My paper on sexual sins

7 Be not therefore partakers with them.

8 For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

WERE DARK. NOW LIGHT

Dark intellectually and morally (lack of truth and lack of holiness)

We are the light (Ye are the light of the world) –truth and holiness

We are light in a dark world. Don't blend in with the darkness. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Let it shine...that men may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.

It's hard for the gainsayers to criticize "good works".

There will be fruit that will prove or verify that we are children of light—
goodness, righteousness, truth

Don't let your eyes get used to the dark.

Two people emerged from a drunken party early in the morning. One sniffed and said what's that smell. The other said "fresh air". You get used to the stench of the world. Get comfortable with it. Then, lying in wait is the devil, at the right moment, you've given him an opportunity, he tempts. You're vulnerable. You succumb. Exciting for a while, pleasure of sin for a season. Be sure your sin will find you out.

Jn 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. People love their sins.

Ephesians

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us.

All it takes is one pet sin. You won't give up. Samson let his lust for women take him down. Lived out his last days blind, grinding in prison, spectacle for all the philistines to mock. What's his purpose now?

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

What communion has light with darkness? Come out from among them and be ye separate

2Cor 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

We are way too chummy with darkness. We see how close we can get. HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP.

We are going to be around fornicators. Not isolation. But we have to keep that separation between us. But not participation.

Barnes: But rather reprove them. By your life, your conversation, and all your influence. This is the business of Christians. Their lives should be a standing

Ephesians

rebuke of a sinful world, and they should be ever ready to express their disapprobation of its wickedness in every form.

Expose darkness for what it is

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Not even to speak about it. Stewardship of information. Some things don't need to be talked about. How far away from evil we should be.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever does make manifest is light.

Light is the means of exposing what is hidden in darkness. We are the light. Are we willing to be God's means of exposing sin. Living it (works) and speaking the truth in love. In word and deed.

How will they ever see their need of Jesus without seeing themselves as sinners

There really is evil in the world. There are things that are objectively, inherently wrong. That is sin. We've all sinned.

14 Wherefore he says, Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

Some think allusion is to [Isaiah 26:19](#), "Thy dead men shall live--awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust, for thy dew is as the dew of herbs," etc.

Others have supposed that the reference is to [Isaiah 60:1-3](#), "Arise, shine; for thy light is come," etc.

Trusting in Christ is likened to be raised from the dead.

Translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God's dear son

Ephesians

Chapters 1-3 position, blessings, riches-----Ch 4 worthy walk

v.1-3 lowly and meek walk

v. 4-16 unity walk

v. 17-34 different walk from the Gentiles

5:1-7 love walk

8-14 light walk

15-17 wise walk

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Circumspectly--Carefully, exactly, accurately ==being alert. Not turning to the right or left

Not as fools but wise. Proverbs: A fool is one who is not bound by the law of God. A fool does what he pleases—no fear of God

Professing to be wise (worldly wisdom) they became fools—not wanting to retain God in their knowledge

Fools are often opinionated and convinced their way is right. Even make a mock at sin. They despise godly wisdom.

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child. They need correction to drive it far from them, but they will need salvation to be wise. Jesus becomes our wisdom

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Purchase time, recover it from waste, because the times are evil. Have times changed?

17 Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians

Wisdom is understanding the will of the Lord. The will of the Lord is revealed in the word of the Lord. Understand the Lord's word and you'll understand the Lord's will.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Command (God's grace and Spirit uses commands in the New Testament—that is not legalism—legalism is imposing something that God never commanded—taking OT laws and binding them on the believer Paul condemns that)

Spirit baptism puts you in the body at salvation (one-time experience, never commanded to be baptized with the Spirit)

Spirit filling is an ongoing thing. Can be filled many times (Acts and 4).

Key is complete submission. Not us getting more of him as Him having more of us.

Healthy fear of God is fearing being disobedient. An unhealthy fear of God is fearing to be obedient. Satan's tool. God says get all of me you can; it is good for you. Win-win-win. Living Spirit filled lives is glorifies God, blesses others, and rewards us.

Sin is the destroyer. The Devil through the world tempts our flesh with lust and pride. But through faith we can overcome the world. We can resist temptation and when we do sin, we need to confess it and correct that behavior and sin less and less and less. We cannot be filled presumptuously and willfully holding on to sin.

Heb 12:1 ... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us

Day by day being conformed to the image of Jesus in the way we think, speak, and live.

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Means and result (Spirit filled mind)—All about the mind

Ephesians

The Spirit filled life is a life of praise and joy

More songs written about Jesus by far than anyone. Why? People sing when they're joyful and happy. Jesus gives us joy unspeakable and peace that passes understanding

20 Giving thanks always for all things to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Not a covetous, entitlement mind-set. Looking at the visible things someone else has, coveting it, being discontented, envious, murmur against God. Trying to take theirs

Looking at what we deserve (hell), assessing how much we have above that. Focusing on the spiritual blessings which are eternal not temporal. Never be taken away—reserved in heaven

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Submitting to God and each other. Love walk. Love esteems others better than ourselves. We submit to their position, to their authority if applicable, to their preferences and wishes even

First of all, in marriage there is mutual submission. Everybody has to submit to someone. God. Submission in the right way to the right people is a godly thing the world doesn't get.

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Get specific. Fornication not the right way to have sexual relations. He's about to tell us the right way.

That relationship is: Husband and wife (man and woman)

The wife is to submit to her own husband

Ephesians

The manner: as unto the Lord –there’s the high standard again. High calling.

See why he said be filled. It will take the fullness of God in a wife to do this. If a wife drifts away from God, one of the first things to go will be this submissive spirit. Submitting is not what the flesh desires.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

The model: The headship of Christ over the church

The wife is in God’s circle of blessing in her place submitting to her own husband

The example is the submission. Ontologically, man and woman are equal spiritually. God made man, male and female. Both represent the image of God in different ways. They have different roles.

Equal but different

Christ was under the Father’s headship (authority) but Jesus was still 100% God equal to the Father in nature and substance

24 Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

The magnitude: in everything—as the church is subject to Christ

No higher standard of submission than that. The church can’t pick and choose when and where to be obedient

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Husbands play Christ’s role to love. How to love? As Christ did the church

This is a sacrificial love—man’s headship is not tyrannical and domineering

Ephesians

Loving leadership, always leading in a way that blesses his beloved wife

No higher standard of love than that

Who has the more challenging task?

**26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or
wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

It is a sanctifying love—As Christ does the church, the husband is to lead his wife toward spiritual maturity and not lead her into sin

Husbands—saturate ourselves and our wives in the word continually—for spiritual washing and cleansing (we get dirty in the world)

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself.

Nourish and cherish her like you do your body

It is assumed we love ourselves—love her like yourself. We're one, if you love your wife, you're pursuing your own wagon down the road. Happy wife, happy life.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Back to this oneness of the body of Christ, and how we are one with him as husbands and wives are one (not physically as husband and wife)

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Marriage is a one flesh (one body) relationship from the beginning

Ephesians

The mystery revealed is Jews and Gentiles in one body (the church)
Is this an accident?

In the garden of Eden, God instituted this oneness relationship for companionship, to be fruitful, and to paint a picture of this eternal relationship of Christ and the church (being made one)

Marriage modeled after the church—not the other way around (even though marriage was instituted first)

Marriage is temporary—doesn't continue in heaven (quality of relational oneness among all God's children will so far surpass the marital oneness). We won't be trading down.

If you want to build a big religion? Promise lots of sex in heaven—give me two examples: Islam and Mormonism

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Summary for a good marriage: Husbands love, wives reverence

The enemy: selfishness (you can't submit or love with short-term personal gain in the forefront)

Husband: loving leadership like Jesus (that is what wives need to flourish)

Wife: respectful submission like the church (that is what husbands need flourish)

This is countercultural—Do things the world's way, get the world's results (take a look at the pain and dysfunction from giving God his walking papers)

Ephesians

CHAPTER 6

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Not many direct commands in scripture aimed at children

...in the Lord. If the commandments are in agreement with God's word

For this is right. 1. God has set it up this way...children need authority...

2 Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Exodus 20:12. The fifth of the 10 commandments written on stones

Has a specific promise of blessing with it

3 That it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.

In Deut 5:16. The whole commandment is, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Life will go well if you obey (more happy, useful, peaceful, contented)

Rebellious children have a tougher go of it—have you noticed that

Die young for many reasons (general principle of blessing)

4 And, you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The goal is to avoid unnecessarily angering your children—be reasonable (not arbitrary), Parent in their best interest, Don't let anger control your parenting.

Big danger in parenting—provoking them to wrath (anger is a relationship destroyer)

Ephesians

Husbands, show loving leadership. Fathers, show reasonable, temperate leadership. No abuse of authority.

Bring them up...so they know the Lord...that is the goal

Nurture and admonition—instruction, training and correction

Goal is that they obey, gain some self control, and come to trust Christ and live for him

Teach it, enforce it (discipline), and live it

I don't think parenting skills come that naturally. I think we should study up on it.

Some of these books are really good. Some aren't worth doodly squat.

Dr. Spock ruined a whole generation of kids. I never could understand why anyone would want to get their child training advice from a Vulcan.

Ephesians

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ;

Obey them in authority

Fear and trembling--reverential fear of a just God—not cowering of an unjust God
As to Christ—all the reverential fear if your master was Jesus

Singleness of heart—sincerity, undivided loyalty and dedication

6 Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

what you can get by with—while he’s watching, just to please the master

as to Christ—from the heart—the the best you can

Can apply this to employment—although not exactly the same as household servants

never lose your passion at work—give them all you have every day—as to Christ

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Payday is the judgment day—when Christ comes with his reward—if nobody sees it or appreciates it

9 And, you masters, do the same things to them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

God condemns cruelty to servants. God condemns kidnapping.

Ephesians

Masters shouldn't threaten and mistreat their servants (Govern, knowing they will give an account to their Master in heaven)

1Cor 7:20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Finally—Won't be easy. There is an enemy trying to defeat us

Be strong -- spiritually—in his power --through physical weakness

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Christian walk is not a picnic or playground—battlefield

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1Ti 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on you, that you by them might war a good warfare;

Not spectators or cheerleaders on the sidelines with pom poms—on the frontline

Satan is after us and our friends and children's minds—our thoughts—to deceive

We need to stand our ground against his wiles

The wiles of the devil are well-laid plans and strategies he uses to destroy souls. We are no match for him without Christ—lambs need the shepherd to protect them from the wolves. Stay close to the good shepherd.

Ephesians

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Our battle is not with flesh and blood--physical wrestling—half nelsons, grambe rolls, guiotines, escapes reversals pins, hold downs, submissions
It is against invisible forces in high places --the spiritual realm

*2Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

13 Wherefore take to you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The devil will feed you a lie. You'll roll it around in your mind. Then he'll lie in wait for the right opportunity. The truth will be blurred. There will be something you want more than pleasing God. In weakness, in the evil day, you'll yield. You weren't prepared.

In that "evil day", if you have on the armor, you can withstand. You can withstand all the devil throws at you

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

belt of truth—exposes the lies—truth helps you see it rightly "that looks like it would be good for me but it's not true. That offends God and will not make me happy. It will destroy me."

breastplate (coat of armor from neck to thighs—front and back) of righteousness

righteousness of character will protect you. Integrity and purity of life--protects us

Ephesians

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Like the ancient soldier, who protected his feet with sandals, we're to always be ready (prepared) to preach the gospel of peace

The gospel: The good news that Jesus died for our sins and rose bodily from the dead

When sinners believe this message—that Jesus died for them and rose from the dead—they are saved. We need be ready to tell sinners that message

Ro 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

A soldier needs a shield to quench flaming arrows—faith is our shield—this higher criticism that tears down faith in the Bible opens you up to Satan's deceptions

We have no idea how many destructive delusions we've been protected from by believing this book.

We need every word in it. Every word is pure and true and sure. Scripture makes us wise unto salvation and equips us to every good work (2tim 3:16)

It only does these things if we believe it.

Why did Israel fail God? *Heb 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians

And take the helmet. The helmet was a cap made of thick leather, or brass--to guard the head in battle

Of salvation. As a helmet defends the head, a vital part; so the hope of salvation will defend the soul. A soldier would not fight well without a hope of victory. We know we have the victory. Overcomers, More than conquerors

Offensive weapon: Sword of the spirit is the word of God—the Bible is Spirit-inspired (2 Tim 3:16) Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2Pet 1:21)

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God uses scripture to convict, warn, admonish, reprove, rebuke, exhort, beg, and invite sinners. And the same for believers but also comfort, instruction, doctrine, correction.—Scripture is sufficient (2Tim 3:16) that we may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works --- the Bible completely equips us to go to war

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Prayer is an essential part of the armor—prayer shows our dependence on God. The more we understand our need for God, the more we pray. Prayerlessness is a display of self sufficiency

This battle is the Lord's. We must be strong in His power. We must strive according to his working.

It is not a passive “let go, and let God” . It is God working through our work, diligence, striving

Php 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becomes the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Ephesians

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which works in me mightily.

Heb 12:4 You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

We press toward the mark

We are running a race

We are fighting a war

It requires God empowered effort--work and self discipline in the Lord

Prayer itself I work

Barnes notes:

And supplication for all saints, for all Christians. We should do this

(1.) because they are our brethren--though they may have a different skin, language, or name.

(2.) Because, like us, they have hearts prone to evil, and need, with us, the grace of God.

(3.) Because nothing tends so much to make us love others, and to forget their faults, as to pray for them.

(4.) Because the condition of the church is always such that it greatly needs the grace of God. Many Christians have backslidden; many are cold or lukewarm; many are in error; many are conformed to the world; and we should pray that they may become more holy, and may devote themselves more to God.

(5.) Because each day many a Christian is subjected to some peculiar temptation or trial, and though he may be unknown to us, yet our prayers may benefit him.

(6.) Because each day and each night many Christians die. We may reflect each night as we lie down to rest, that while we sleep some Christians are kept awake by the prospect of death, and are now passing through the dark valley; and each morning we may reflect that *today* some Christian will die, and we should remember them before God.

Ephesians

(7.) Because we shall soon die, and it will be a comfort to us if we can remember then that we have often prayed for dying saints, and if we may feel that they are praying for us.

**19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

An evidence of Spirit fullness is boldness to witness for Jesus Christ (Acts 4)

**21 But that you also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:
22 Whom I have sent to you for the same purpose, that you might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.**

Tychicus was of the province of Asia, in Asia Minor, of which Ephesus was the capital. See [Acts 20:4](#). He also carried the letter to the Colossians, [Colossians 4:7](#), and probably the second epistle to Timothy, [2 Timothy 4:12](#). The Greeks speak of him as being one of the seventy disciples.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Salutation similar to other epistles and the beginning salutation in this epistle

24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

In sincerity. Without corruption. Without hypocrisy ; With a pure heart.

Paul closes 1Corinthians with a similar blessing but also with a curse.

1Co 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha. Accursed until Jesus come.

1Jo 5:12 He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.