

(Note: The following e-mail study-commentary by C J McKnight on the New Testament Book of **Ephesians** covers the time it was begun on December 22, 2010 to April 5, 2011.)

## EPHESIANS 1

A timeless salutation, in as much as it was sent to the faithful in Christ Jesus as well as the local church in Ephesus. Eph. 1:1 Sent by the Apostle Paul who was called and established in the office, in the perfect will of the Lord. What assurance the person has who knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are in the perfect will of the Lord. His perfect knowledge was expressed in his statement made in Galatians 1:1, with these words; "Paul an Apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead:) It would appear that there were some who were claiming to be Apostles who were not. This church in particular, as one of the seven mentioned by the Lord Jesus as examples of the last day church, was to face an attack of false Apostles but they would discern them to be just that and reject them and their message. Rev. 2:2

As usual his salutation was with a prayer for the grace and peace of God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:2 At least five times in his writings Paul addressed his greetings using the same terminology. It is note worthy that we recognize the fact that he is acknowledging the Father and the Son as entities who are to be recognized as individuals, separate and diverse one from the other. However at the same time the glorious eternal unity which exists between them makes both to be God. The scriptures prove there to be a harmonious relationship the likes of which man, even teachers of the Word do not fully understand. There is much more to be revealed about God in the ages to come.

When we are the recipients of the blessings of the Lord how can we not be exceedingly grateful for His manifold blessings. Who can number the manifold blessings that the Father has bestowed upon those who come to the Lord Jesus. Paul frequently will enumerate and emphasize a specific blessing that has been bestowed upon those who believe on Him. Here it is that He has "who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly place in Christ." Eph. 1:3 The first thing that we note is that these blessings are positive and secure, for it is something which He has already

accomplished, hath, passed tense. Prepared and awaiting our taking of that which He has made ready for us. The Lord is never miserly in the magnitude of His blessing. For this promise includes "all spiritual blessings," every blessing possible and of the permanent kind. Blessing of heaven while still here on earth which are found in heavenly places and are only to be found in Christ. There is no end to the blessings which He wants to bestow upon those who will seek Him. We are indeed a blest people.

## EPHESIANS 2

Chosen in Him. Eph. 1: 4 The Father gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should be saved. Thereby the whole world was included in the death burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. John 3:16 Not one born into this world is excluded from salvation, providing they act on the offer of salvation purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus. "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 It is the Lords will that "all mankind be saved, and come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim. 2:4 Salvation is found only in Him, that is in Christ. Therefore we must be IN HIM in order to be His chosen. Not all Will acknowledge their need of salvation through Christ. So, not all will belong to those chosen IN HIM.

To have been chosen before the foundation of the world does not mean that some were selected to the rejection of others but it does mean that the Lord in His foreknowledge saw the end from before the beginning and knew who and how many would desire to be among the chosen. These, then became the elect of the Lord. They are the chosen of the Lord because they chose to be among those who believed and therefore repented of their sin. This choice placed them on the pathway of the Lord, through their repentance and their obedience to the will of the Spirit, they were sanctified by the washing of the blood of Christ. 1 Peter 1:2 Now they are the chosen, the elect, the children of God, through their obedience to the will of the Father.

The chosen people are a group who are separated unto the Lord. When the nation of Israel were the chosen of the Lord He established certain criteria of righteousness whereby they were to live. Rather than joining with the heathen nations they were to destroy their form of worship, were not to

mingle themselves together with them and to destroy them because of their wickedness. Deut. 7:1-5 The chosen of the Lord were to be a holy people. His requirements from that time to this have not changed. If any change has come it is a greater demand for purity and righteousness. They are to be a special people unto the Lord. A nation greatly loved by Him. Those who had been delivered from Egypt (a type of this world). The Lord who makes eternal covenant with His people expressed His love for them in His act of redemption. He is now looking for a reciprocation of love from them for all that He is and has done for them. There must be a deep appreciation and response of love manifest among those who are His chosen, His redeemed. Deut. 7:6-9 May we never lose sight of the fact that we are what we are by the mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus. None of us could meet the demands placed on His chosen were it not for the fact that He supplies us with the ability to live for Him.

### EPHESIANS 3

Predestined, predetermined, preordained but all according to foreknowledge of the Lord. Not something which would be forced on mankind. Rom. 8:29-30 There are some characteristics of the Lord God that make Him to be precisely what He is. His foreknowledge is one of these amazing and most astonishing aspects of His being which is not easily understandable by man for we have no ability along these lines. At sometime in eternity past, before the foundation of the earth, the life of every individual who would ever be born into this world was reviewed. Among them it was noted that there were certain individuals who would respond to the Word of the Lord and be saved. As in all of His creation the Lord saw that it was good and therefore determined the order of life for the believer and the unbeliever.

There is a Divine arrangement to all of His creation that beggars description. It reveals that there is a great being of ultimate and profound intellect that brought all of the universe and its contents into existence. The intelligence of mankind has taken us from the age of walking, to the space age because someone invented a wheel, a motor, wings and a way to fly through the sky up into space. To do this, someone had to get the idea that such a thing could be done. Follow though on it and fulfill their dream.

Nothing along the way just happened. It all came about by design. So the Son of God, the Lord Jesus, is declared to be the creator of all things. Heavenly and earthly, visible and invisible, even the political forces that rule our earth today are the result of His thoughts and ability to take and bring all things into existence from nothing. Col. 1:16 Not only is He the creator but He is the power that maintains all in their proper working order. Col. 1:17

To be among the predestined, the elect of God, there are standards which must be met. They are a people who are redeemed by the blood of Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of the Lord. They also possess a deep appreciation and love for the Lord and are therefore obedient to His Word. 1 Peter 1:2 This relationship causes them to know the high calling that is upon them for as the elect, they are to be conformed to the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:29 What higher calling could there be than to be privileged to fully possess the life of Christ until they bear His image and likeness in all things. They are to be a holy people without blame before Him. They are the recipients of the love of the Lord and therefore they are filled with all the force and power of His love. Eph. 1:4

#### EPHESIANS 4

The heavenly goal of the predestination of the people of the Lord is to the adoption of children. While these are termed sons and daughters of the Lord they do not obtain that status through the new birth alone but when born of the Spirit, they are then accounted as being adopted. The Old Testament saints, those under the law were counted as adopted also. But, under the order of the New Testament they are restored by way of the new birth and the adoption of sons. The assurance of acceptance is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Gal. 4:5-6 What tremendous love the Father has given to those who come to Him. Now they are called the sons of God.

Because He has filled them with His love they have learned what real love is and love Him with their whole hearts. 1 John 3:1 Those who believe in Him and are willing to receive Him he will elevate to be the children of God. Because they are gathered together and made to be one in Christ this

prophecy reaches down to the end of the age. John 11:52 We note in particular that this spiritual transaction is by Jesus Christ (or In Him), we become the children of the heavenly Father. Eph. 1:5

The adopted, the chosen, the elect all consummate in what the scriptures call the "Sons of God." Those who receive the Lord Jesus as savior and redeemer are entitled and privileged to be called the "Sons of God." John 1:12 To be entitled a Son of God is a manifestation of the tremendous love that the Father has for those who love Him. 1 John. 3:1 We are well aware that this terminology has been misused by certain groups making claims of a Spirituality which they did not possess. However that does not alter the truth of the Word as it is recorded. The Christ like nature and bearing of those who are the Sons of God sets them apart, making them identifiable from the unrighteous in a time of great wickedness. Phil. 2:15 When we can identify the leading of the Spirit in our life it becomes a witness to us that we are the Sons of God. Rom. 8:14

While we are in Christ and enjoy all the heavenly blessings that He reveals in our life and are still here on earth, there is within the heart of every Son of God a satisfied, dissatisfaction. We Rejoice in Christ but find that there is still a great hunger, a deep longing for much more than what we are seeing expressed in the church today. There is that day wherein the fullness of Christ will be manifest in His people and the longing of the Sons of God will be met. Rom 8:19 While now we are His Sons when He shall come we will have reached full maturity and be what He is, one with Him. 1 John 3:2

## EPHESIANS 5

It is well that we thoroughly understand that, whatever we are or receive from Christ or through Him is not because of who we are or what we are but it is all through Him. Consider that we are among the adopted and receive that title with all of its privileges "by Jesus Christ." Eph. 1:5 And that is "according to the pleasure of His good will." Our nationality by birth, our status in a community, our human attainments have absolutely no bearing in our acceptance among His beloved. It is accomplished solely by the "good pleasure of His will." The beauty of His dealings with mankind is that He is very willing, dare I say anxious, to make known the hidden things of Christ, the mysteries of His person and His holy, eternal will to those who

are desirous of knowing Him in His fullness. This too is according to His good will toward those whom He acknowledges as His adopted. There are no secrets or hidden things about Himself that He will not eventually reveal fully unto His very own. Eph. 1:9

The revelation of His person and His will was made know to the Apostle and through Him to the church. As we approach what he called “the dispensation of the fullness of times,” we will find that the Lord will reveal more and more just how each phase of the end time will be fulfilled. The outline of that time is given to us basically in the book of Revelation. We desperately need the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to rightly divide the Word of truth as it is recorded in that precious book. It is the only book of the Bible which contains such a precious promise. “Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written there in: for the time is at hand.” Rev. 1:3 The time of ignorance is past. We are moving into the age of the Revelation and unless we hear and embrace the truth we will miss the good pleasure and will of the Lord for our lives. The book is not sealed, it is an open Revelation “for the time is at hand.” Rev. 22:10

We are quickly approaching harvest time. The work of the Lord will reach its earthly climax. The adopted, the elect, the chosen will know a unity never before accomplished by the church. In the Word of the Lord we find that there are works of the flesh which often precede the works of the Spirit. There is the beginning of a unity among the various denominations of the church but it is basically man made. This must come first, then from that movement which has the marks of the flesh, there will come a real moving of the Spirit of the Lord resulting in a last day church of such might and power that the world will marvel at the demonstration of His Spirit manifest in her. It shall come to pass in the last days. Isa. 2:2, Mic. 4:1, Acts 2:17

## EPHESIANS 6

“IN WHOM,” a key not only to the blessings revealed in the book of Ephesians but vital to the whole plan of the Lord. From the very beginning of the new birth unto the consummation of the plan of the Lord, all is accomplished in Him and through Him. If Christ is not the heart and soul of all the planning that we do for life here on earth, then all is in vain. The Lord

Jesus Christ is all and in all, or plans will not accomplish anything at all. In Him, the foremost is redemption by blood, His blood shed on Calvary, is the foundation of a new life which may only be found in Him.. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for our sin. Heb. 9:22 Except we be released from sin by the blood of Christ we cannot be among the adopted who are acknowledged to be Sons of God.

As the Son of man he came in the likeness of sinful flesh. Rom. 8:3 What a hideous thing that must have been for the eternal One who was the Word to take to Himself the nature and character of fallen man. As God, in His eternal position, He was absolute purity and holiness. Sin could not nor would it ever be found in Him. In order to redeem us He had to become one with us. Therefore the Father had to send His son into this world in the likeness of sinful flesh. Rom. 8:3 Christ suffered the penalty of sin in taking our place on the tree. In doing so, He took upon Himself the sin of the whole world. The sin of every person who ever lived or will live on this earth. 1 Peter 4:1-2 We are urged to have the same mind as that of Christ, for in so doing those who have suffered in the flesh have “ceased from sin.” Therefore the rest of our lifetime here on earth we are to be loosed from “the lusts of men.” Or living in sin, but the life we now live is to be according to the will of God, a life of righteousness. Jesus was made to be sin for us that we, being in Him, might be made after His likeness in righteousness. Note please, this is accomplished when we are “In Him.” 2 Cor. 5:21

Jesus did not commit sin but in order to redeem us, for a moment of time, He became the sin of the world. To lay aside all that He was and possessed in heaven was a tremendous step down. Then to shoulder the responsibility of all of sin, for all of time. must have been one hideous moment for Him. As the corruption and wickedness of all of mankind was poured out on Him he was in a position that was diametrically the opposite to that which He had held for the eternity past. The physical suffering, which so many emphasize was minimal when we see Him as He was before taking the roll of the Son of man and then to have to be the sin bearer of the filth and immorality of all of mankind. When, if ever, will we comprehend the tremendous price He paid. How can we ever repay Him.

## EPHESIANS 7

Redemption by His blood brings to all the manifestation of the glory which is to be found in His majestic grace. A pardon from sins past and a deliverance from the temptation of current sins. Those who are washed are to put away or cease to do evil. Isa. 1:16 Surely the Lord would not make such a statement if He did not expect His chosen to do just that. Leave it to Paul to show us the way of fulfilling the will of the Lord. To abhor, to hate evil with a passion is a sure manner of living the life of Christ while still in this world. Rom. 12:12 Rather than being tripped up by every temptation learn to cleave to that which is good, hang on desperately to that which we know pleases the Lord.

We rejoice and exalt Him because of the glory of His grace. The beauty of His grace is bestowed upon us without measure and we exemplify Him by living His life here and now. As with all things that He has prepared for those who love Him the abundance of that which He prepares far exceeds the anticipation of our hearts. The forgiveness that He so quickly and wonderfully demonstrates toward the recipients of His love and grace, receive a grace that is beyond measure. Riches which are far more precious than the gold and wealth of this world. Eph. 1:7 His abundant grace which He has lavished (NIV) on us, with the abundance of His wisdom and understanding. Eph. 1:8 He knows us far better than we know ourselves and consequently deals with us accordingly.

God is a mystery. Everything about Him is on such a much higher plain than what we live on that it is difficult for the natural man to comprehend such an awesome, majestic being. Nevertheless, by His grace He is constantly trying to reveal Himself to human kind. Even some in the church have a very minimal understanding of His glorious character. Through a series of personal encounters with Him, He makes Himself known as the source of all grace and love. Also He uses His Word to acquaint us with His divine nature. His will is that we know Him in His completeness as well as He understands us. His will is that He might be able to reveal Himself fully to those who are in Christ. He would hold back nothing from a people who live and walk in the Spirit. The working of the Holy Spirit in the church is that He who knows the hidden, deep things, that make God to be God might be able to bring us to that place where we are "in Him," to such a



degree that we are constantly being changed more and more into His image and likeness, by the leading of the Spirit of the Lord. 1 Cor. 2:9-11

## EPHESIANS 8

The importance of that which the Lord will accomplish in the end of the age cannot be over emphasized. The word dispensation in the Greek language is a stewardship, relating to the work given in the guidance of a household, or in this case the last day church. Eph. 1:10 This should call to our attention that the Lord does not work in a haphazard manner but in a well planned style, as is His custom, He has determined to conclude the ages in a glorious fashion. Gathering the redeemed in heaven and on earth into one great and wondrous family, "in Christ." As with all of the plans that the Lord has made, and fulfilled, and for those yet to come, He works methodically. Acting according to a time schedule which He has predetermined and exposed or revealed in the written Word.. By way of example, Jesus came into the world at the precise time that the Lord had arranged for His appearing. Gal. 4:4 The ultimate gathering together of a perfect church in the fullness of the time of His schedule will take place at the specific time that He has appointed, not before, nor will He be late in activating the last day events.

"In Christ," there has been prepared an inheritance that is positively the greatest ever. Eph. 1:11 Perhaps to the disappointment of some it is not composed of the riches of this world or of this life, but of a new life to come, with a new heavens and a new earth. This inheritance involves those elements which make the Lord to be Lord of all. In the contents of this inheritance there is involved the privilege of suffering with Christ so that we may be glorified with the exact same glory which is dwelling in Him. Rom. 8:17 To partake in this inheritance there definitely are some requirements. It is an inheritance which will be given the participants who are sanctified. Acts 20:32 Apostate church members will find themselves excluded from the inheritance that the Lord has prepared for those who love Him. It is reserved for those who serve the Lord with their whole heart. Col. 3:23-25 Added to that, the inheritance is for those who are rich in faith and a people who love the Lord with all of their hearts. James 2:5

Those who are heirs are predestinated to do His will and to fulfill His divine purpose. It is not difficult to identify them for they are a people who have been chosen and called to do His will. To be like Him, take for instance His command where He stated "be ye holy for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16 Whether under the Law or under grace it does not matter, the prerequisite of the Lord remains the same. The beauty of this is that under grace it is easier to achieve the desires of the Lord to live in holiness and righteousness because we are washed by the Word and led by the Spirit. A new life, "in Christ."

## EPHESIANS 9

"In whom," that is in Christ. In having received Him as savior and Lord of our lives, we "HAVE received" an inheritance. In other words, present tense, we are now in possession of at least a portion of our inheritance. To have Christ in our lives is a segment of our inheritance for all that He is, He wants to reveal to us, and to activate the same Spirit in our lives which was manifest in Him. Eph. 1:11 Too often we live as paupers when all the riches of Christ Jesus have been made available to us. In receiving the gift of the Spirit, that is being baptized in the Spirit we receive the earnest of our inheritance. Eph. 1:14 In receiving the Spirit, we receive the sign and seal of adoption into Christ. He comes bringing a deep rooted assurance that we are indeed adopted into the family of the Lord and have the right and privilege of being called the children of God. Oh, blessed assurance. Rom. 8:15-16 Those who are indeed sons will possess and manifest the Spirit of His Son and will have that certain knowledge that they may call Him Father, in deed and in truth. Gal. 4:6

While there is an inheritance for the here and now, there is also that which will be made known in eternity. It is everlasting and will never cease to exist. 1 Peter 1:4 It is pure and cannot be corrupted by man nor Satan. Now, it is that portion which is held as a reserve in His glorious kingdom. There always has been a mixture in the multitude, be it the children of Israel leaving Egypt or the church of today. Because of their sinful actions and unbelief it is impossible for them to possess any of this holy inheritance. The immoral, the unclean, the covetous will never, by any means, inherit any of the glories of the kingdom of God. Eph. 5:5 The

standards of the Lord do not change from generation to generation. Sin will mean utter loss of this eternal inheritance which is found in Christ.

Of equal importance is the truth that He too will receive an inheritance out of all this. Those who will be co-inheritors with Him are in return, His inheritance. From all appearances we are by far getting the best of the deal. Nevertheless, those who become His inheritance are proof of the veracity of the plan of salvation of which He is the central character. Amazingly, the redeemed are the riches of the glory of His inheritance which is made known among the saints. Eph. 1:18 The thought presented here by the Apostle helps us realize that mankind is of tremendous value to Him. Were it not so He would never have permitted Himself to be crucified and His life's blood to be shed. We are of unfathomable value to Him. Out of the redeemed in the end of the age He will find that which is of uttermost value to Him, a wife totally surrendered and consecrated to Him. His inheritance.

## EPHESIANS 10

Periodically there are statements made in the Word of the Lord which are measureless and boundless in their scope. Eph. 1:19 is one of them. For instance what limitations may we place on "exceeding greatness." Greatness, in itself speaks of something that is immeasurable. Then to produce a force that surpasses greatness and that is to a boundless degree. There can only be one source of such supernatural power and that is to be found in the Lord. The thrilling part of all that, is that, if we can see the purpose of the Lord in such a mighty display of power then we can recognize that it is directed toward His church, those who believe His Word.. Naturally, if we do not believe it, then most certainly we will not receive it, for that mighty force is directed toward the believer. It is a creative, motivating, life giving power. It is not dormant but produces activity and manifestations of the Spirit when it is present. There is no limit to what we can be when His power is present and alive in us.

That mighty force was demonstrated in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Eph. 1:20 If there was a warfare over the body of Moses. Jude 9. How much greater was the conflict when Christ was raised from the dead. The roiling back of the stone from the entrance of His tomb caused what is

termed to be a great earthquake. To show the dominance of the Lord, the angel of the Lord (the Lord Jesus), sat on it as a display of victory. Mt. 28:2

This power that exceeds greatness should be the normal experience of every member of the body of Christ. The very fact that He has brought us out of spiritual death into the new life that is found in Christ assures us of a future resurrection of the body. However, even now, we are tightly associated with the resurrection of Christ for the Apostle wrote that we have been raised together with Him. Currently we are seated together with Him and may enjoy the blessings and power of heavenly places. What has been purchased and promised to us is exceedingly beyond what we are practicing and living today. The key to the fullness of the life of Christ is "together." He wants His people to know that we are not walking alone but He is leading us and is ready to let us know that we share and share alike when we are "in Christ." Eph. 2:5-6 The negative factor here is that we do not believe therefore we do not receive. An apostate church, to maintain a spiritual appearance, will substitute man organized means and methods trying to maintain an appearance of having the life of Christ. A living church in constant contact with Him will demonstrate the real power and glory of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:4 According to His promises the manifestation of the exceeding great power and glory of the Lord should be demonstrated constantly, when we are together with Him.

## EPHESIANS 11

On display. Eph. 2:5 A subject that is frequently overlooked or little mentioned is what the Lord will do with His Bride in the ages to come. All that He works or touches He beautifies, that is most definitely true of His most beautiful Bride. The pride and rejoicing of His heart throughout the ages of eternity. Ezra found great cause for which he could rejoice because the king of the Persians, King Artaxerxes was moved upon by the Lord to allow certain of the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem for the purpose of re-establishing and beautifying the house of the Lord there. Ezra 7:27 The whole of this portion of the history of Israel is a type of what the Lord will do in the end of the ages in His house, i.e. the perfect church or the Bride of Christ.

Psalms one hundred forty nine is a clear word picture of the end of the age. The three main elements of the last days are recorded there. It tells of revival in the church, the perfected church and the judgments to come upon the antichrist and those who follow him. The Psalm opens with a view of a rejoicing, victorious people of the Lord. They sing a new song, a song declaring the glory and power of His mighty name, of rejoicing and praises unto Him. They worship the Lord in the dance. They are found to be joyful in their King. There is but one King worthy of such adoration and that is the King of kings, the Lord Jesus. Psalms 149:1-3

The next verse is what attracted me to this portion of scripture. The pleasure of the Lord is in His people. He delights in those who walk in the holiness of His Word. Prov. 11:20 Then a most marvelous statement is made. "He will beautify the meek with salvation. Ps. 149:4 Anything that man touches he soon corrupts. The Lord touches that which is corrupted and ugly and it is suddenly transformed into a beautiful work of salvation. That which He beautifies, He also purifies. There is found to be a group of Christians who come out of the great tribulation and they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:14 Consequently, their robes have been made to be of the purest of white. The word white (leukaino) is derived from the root word white or (leukos, from luke, or light.) The garments of the redeemed of the last days will be like that of the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. On the mount the face of the Lord Jesus shined as the sun and His raiment was as white as the light. Mt. 17:2 Thus, that perfect church, the church of the transformation will be on display, with Him, on His throne, throughout the ages of eternity. Glorified and beautified by the majestic presence of the fullness of the Lord. The riches of His grace. Eph. 2:7

## EPHESIANS 12

The first Adam and his Eve were created in the image and likeness of the Lord. Gen. 1:26 The last Adam came into the world bearing the image of His Father. That is why Jesus could say that if any man had seen Him, he had seen the Father. John 14:9 He was not the Father but was in the express image of His Father. Not only were the features of His face that of the Father but the bearing of His grace was that of the Father. Heb. 1:3

Jesus was the effulgence, the shining forth of that glory, the exclusive light that may be found only in Him and which is eternally resident in the Lord.

The redeemed, in particular the last day church, which will become the Bride of Christ is destined to bear the same image and likeness. As we have borne the image of the earthy, i.e. create in His likeness, so also, we are created anew and we will bear the image of that which is heavenly. 1 Cor. 15:49 The transformed, translated church will blaze with the same glory of the living God which is manifest in the Lord Jesus. Where there is no vision the people perish. The Apostolic vision was that of a people who advanced in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus until they reached the same spiritual depths and heights. They enter into the glory of the Lord and progress, grow in spiritual stature, in a greater and ever deeper power and glory of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18 Adam and Eve having been created in the image and likeness of God had to have been a most striking, handsome, beautiful good looking couple.

The last Adam and His bride will be the most beautiful couple ever to have been on this earth. David had a strong desire to dwell in the house of the Lord and to behold the beauty of the Lord forever. Ps. 27:4 While the tabernacle and the temple of the Lord were works of art and as such were buildings of beauty, that was not what he was seeking after. He wanted, as do we, to behold and dwell in the same glory that was manifest when these buildings were dedicated. His desires were Spiritual and not physical. To see the glory of the Lord is to look upon the most majestic, magnificent sight that there is to behold. Asaph declared that Zion was the perfection of beauty. Ps. 50:2 The Sion of the New Testament is the church. The Lord is not yet finished with His church. He will yet fill her with the light of His glory. We are yet to see a people in whom the light of His glory shines most brightly. Leading them to the fullness of understanding, that the light of the glory of God is that which is seen in the face of the Lord Jesus. When we fully understand we will be like Him, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. One with Him in every aspect of the word. One, in complete unison, as only the love of the Lord can create.

## EPHESIANS 13

The last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ was made to be a quickening spirit. Jesus was filled with the Spirit, without measure and consequently is the source of eternal life for all who come to Him. 1 Cor 15:45 All Spiritual life and blessings which were lost in the sin of the first Adam were restored in Christ. The character, the glory of the Lord that covered Adam and Eve they forfeited in their disobedience. The Lord Jesus, who is the Sun of righteousness, the very effulgence of the glory of God, restored that exceeding great Sun like glory to mankind in His total commitment to His Father. In order for those in that day and for we who live in the end of the age to understand that the Sun like glory of the Lord was resident in Him, on the mount of transfiguration that glory of the Sun (1 Cor.15:41) was revealed to the disciples who were with Him. While many do not recognize it, the glory of the Father which was manifest in Jesus at that moment of time was the very essence of His Father. For He, Himself is stated to be a sun and shield.

The scriptures are sufficiently convincing, if we will receive them, that the essence of the Lord is a light or glory which shines brighter than the noonday sun. Acts 26:13 Couple all this with the fact that God is light. 1 John 1:5 We then find ourselves dealing with a light, the brilliancy of is greater than our sun. That is the what the glory of the Lord is like. Just think, we will dwell and bask in that light throughout the eternity that is yet to come. Jesus, who rightfully proclaimed Himself to be the light of the world John 8:12 will introduce all who will come to Him to that great everlasting light. The last words of King David were concerning Him when he said; that "he would be as the light of the morning when the sun riseth." 2 Sam. 22:4 The throne of the Lord Jesus is a throne scintillating with that glorious light which outshines the sun. Mt. 19:28 Jesus will also return in that extremely great glory of the Lord. Mt. 16:27 Among other things His eternal thrones will ever blaze forth with that God like light. Mt. 25:31

His Bride, who must be everything that He is and possess all of His nature and character. She must find for herself this identical glory which is so prevalent in Him to be the sealing factor of their marriage. Lets go back to the statement of Paul where He stated that the redeemed will all shine with the glory of the Lord, some as brilliantly as the sun, others with a moon like

glow while there will yet be a class who shine as the stars with a great variety of the glory of the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:41 All this, to focus our attention on the one of whom it is prophesied that she will be endued with the total glory of all three, the sun, the moon and the stars. Which are typical of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all beings of light. The identical glory that was present in the Lord Jesus will be seen in her, only in her it becomes her wedding gown. Her heart is filled with anticipation as she looks for the dawning of that glorious wedding day. She is expecting her Bridegroom who is as the morning light. 2 Sam. 23:4 She has the beauty of the moon and is as clear, as clean and as pure as the sun and as majestic as the stars. (NIV) How interesting. Song 6:10

#### EPHESIANS 14

How utterly shocking and completely unscriptural. The woman and child of Revelation twelve are not, nor could they be Jesus and Mary. To explain the woman and the child of Revelation twelve in such a manner is in complete disregard of the truth. The book of Revelation was written as a prophecy. It was delivered to John on the isle of Patmos some 90 years after the death of Christ. It does not refer to the past but is a word picture of events which would occur from that day forward. To proclaim them to be Jesus and Mary is but to perpetuate the lying doctrine of the Roman church pertaining to the authority of Mary. She cannot mediate between God and man. There is but one mediator and that is the Lord Jesus.. 1 Tim. 2:5

The time element of the book of Revelation is always for the now, at hand and about to happen, or that which in the future will take place. "must shortly come to pass." Rev. 1:1 "The time is at hand." Rev. 1:3 "Things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." Rev. 1:19 "Things which must be hereafter." Rev. 4:1 "the time is at hand." Rev. 22:10 From its contents we also know that it is the book outlining the end of the age and those events which lead up to the second coming of the Lord Jesus, The Millennial age and the ultimate goal of the new heavens and the new earth.

When comparing the two women the births of their children are quite a contrast. Mary gave birth in a stable, quietly and peaceably, basically



unnoticed until the shepherds arrived. The woman of Rev. 12 appears as a great and marvelous sign, well heralded and obviously an observation is made of her presence and condition by as many as would behold this marvelous event. Her clothing is beyond spectacular and beautiful beyond description. Her feet are solidly founded on the moon, which is to turn into blood before the great and notable day of the Lord shall come. Joel 2:31 The precious blood of Christ is our foundation. The crown of glory which she wears is the leadership of the last day church filled with all the splendor of the stars and shining brightly with the power of the Holy Spirit. Rev. 12:1

Mary gave birth physically to a man who as a man was condemned to die once for all. He is the beginning of new life. The woman of Revelation 12 will give birth to that which is Spiritual, eternal and will never die. This male child is born into a situation that is the product of two beings, Christ and His church. He is the restoration of that life which was lost by the sin of Eve and Adam. He is the supreme purpose of the whole plan of salvation.

## EPHESIANS 15

The mind of the Lord is expressed through His Word. He inspired men to write it to be a book of knowledge, mainly of those things which are Spiritual. We come to know Him, through the book. We understand Him through the book as He enlightens our Spiritual eyes. Eph. 1:18 The prophet Isaiah spoke of a day, a day of revival and explanation of the Word, when the deaf would hear the Word of the Lord and the blind would see out of obscurity and darkness, the Word said they shall both see and hear.. The situation could hardly be more desperate than this of the deaf and blind. Isa. 1:18 More than any other means, a God given, inspired comprehension of the Word will bring us into a proper relationship with Him. It is through the Word that we understand the hope that is found in the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The best, the most positive way to know and follow the will of the Lord for our lives is by the "more sure word of prophecy." 2 Peter 1:19 When we act according to the Word we walk in the light, and the truth of His word is manifest in our hearts and the day star, the Lord Jesus will guide our steps. All the ways used by men are not totally reliable, but His Word is forever settled in heaven. Ps. 119:89 Following His Word is a good, solid and assuring way of knowing His will and fulfilling it.

An inheritance transferred by both parties. That He is to receive an inheritance is recorded. The Lord Jesus will receive of His people the very least, that which would appear to be by far the poorest. However, in contrasting that which He inherited, He evaluated as the very best. His people are the lot of His inheritance. Deut. 32:9 He placed such a high value on them that He was willing to go through all the suffering and death just to purchase them. Acts 20:28 It speaks to us of the extremely high price He placed on those who would believe on Him. There is no question whatsoever as to which party will receive the greater value in their inheritance. The redeemed gain everything. We are saved. We are gifted with the gifts and fruit of the Spirit. The shining forth of His eternal glory is ours. Eternity in His beautiful presence is assured. Where could there be a greater or better inheritance than that which we receive in the Lord Jesus, the riches of His glory. Eph. 1:18 The Apostle makes the riches of His glory a theme in the book of Ephesians. First of all it is the riches of His grace. Mind you, these are eternal riches. Eph. 1:7 They are riches which cannot be altered, corrupted or stolen but are eternal and everlasting. Mat. 6:20 They are the true riches and when compared to all wealth, still remain riches that are unsearchable and may not be found anywhere else but in the Lord. Eph. 3:8 Inasmuch as the testator has died we may partake of these glorious riches now and find great strength for the inner man. Eph. 3:16 His riches are unsearchable, or past finding out. Eph. 3:8

## EPHESIANS 16

A mighty manifestation of the power of the Lord has been directed toward and made available to the church. It is expressed as exceeding (to throw beyond the usual mark, to surpass. Strong.) (greatness, or magnitude. Strong.) In other words immeasurable. All of which is directed, for use by the believer. I sit in awe as I try to comprehend the “exceeding greatness of the power (dunamis or dynamite) made available to us from the Lord. There can be no greater force displayed in the whole of the universe, or in the ages past, or of all of time to come, until the resurrection of the righteous. He is speaking of the ultimate power available from but one source and that is the Lord. It is miraculous power or the ability to work miracles. This power Was exhibited in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus

and will be demonstrated again in the resurrection of the righteous in the end of the age. Eph. 1:20

There are two noteworthy elements presented to us in verse 20. The first being the measure of the power displayed. In an age where mankind has produced the most powerful explosive ever, we get a glimpse of what extremely explosive powers there are in the universe. However, the forces of storms, earthquakes, floods, volcanoes and other displays of power exceed in their destruction and force. The power of the Lord is far greater than all of these combined. As He is the source of love and light, He is also the one who activates His power. He is the fountain head of energy (the quickening of His mighty power). The second thought is the tremendous force that was manifest at the time of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The fullness of that power was "wrought (energeo, energy) in the raising of the Lord Jesus from the dead. If there was a dispute over the body of Moses, how much greater was the battle at the time of the resurrection of Christ. (Jude 9)

The Lord Jesus being the first fruits of the resurrection Satan would struggle mightily to retain Him in the tomb and consequently defeat the purpose of Calvary. His resurrection brought assurance to all who would follow Him that they too would arise in the first resurrection. Not only was Jesus raised from the dead but He was immediately exalted to the throne and established at the right hand of the Father. There are privileges available to the church today, which are to be found in Christ Jesus, that the church is not taking the opportunity to exercise. "We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Eph. 1:3 "We are seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:8 May the Lord in His great mercy open our eyes to the tremendous power now available in Him.

## EPHESIANS 17

"Think on these things." Phil. 4:8 A list given that should govern our daily, even momentary thinking. A thought pattern that is Godly and righteous. Thinking along the lines suggested by the Apostle will create a good atmosphere in the heart, thus having a good effect on ourselves and others. Also think of the tremendous position now occupied by the Lord

Jesus and the close relationship that the church should have with Him. She is to be seated with Him. He has been given a place where He is "far above all principality." There is no other ruler or person in authority, in earth or heaven, time or eternity who is even close to Him. That makes Him to be the supreme force. All, but all, were created by Him and for Him. It is impossible that the created could become greater than the Creator. Col. 1:16 There is no one or thing mightier than He. No office of rule that may be compared to His. Then the Apostle makes reference to the majesty of that beautiful name that has been bestowed upon Him. There is no name nor will there ever be as tender and yet as all powerful as His name. Eph. 1:21 His name, Lord Jesus Christ was given Him by very God. Phil. 2:9 The Father God delights in that name and would have all speak that name in praise, prayer and song for it glorifies the Father when we do. Phil. 2:11 He is spoken of as being triumphant over all forces that would align themselves against Him, for they are under HIS feet. Eph. 1:22 We to are made to share in all that He is, for we are made to be more than conquerors, mind you, "MORE THAN CONQUERORS, through Him that loved us." Rom. 8:37

He is the head over all things to the church. In all that is called the church, Christianity today there is to be found a multiplicity of beliefs and doctrines. If our heads were as great a mixture as is found in the church we would be rendered inoperable at the least and most likely dead. HmMMM. The church needs to come under submission to Him that she might partake of all the amazing and wonderful benefits that the Lord will bless her with, when she is literally one with Him. To make a comparison between what we see promised in the Word and what is literally practiced in the church is heart breaking. However, the Lord is not yet through with His church. The same author writing in the same book declared that the Lord would have a perfectly church without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:27

## EPHESIANS 18

The church His body. Eph. 1:23 That concludes that there will be perfect harmony between all the members of the body. Likewise, absolute synchronization between the head and the rest of the body. The human body that is well coordinated can perform many things that are amazing.

The Lord has chosen to use the symbols of the head and the body as a type of Christ and His church, in particular that which is to be known as His Bride. As with the human body, so it must be with that Spiritual duo, physically and spiritually, there cannot be any discord, absolutely none whatsoever. 1 Cor. 12:12 There is a key to understanding this beautiful unity inasmuch as Paul called that one body by the name of Christ. Jesus became the Christ when He was filled or anointed with the oil of the Lord or the Holy Spirit. Acts 17:3 The fullness of His name is that which God gave to Him when He made this Jesus both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36 The exact same measure of anointing that is upon Him must also be upon His Bride or she could not be one with Him. She will be called after His name.

The body of Christ will be composed of a people who are called to the high standard of the life of Christ. Col. 3:15 They are like Him in every aspect of spirituality and holiness. His standard of righteousness is what she will embrace. Many members but one Spirit blending them together into one body through the baptism of the Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13 It might well be said that the whole of the New Testament contains the wedding contract to which both will agree one hundred percent. He is the husband therefore is to be the savior of the body, which of course, is to be His obedient Bride. Eph. 5:23 The responsibility of the preparation of the Bride for her wedding rests fully on God called individuals who are given offices of service know as the fivefold ministry. Eph. 4:12 Without their ministry the Bride could find herself unprepared for the wedding. They bear a great responsibility in presenting a ministry that is formed from the Word of the Lord.

The Bride is a vital factor in the life of Christ, for He is not complete, or fulfilled without her. She is that which makes Him to be whole. Eph. 1:23 From the very beginning the intent of the Lord has been an Eve for Adam. A Bride for Christ. The history of the life of so many in the scriptures portray the story of Christ and His church. Those such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Ruth and Boaz all are in some manner or another types of this grand wedding at the climax of the Ages. The poetic writings contain the same theme of human love typifying that majestic divine love between Christ and His church. Their love is God's love.

## EPHESIANS 19

The “togetherness” of Christ and His church is well expressed by the Apostle. Thus he shows us the manner in which the Lord is shaping His church. When He found us, we were dead in trespasses and sin. Eph. 2:1 Not physically dead but spiritually living a life of death. “The wages of sin is death.” Rom. 6:23 He found us and “quickenened us together with Him,” or brought us to life, real life, by being born again of the Spirit. As He was raised from the grave so we also were raised from the grave of sin and iniquity. Now, having been raised with Christ, we are to seek those things from above, Spiritual blessings, Spiritual benefits and a life which flows from Him. The Spiritual man rightly evaluates the great value of things spiritual and establishes all of his desires and love on them. The reason that he may accomplish this is that he is dead to the world and his life is now to be found in the Lord Jesus. So, when Christ comes again these also come with Him sharing all of His splendor and glory because while here on earth they separated themselves, from worldliness, unto Him. Col. 3:1-4

The person of the past, that type of individual that we are when we are not in Christ Jesus. In a great variety of ways we all, excluding no one, were sinners. Whether deep in all manner of unrighteousness or the best of the self-righteous, all have sinned and come short of the glory of the Lord. So, in the past ( the time of the type, the style of a life which we no longer live.) we lived a life of iniquity. We know now from the desires of the heart that we are new creatures in Christ. The former life is gone and there is a brand new life now to be lived in the Lord Jesus Christ. Formerly we followed the pattern of the world. The sinner and his actions were attractive. We wanted to emulate them because they were cool. We were under the control of the powers of wickedness and iniquity which control this world. The spirit of disobedience formerly gripped our lives and controlled us but now we are free. We are seeing a tremendous increase along the lines of unrighteousness as we approach the end of the age and it will increase. Eph 2:1-2

Every sinner has his worldly idol, we even give them that title and in many instances worship them. They establish a standard of life and their followers blindly follow after. The strong desires of the fleshly man take over and we conduct ourselves accordingly. The desires and lusts of the

carnal man controlling and bringing us into subjection to a life of sin. It becomes a life that we live because we see others setting examples all around us. Sin is so appealing until we realize the consequences that are paid for that wickedness. Sin has its pay day for, “the wages of sin is death.” Rom. 6:23

## EPHESIANS 20

Born into this world as children of wrath, or those upon whom the anger of the Lord is definitely to be displayed. Eph. 2:3 David recognized this and acknowledged in a Psalm that he had been shapened in iniquity and conceived in sin. Ps. 51:5 So have all descendants of Adam and Eve come into this world with that same sentence of death upon them. But, there is one exception and that is the Lord Jesus. Born into this world but not with the condemnation of sin upon His personal life. He was born to remove the wrath of the Almighty from all who would accept His sacrifice.

In Jesus is made known the great mercy of the Lord. Eph. 2:4 How beautifully Paul expressed the work of the Lord in redeeming mankind. God, who is very mercy, is the only person who could work out a plan for the salvation of the people of the earth. One of the benefits of the riches of the Lord that is inherited when we come to Christ is that of the riches of His mercies. As a matter of fact, “He is the Father of mercies.” 2 Cor 1:3 Mercy originates with Him, it proceeds from Him and we are the benefactors. No need to doubt His ability to manifest mercy for He is rich or has abundant mercy, which He gladly makes manifest to those who call upon Him. Not only is His nature and character merciful but He abounds in mercies (plural). His mercies are inexhaustible and exceed the need of mercy. David knew all this and called upon the Lord for Him to have mercy upon him, “according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.” Ps. 51:1 Wonderfully expressed are the emotions of the Lord as acts of loving kindness originating from One who has a reputation of having a great abundance of tender mercies. There can be no doubt concerning the outcome when we call on the name of the Lord for the manifestation of His great mercies in our life.

All this because of His great love whereby He loves us. The Lord is the very essence of love. There is no greater love to be found in time or eternity, in heaven or on earth. His love is true love. It is a love for those who are sinners, who are His enemies. A love that remains consistently the same regardless of the reaction of others toward Him. Just think, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to be the savior of the world. John 3:16 Greater love cannot be found in anyone else nor anywhere in the universe. No one, however and whoever they might love can surpass the love of the Lord. Human love is just that, human. Like everything else that the human nature is involved in, it can wax great and strong today and be turned into utter hatred tomorrow. But not the love of the Lord. It is always the same, regardless of circumstances. He loves you!

## EPHESIANS 21

One of the wonderful things about the Word of the Lord is that it reveals the invisible and mysterious God. The mystery of Godliness is unfolded by the writings of the Apostle. Eph 1:3 God is both, God and Father to the Lord Jesus Christ, who was manifest in human form. 1 Tim. 3:16 Following the rule of nature that like begets like, His Father, being His God, Jesus has every right to be called God. Jesus, the Christ is the visible image of that which is called invisible. Col. 1:15 In the announcement of His coming into the world He is identified as being Emmanuel, or God with us. Mt. 1:23 All that God the Father is, Jesus is, with the exception of being the person so wonderfully identified as the Father. As the Father was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, so is He in the believer and has bestowed all spiritual blessings upon them. Eph. 1:3 Those things which originate from the throne of God cause the one receiving them to be changed into His likeness. Please note that the Apostle did not say we all shall be changed but said: "we are (present tense) change into the same image from glory to glory." 2 Cor. 3:18

The chosen in Christ are they who have accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. God in His foreknowledge, from before the foundation of the world, affirmed that what He foresaw would be accomplished. Foreknowledge is not something which He forced upon people but that which He was able to see and know beforehand. The redeemed are the chosen, the elect, because they are in Christ. That is, they have come to repentance and are



determined to walk in the light of His Word. They may be identified as the "sanctification of the Spirit" and their obedience is unto Christ. 1 Peter 1:2 There are definite identifying factors whereby they may be recognized. Basically, they have a strong desire to be like Christ. His standard has never changed. As in the days of the Apostles the church was called to be holy and without blame before Him in love, so the call of the Spirit remains the same today. Eph 1:4

Foreknowledge and predestination are often associated with God making the choice while we had nothing to do with making a choice. However it is well to consider that we are chosen to "the adoption of children." Eph. 1:5 That is our status in Christ. Writing to the Romans Paul said; that we are "predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son." Rom. 8:29-30 That does not mean that we are predestinated to be called, but it does, mean that once called we are to progress spiritually until we are made to match the image of the Lord Jesus. Bearing His likeness, pureness and holiness in its very completeness. We are called to be conformed to the righteousness of the Almighty.

## EPHESIANS 22

Received into the beloved. What is more exciting than being accepted into a group, or even by an individual. Acceptance is a commodity of life that is greatly sought after. From the time of childhood until the day of ones departure from this life, to be acknowledged and chosen is a great achievement. How much more wonderful it is to know that we have pleased the Lord and in doing so have received of the glory of His grace. Eph. 2:5 There is nothing greater in the whole life span of an individual than to know we have been most graciously received of the Lord and are numbered among those unto whom He has made His love very personal. Eph. 2:4 It is here that our hearts and our mouths break forth into praise for the manifestation of His grace and glory in our lives. His most favorable reception satisfies the deepest of the inner most longings of the soul and spirit of mankind to be included among those who possess eternal life.

Paul equated salvation as being equal to a resurrection from the grave. For we have been raised together with Christ and are privileged to have life everlasting, in Him. Having been raised together with Him, we are then to

find our place together with Him on His throne. Not merely something which shall be in eternity but is made available now. Just think that we are called upon to share His throne of grace. To abide in an atmosphere of eternal love. A love such as only the Lord possess until He shares it with His beloved. Then we are participants of that amazing and great love. We look forward to that time when we will be forever in His glorious presence but Paul is saying that we may even now enjoy the environment of that which is heavenly. Eph. 2:6

The manifestation of His glorious grace which he started in Christ Jesus will never end. The exceeding riches of His grace will continuously be upon the redeemed of the Lord. The work which the Lord has begun in Christ Jesus will be brought to perfection. It is an eternal expression by the Lord of His grace and love for His church. Throughout the ages to come He will tirelessly display the very depths of His emotions and feelings for the Bride. Eph. 2:7 When the very essence, the nature and being of the Lord is love, how great will that love be as it is displayed in the Kingdom of God. The love of Christ will saturate the whole of heaven forever and ever. Remember this is that very special agape love. A love such as only the Lord possesses. It will flow out from the throne of the Lord and will saturate the whole of the new heavens and the new earth. His love will prevail. This is one of those things that He has prepared for us that is so great that it is unimaginable this side of heaven. 1 Cor. 2:9

## EPHESIANS 23

Salvation by grace alone. Eph. 2:8 The efforts of mankind to gain entrance into heaven have been proven to be futile. Only through His exceeding great love and willingness to receive the most heinous of sinners may one be saved. His grace is activated on our behalf when faith is exercised. Without faith it is impossible to please the Lord. All who are successful in coming to Him do so by believing in Him and the redemption which He has provided. Heb. 11:6 Most providentially, to benefit those who do come to Him, the Lord drops a measure of faith into their hearts. Rom. 12:3 Those things which we so desperately lack, He provides as a matter of care and love for us in order to lead and direct us into His ways. The total process of our response and reception of His salvation is motivated by Him. Our part

in coming to Him is to believe that He is and that He will abundantly reward those who diligently seek Him.

There are two practices of mankind which the Lord detests. His efforts to gain entrance into the presence of the Lord by human works of so called righteousness and a mouth which is filled with boasting. Eph. 2:8 The Pharisee, standing aloof and praying a prayer of self-exaltation is a prime example. He considered himself to be better than others, perhaps even the very best of the best, for he did not consider himself to be as other men, but more righteous. He also stood alone, separate and aloof from all others. In his religiosity he was thankful that he was not as others, what pride filled his heart. He claimed not to be an extortioner or a robber but what would he be like in a business deal? He said that he was not unjust or unrighteous. Also he claimed that he was not an adulterer or an apostate. Nor was he as the publican, the tax collector he stood close by. Luke 18:11 Perhaps in his declarations he was accusing that publican of committing these sins. Easy enough to confess the other fellows sins.

Whatever we are, we are because of Christ and not because of our own efforts. We are the workmanship of God, the result of all that He has done in preparing a way of redemption for mankind. We are His creation, first in Adam then in Christ Jesus. In the church there is no place for self made individuals. We are new creatures in Christ or we do not belong to Him at all. 2 Cor. 5:17

## EPHESIANS 24

The workmanship of the Lord always exceeds that of a master craftsman for His works are perfect, without flaw or mistake. In His acts of creation He looked at His work and said it is good. Now, He looks at His church and says; it is perfect. His church, which will be the Bride of Christ will have the mark of perfection upon her. He is able to make His very own “perfect in every good work to do His will.” Heb. 12:21 He has issued a command that those who are His to “Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Mt. 5:48 The Son likewise is deemed to be perfect, even though He was born of a woman. Heb. 7:28 He humbled Himself to become a man that He might exalt His own to be what He is in all of His glory and

perfection. John anticipated that by the time of His appearing the church will have taken on the full likeness of Christ. 1 John 3:2

The principle of the new creation in Christ Jesus is that of being good and doing good works. The world is filled with all of wickedness and evil. With this second work of creation the Lord anticipated a return to the righteousness that He first created in Adam. He expected their manner of life would be to walk, to live for good works. Eph. 2:10

A call to remember their past life and spiritual condition. By birth they were Gentiles, therefore in a derogatory fashion were looked down upon by those who were the religious or the circumcised. Eph. 2:11 Paul negated their circumcision because it was done in the flesh by those who were of the flesh and therefore was not a reasonable spiritual benefit because it was but a type of that which was to come.. True circumcision is of the heart and is a work that is accomplished by the Spirit. Rom. 2:29

Most importantly, in their former condition they were without Christ. That is a spiritual catastrophe for anybody. To be without Christ is to be dead in trespasses and sin. As such, they were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, a kingdom which is no longer reckoned after the flesh, by the Lord but now after the Spirit. Consequently they were not partakers of the covenants of promise which were given to Abraham and are now verified in Christ Jesus. Of prime importance is the New Covenant which is made by and sealed in the Lord Jesus. Anyone finding themselves in such a position before the Lord would find themselves without hope for they would be Godless. There is nothing more pathetic than a religious person who does not know or serve the Lord. Their lives are empty and in vain. To have Christ dwelling in our hearts is far greater than all the wealth of the world. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul. Mt. 8:36

## EPHESIANS 25

Glorious cause for rejoicing, once as far off from Christ as the edge of the universe, now in glorious affinity through His precious blood. One could stand next to Him, but if we are not redeemed by the shedding of His blood

we are a million miles away from Him. Eph. 2:13 The only possible way of knowing Him is through His life giving blood. It is the element of the physical body which sustains natural life. Spiritually the blood of Christ was the only acceptable price that could be paid for the redemption of the souls of men. He purchased the church with His own blood. Acts 20:28 In so doing He poured out His soul unto death. Isaiah identified the blood as being the soul life of mankind. Isa. 53:12 The Lord has ordained that like would beget like, each after its own species. In order for a human soul to be saved a human soul had to be sacrificed. The only sinless blood to be found in the universe was the pure, the sinless blood of Christ. The life of the flesh is in blood. It is the divine dynamic given by the Lord as an atonement for the souls of mankind. It was to be shed and applied to the altar for the souls of humanity. Lev. 17:11

The source of all peace is the one who bears the name, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6 Be it peace with the Lord or peace among men, the only true source of peace is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His nature. He came as one who was to bring peace with God into the hearts of all who would accept Him. Ultimately, He will establish a thousand years of peace on earth and reign in total peace. Those who are resurrected at the time of the first resurrection will live and reign with Him for the thousand years of total God like peace on earth. Rev. 20:6 He is likewise identified as the King of Peace. The one who appeared to Abraham. To whom Abraham paid tithes. Now he would hardly have done that to an ungodly heathen king. Heb. 2:2 This wonderful person who appeared to Abraham was a theophany of Lord Jesus. The description given Him could fit none other but Jesus.

In all reality the subject to which the Apostle was making reference was the racial, religious difference that was evident in the early church. Imagine the Jews in that day astonished that the Lord treated the Gentiles the same as He treated the Jews. It was an offence to them. Acts 10:45 The Gentiles were made to believe that they could not be saved as were others. When

they heard that the Lord had blessed the Gentiles with the Holy Spirit, they rejoiced. Acts 11:18 Paul and Barnabas in no uncertain manner, because of the attitude in Jerusalem declared that they were turning to the Gentiles to minister among them. Acts 13:46 Peter testified of the grace of the Lord to the Gentiles having ministered among them and saw them filled with the Spirit. Acts 15:7-11

## EPHESIANS 26

The issue of religious bigotry settled by the crucifixion of Christ. All differences as far as the Lord is concerned were settled at Calvary. The Lord no longer differentiates between Jew and Gentile. The middle wall, the wall of partition that had stood for all the years under the law ceased with the death of the Lord Jesus. Eph. 2:14 The Lord had thoroughly convinced Peter that in the sight of the Lord all of mankind were under one classification. Acts 10:28 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Therefore all are in equal need of a savior. Jesus disarmed the power of the Law by presenting His own body as the only acceptable and true sacrifice. He made the Law to be obsolete, null and void by completely bearing all of its precepts and fulfilling them by His act of sacrifice. Sprouting forth from His accomplishments of Calvary is that new man who is in Christ Jesus. No longer is there to be Jew and Gentile but now in Christ there is but one and that is the man who follows Christ. Eph. 2:15 In the economy of the Lord there is no such separation as a Messianic Jew or some sort of a lesser Gentile.

In Christ the two are brought together and made to be that new creature in Christ Jesus. All must come to the crucified Christ. There is no other way of salvation but through the shed blood of Christ on the tree. Old attitudes must change for Christ has brought reconciliation between all races if they are in Him they are but one. While the subject is presented as being between two factions it is far greater than that and must include all divisive elements in the body of Christ. He recognizes but one body and that is made up of those who are in Christ Jesus. The need for unity is beautifully expressed by the statement, "we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Eph. 2:18 That Spirit, the Holy Spirit is not divided nor will He divide. Contrariwise, He creates unity and peace. Those who are under the leadership of the Holy Spirit will find themselves included in the family of faith. No longer are they foreigners but now enjoy family life in Christ.

The Apostle then turns to the grand and glorious purpose of the Lord in the construction of the true church. It is stated to be a church of growth without the emphasis being on numbers but rather spiritual growth until it reaches the measure of Christ Jesus. Until we reach and “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:13 It is also introduced as a temple which is built, thus requiring the workmanship of individuals who possess the skills of construction. Eph. 2:20

## EPHESIANS 27

The building of the true house of worship. This is not to be a mere building in which people gather to worship but this is to be the habitation of the Lord. Eph. 2:21 It is constructed as a Temple of holiness unto the Lord. The Word of the Lord, the Word of holiness will adorn and beautify the Temple. Ps. 93:5 Anything, actually everything, that is a work of the Lord will have the mark and magnificence of His holiness upon it. So sacred in the sight of the Lord is this Temple that any who would desecrate it, will themselves be eliminated by destruction of the Lord. That emphasizes for us the extreme value which the Lord places upon this Temple/church. It is that structure in which the Lord will display the fullness of the perfect purity of His nature. This is the Temple that is comprised totally of a people who have measured up to every standard of righteousness and holiness displayed in the Word of the Lord.

How interesting it is that the Apostle would make a reference to idol worship. One of the extreme works of the anti-christal forces will be the construction of an image which is made in the likeness of the antichrist. Rev. 13:14 The image is given life and the ability to speak, but his words are words of judgment and death for all who will not worship him. Rev 13:15 This is a fitting climax to an age of idol worship such as we are in today. Every segment of society has some individual or individuals who are idolized by their followers. Their pattern of life is copied by millions all over the world. They are exalted and praised. This actions and words are

imitated to the nth degree. There can be no compromise or assembly between the Lord and those who worship idols.

The purpose of the Lord is revealed by the Word. This Temple is to be His dwelling place. "I will dwell in them and walk in them." 2 Cor. 6:16 What a blessed privilege to have such a close and dynamic relationship with the Lord. What more gracious and wonderful work could we want the Lord to do but to have Him completely occupy His Temple with the fullness of His nature and character. From the beginning of our Christian walk we are blest to have His Spirit already abiding in us. We are born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit and hopefully live and move in the Spirit. The day will soon come when our lives will be totally led and lived in the glory and power of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16 1 Cor. 6:19 Small wonder that associated with the promise of His continuous presence, there should also be a call of the Word for those who truly are hungering and thirsting after such a glorious experience, to separate themselves from the world and from idol worshippers and all impurities, that they might be received of the Lord and be a part of this beautiful Temple. 2 Cor. 6:16

## EPHESIANS 28

In the building of the Temple as a house of worship unto the Lord the foundation is of prime importance. The command of the king was to bring huge ( can also mean, plummet, measuring up to the standard) stones from the quarry which were costly, valuable or brightness, clear or even honorable women. Hewn or dressed, measured and prepared to fit into their place. 1 Kings 5:17 That which is foundational must fit exactly into its place when arriving on the scene. The stone of the destruction of the system of the antichrist is cut out of the mountain, without hands and will completely annihilate the works of the antichrist. Dan. 2:4 That rock was the rock of the waters of the river of life that traveled with Israel in the wilderness, and it was Christ. 1 Cor. 10:4 The true church is built on the living rock, the Son of God. Mt. 16:18 Other attempts to use other materials will but fail for there is no other foundation. The only acceptable foundation is that which has already been laid and that is Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11

What a blessed privilege to be in association with the Lord in the construction of His Holy, eternal Temple. The individuals with whom we



work can make the difference between work being a pleasure or a chore. In the building of His Holy Temple we are co-laborers with the Lord in producing His dwelling place. Not only are we associates with Him but we are the building and the garden. 1 Cor. 3:9 He is the architect, the builder and the occupant of all that He has created, The beauty and majesty of the builder exceeds that of the building. As gorgeous as His creation is, His splendor exceeds it all. Nothing can compare to Him. David took the right prospective when he expressed the desire of his heart to dwell all the days of his life in the house of the Lord just to behold His beauty. Ps. 27:4

The Lord created mankind and placed him in the most beautiful area of the world, the garden of Eden. Gen. 1:26-30 He gave him authority and rule over it all. In the meantime commanding him to be fruitful, the nature of all that was planted in the garden. When they sinned they lost it all. Though Lot had never seen the garden no doubt Adam and Eve spoke of its great beauty therefore when he saw the plain of the river Jordan he was immediately attracted but grossly misled. He lost everything by turning aside and going down to Jordan. Gen. 13:10. He will restore the garden to His husbandry for He has promised to make the desert, the dry place like the garden of Eden. Thus causing it to become a place logjam and gladness with thanksgiving everyday and not once a year. A place marked by the singing of people of the Lord. Isa 51:3 This is a condition which will prevail when the church goes into the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14

## EPHESIANS 29

Those who belong to the Lord are the result of the workmanship of the Lord. As such there is a blessed unity between the Lord and those who are His people for we are given a status of workers together with Him. Eph. 2:10 So there is a close affinity between the chief master builder and those who work with Him. They are called God's fellow workers. There would seem to be a beautiful fellowship indicated in the title given them and their inclusion in the development of that which the Lord is producing. Then they are identified as God's field, God's building. 1 Cor. 3:9 We have an example of the cooperation which exists as these work together in the work of the Lord. The disciples went out preaching and the Lord worked with them by confirming His Word with signs. Mt. 9:37

As husbandmen our responsibility is that of planting the seed as did the Apostle Paul. 1 Cor 3:6 Appolos watered but it was the Lord who caused it to grow and develop into a harvest, a bountiful supply. David wrote of the individual who is blessed by the Lord choosing them and causing them to dwell in the courts of the Lord where they are satisfied with the good things of His house or more so of His Holy Temple. Ps. 65:5 When we give his words a spiritual connotation they give us a picture of the last days and the visitation of the Spirit upon the field or the people of the Lord. His visitation will water the earth until the river of God enriches the earth. The rich spiritual blessings are to be enjoyed when the flow of the Spirit is sweeping through the church like a mighty flooding river. The gifts, the fruit, the virtues of the Spirit abound when the river flows in it's fullness. Spiritual food is provided. The hard ground is softened. It is prepared for planting. A crop is assured and great joy is found in the presence of the rain of the Lord. Ps. 65:9-13

The Lord has brought forth a new creation. A church that will exemplify the life of Christ, a life of purity and righteousness. A people who are "purged, completely cleansed" that they might become a vessel of honor which is sanctified, purified and dedicated to be used of the Lord. 2 Tim. 2:21-22 Their conduct is after the righteousness, faith, charity and peace found in the Lord Jesus. They are of a pure heart. They have learned to avoid contentious matters by taking an attitude of gentleness rather than trying to justify their position by arguing a point. These are areas of strength developed in the Christian walk in order to maintain victory over the powers of the enemy who is constantly causing the weak to be taken captive by committing sin. 2 Tim 22:26

## EPHESIANS 30

The great theme of the book of Ephesians is the church and in particular the last day church. Spread throughout his writings the Apostle Paul expressed the revelation of the mystery which had been made known unto him. With the coming of Christ into the world He introduced a new order. The door, which for all practical purposes had been closed to the Gentiles was now flung wide open for them. Their dire lost condition was stressed by Paul but now, because of the unbelief of the ancient people of God they

were to be sought after and included in the grand purpose of the Lord. The people of the promise were now excluded and as far as Christ Jesus is concerned they took the place of the Gentiles. The aliens are now those outside of Christ Those who are strangers to the promise are the very ones to whom the promises were made and consequently they have joined the hopeless. Eph. 2:12 The only possible approach unto the Lord is through that which He has provided. For salvation He will honor but one way and that is through the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13

"With out the shedding of blood there is no sacrifice." All atonement for the sins of mankind must be made by the offering of blood. Every sacrifice offered under the Law was not efficacious to wash away the sins of mankind. Their power of atonement was entirely dependent on the sacrifice of Christ. Though many offerings were presented daily, they could not remove the guilt of sin. Heb. 10:11 It is absolutely impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to remove sins. Heb. 10:4 The Lord had no pleasure in their continual offerings. Heb. 10:6 Isaiah expressed the complete dissatisfaction of the Lord with their constant coming before Him with their ceremonies which had become completely meaningless to Him. Isa. 1:11-15 He urged them to wash and clean up. To do good and not evil. It ws a call for repentance even in that day. Isa. 1:16-18

All who come to Christ must come through the blood of Christ which was shed on Calvary. It is by His blood of redemption that we may approach Him and enter into His fellowship. Eph. 2:13 There is no other way. We are not waiting for deliverance, we have been delivered from the powers of sin and spiritual darkness, if we are in Christ. Now! we are privileged to enjoy the spiritual, the good things of His kingdom. The promises of the Lord are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. When we are truly in Christ we are citizens of the eternal kingdom. Where once we were of this world and all that it involves, now, in Christ it is possible to have full fellowship with Him in His eternal kingdom because we are redeemed by His blood and our sins are forgiven. Col. 1:13-14 Redemption by the blood of Christ not only delivers from sin but it has also delivered all who accept it from the curse of the Law. Gal. 3:13 It is vital that eternal life is maintained by constant contact with the Lord Jesus. Not only has He given of Himself to redeem us, that is, to bring us to life spirituallly but His atonement continues beyond the initial experiences of salvation. We are to be redeemed and separated.

Sometimes the latter is ignored or perhaps forgotten. He is in the process of purifying for Himself a very special people who are zealous of good works. A people who are not living in sin every day then have to repent every Sunday. Titus 2:14 There is a place in Christ of complete victory over sin.

## EPHESIANS 31

Christ, our source of peace. Not only is He our personal peace but He is the foundation of peace within the church and among the many factors which may be found in an assemblage of people who may be different in many ways. In this case Paul is dealing with Jew and Gentile. Which would embrace the Law and no doubt a great number of heathen beliefs and manners of worship. Eph. 2:14 In order to develop peace among them, the Lord had broken down the wall of division that separated the various religious divisions in their church. Where there are those who are Spirit led these factions will quickly disappear.

This was accomplished by eliminating the cause of their differences, that is the Law. Jesus stepped in and destroyed or abolished the religious hostility or hatred caused by their attitudes toward the Law. Eph. 2:15 To verify the inability of the Law to be effective in forgiving sin, it is further stated that He brought forth a new covenant. Because of that which was new, the old Law of commandments was made to be outdated or obsolete, therefore ineffective. It was at that time old, out dated and in the process of aging and would ultimately pass away. Heb. 8:13 The Law cannot free the conscience from the guilt and condemnation of sin. Had it been successful in purifying it's followers the Lord would have never allowed it to cease. The Law was weak and unproductive or those who followed it and worshipped according to it's tenets would have been cleansed "once for all" and would no longer have needed to offer daily sacrifices. The Law is limited in it's scope and ability for it is written that it "can never take away sins." Heb. 10:11 The Law is but a shadow of good things, that is forgiveness and cleansing from sin in Christ Jesus, it is not the real article which creates the shadow. Reality is found in Christ. What the Laws could not do, Christ does. Heb. 10:1

The life changing power of the blood of Christ is efficacious enough to Create from two extremes, strongly religious and deep in heathenism, a new man. The new man is just that, he is not to be a combination of old and new but entirely new. Paul in describing that new creature said; “the old is passed away, behold ALL THINGS have become new. 2 Cor. 5:17 Repentance is to confess our sins, turn around one hundred degrees and go the opposite direction. In Christ, neither Jew or Gentile have any advantage, but it is the new man which the Lord recognizes. The new man reaches a measure of spirituality impossible for the old man to attain. He is created after the likeness of God in righteousness and true holiness. Eph. 4:24

## EPHESIANS 32

Jew and Gentile, both reconciled unto God by the one atonement, the blood of Christ which was shed on the cross. Eph. 2:15 The wood of the cross, the form of the cross, the original cross, however it is expressed is meaningless. A replica of the cross offers no help of any kind. What is vital is the person who hung on the cross. When the Apostle speaks of the cross he is not referring to the wood but to the sacrifice. When he writes concerning the cross he is emphasizing the purpose of the cross as an instrument of death. “The blood of His cross” is the price of peace and reconciliation for all things whether on earth or in heaven. Col. 1:20 The Lord Jesus met all the demands of the Law and completely satisfied it’s demands by nailing it to His cross, thus He moved it out of the way. Col. 2:14 His blood is the only acceptable propitiation whereby mankind may be accepted by God. He is the only sacrifice and is at the same time the mercy seat upon which the atonement was made. Rom. 3:25 Christ is all and is in all. Col. 3:11

The victorious Christian is one who has experienced crucifixion with Christ and thereby has died to sin. The only way of living a victorious life is to have been crucified with Christ. Gal. 5:24 Those who persist in sin are slaves to sin therefore they have failed to be crucified with Him, thereby ridding themselves of the carnal man, the old man. The Lord has provided a way whereby we may live the type of a Christian life presented to us in the WORD. It is not drudgery or a burden to live according to the WORD but rather the only source of true joy in the Lord. Rom. 6:6 When the sinful

nature has been crucified, there is a death. There is also a resurrection and that new life springs forth. Rom. 6:4

In and through Himself, the Lord Jesus creates new creatures. Not intending to bring forth a mixture of old and new, but completely new. There are no religious or racial qualifications required. As a matter of fact they must be done away with. Receiving all equally who come to Him in true repentance He makes them all to be one, in Him. The household of faith in Christ Jesus is intended to be a haven of tranquility and peace, without factions and divisions. Access to the very throne presence of the Father has been made possible through Him and the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. Eph. 2:15-18 The plan of salvation as presented by the Scriptures is perfect and will result in that perfect church that He so greatly desires. Participation in the move of the Spirit in the last days is entirely up to the individual. Each of us will give an account unto the Lord for ourselves.

### EPHESIANS 33

A glorious and wonderful change of relationship and acceptance that is accomplished by the entrance into the heart when believing in the Lord Jesus. Where once the new believer was excluded from the family of God they are now elevated, included and greatly welcomed. They are considered as equals with all other members of the family of the Lord. The family of the Lord must meet the divine requirements in order to be included in the family of the Lord. Eph. 2:19 Their foundation is one that has been thoroughly tested and has received Divine approval. It stands firmly on the prophets and the apostles, The leadership of the old and new testament. Men who were thoroughly convinced of the Word of the Lord and practiced its teaching with confidence and assurance. The whole, finding itself strong and mighty because Christ was the chief cornerstone. The whole structure of the gospel rests squarely upon Him. He is its strength and ability to be effective and accomplish that for which it was intended.

A thorough knowledge and comprehension of who He is necessary for inclusion in the family. Plus all the power that has been placed in His hands to change and alter our life. He will bring the church to the standard which

He has set for her. That is, a unity in faith, and the teaching and full comprehension of Him. Attaining a spiritual maturity that is comparable to the completeness that is found in the Lord Jesus. Eph 4:13 A people who are no longer spiritual babies running to and fro, blessing chasers who ultimately are led astray by those who are working a spiritual scam. Hereby they mislead and misguide those who are taken captive by their charming but malicious ways . Eph 4:13-14 Love, the love of God is that which causes the whole of the building of the Lord to adhere together and become a building which stands all the tests and storms of life. Eph. 4:16

All the materials that are used to build the house of the Lord must be of the very best quality. This is to be the house of the Lord. The place that is to be His eternal habitation by the Spirit of the Lord. Eph. 2:22 There will be absolutely no old nor cheap materials used in this building. Nothing but the very newest and best will go into its construction. It is after all the eternal dwelling place of the Lord. Of how much greater will be the requirements of a spiritual house for the Lord. Living, lively stones are its main component for they will become the living dwelling place of the Lord. 1 Peter 2:4 There is a twofold evidence that we are a living stone and that in order to be accepted, it must be a stone of love. 1 John 4:16 It must also be a spiritual stone filled with the Holy Spirit. 1 John 4:13

## EPHESIANS 34

Because of his burden to minister to the Gentiles, the Apostle Paul felt himself to be so committed to ministering Christ to them that he was like a prisoner of Christ bound to that ministry. It was his responsibility that he was engaged in, both day and night or constantly. A commitment that comes with a true call of the Spirit to any ministry in Christ Jesus. To truly accomplish the work where unto one is called requires one to give themselves over one hundred percent, totally to the accomplishing of the will of the Lord. Eph. 3:1 His responsibility to take the gospel to the Gentiles was according to the call of the Spirit of the Lord. At the time of his call the spiritual atmosphere was perfect for such an occasion. They were fasting and worshiping the Lord, when the Holy Spirit declared the will of the Spirit that would send Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles. Under such circumstances there could be no equivocation about the call of the Lord.

Acts 13:2 A definite, positive call to any ministry is a must. It gives assurance and courage in the times of trials when one might quit except for the assurance of the positive call.

The Apostle was a man taught of the Lord. Religiously he was a man of great learning but spiritually and in a knowledge of the ultimate will and purpose of the Lord he was in the dark. Therefore, the Spirit of the Lord revealed or made known to him the mysteries of the Lord. Eph. 3:3 Among them was the divine intention of the doors of the gospel being opened wide for the entrance of the Gentiles. A secret, therefore a mystery which had not been made known to past generations but now was revealed to the Apostles and Prophets (note both are plural), in other words it was not revealed just to one but was confirmed by other leaders among the body of believers. Eph. 3:4-5

These, who under the Law were excluded from the house of Israel and the worship of the true and living God are now equally accepted. They are to be fellow heirs, those who share and share equally. In the sight of the Lord there is now no difference allowed for all are treated alike when they come to the Lord. It is no greater a miracle when a Jew comes to Christ than it is when a Gentile accepts Him as their personal savior. They all blend into the same body and participate in an identical, or similar fashion. No one on the basis of natural birth or racial background is more fully accepted and invited to participate than any other. True human equality is found in the Lord Jesus. The promises of the Lord are to be equally shared by all who come to Christ. Eph. 3:6

## EPHESIANS 35

The full revelation of the mystery to which Paul had reference is the equal reception of the Gentile nations as legitimate and legal members of the body of Christ. Consequently placing mankind, regardless of background, to a status in life or origin of birth on one level. There is no difference as far as the Lord is concerned between Jew and Gentile. The Gentiles are fellow heirs of the same body, there is no difference in the sharing of spiritual blessings and benefits. All that is involved in partaking of the Lord Jesus is given freely to all of mankind. Eph. 3:6 The true sign of Sonship is in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Paul gave



assurance of this when He declared that: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." Rom. 8:14 Plain language of that sort needs no interpretation. Peter, at Joppa, in the house of Simon the tanner receive confirmation of the strongest and most direct kind when the Holy Spirit filled those who heard him. First of all he recognized the fact that God is no respecter of persons. "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34 This was then sealed by the filling of the Gentiles gathered there with the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:44 It was a shocking moment of revelation to the circumcised who felt that the gospel was solely theirs. The Lord has a way of enlightening us when we stubbornly walk in darkness.

Paul could have been a great man of high standing in the world of his day. However, what he would have been meant nothing to him. Christ was truly all and in all. When he said that he was the least of God's people he was speaking his heart. Pride was not a part of his problems. He was so thoroughly sold out to the gospel of Christ that it was his sole purpose in life. The NIV translates him as saying that he was a "servant of this gospel." Eph. 3:7 What an example of complete humility he left us. He counted it a great privilege to have been called of the Lord to preach the gospel among the Gentiles. A people, who prior to his conversion, he would have had little if any contact. Now, they were his life. Eph. 3:8

His message among the Gentiles was the "unsearchable riches of Christ." That is a measure of wealth which cannot be counted or even estimated it is so great. The word does not leave us in darkness as to what these items are that are a part of His great riches. Paul wrote to the Romans and stated that the riches of the Lord are to be found in the "wisdom and knowledge of God." Rom. 11:33 In coming to Christ, Paul found the source of the riches of God's grace which he counted to be great riches. He was, "appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher." 2 Tim. 1:11 To a person fully dedicated to the service of the Lord, there could be no greater riches.

## EPHESIANS 36

Oh the unsearchable riches that are to be found in the Lord Jesus. They are far more extensive than the most vivid imagination can depict. His riches are something that is greatly to be desired. Every one who seeks

after them will find themselves greatly satisfied. There is a contentment, a peace, a spirit of gratification that is found in His riches that none other can equal. His direction to His people is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all the necessities of life, as they are needed, will be added unto you. Luke 12:31 The magnitude of His riches are found in the Lord Jesus who is our “redemption” the one who has given Himself as the perfect and only possible sacrifice for the redemption of the souls of mankind. Accompanying that work of salvation is the blessing of sanctification, the purifying of the life of that new creature in Christ Jesus. Therefore His righteousness is made manifest, it is very real and lived out in the true believer. All of which will result in the riches of His wisdom giving spiritual meaning to that new life in Christ. 1 Cor 1:30

Contained in His riches is to be found His glory. Which He desires to share fully with all who belong to Him. While those who have not received the revelation of His glory do not comprehend, the hidden element which is “Christ in you.” Col. 1:27 The full benefit of an association such as this is realized in the strength that is derived from “the riches of His glory.” When Christ reigns within. Eph. 3:16 The benefits of His blessings are innumerable, For, from the fullness of His grace we have received one blessing after another. John 1:16 NIV. The ultimate design of the Lord is to have a people, in whom the fullness of all that is God may dwell eternally. Also from whom He will find a bride for Christ. Eph. 3:19

The marvelous ways of the Lord as made known through the opening of the mystery became a driving force in the life of Paul to carry the message to all men. Also to be enlightened were the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” Eph. 3:9-10 It may sound strange that there would be any, human or angelic, in heaven that were not in on this mystery. Peter confirms their ignorance of the power of the grace of God and its eventual manifestation to the Gentiles. He declared that “Even angels desired to look into these things.” 1 Peter 1:12 Angels, who are incapable of being redeemed would be unable to experientially participate in the reception of redemption. The angels that followed Lucifer in his fall are currently incarcerated in hell being bound by chains of darkness awaiting their final judgment. 2 Peter 2:4 There is no deliverance for them.

## EPHESIANS 37

How great are the ways of our God. Man purposes for time. God for eternity. Time is ever so brief with Him. Our short lives but a blink of an eye when compared with His eternal being. The coming of the Lord Jesus into the world was to further the eternal purposes of the Lord. EPH. 3:11 He has saved us and “called to a holy life” 2 Tim. 1:9 NIV. Not because of our own good works but for His everlasting purpose and grace. All of which was prepared for, from before the beginning of time. His plans cannot be altered for He has said; “The Lord almighty has sworn, surely as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed so it will stand.” Isa. 14:24 We may rest assured that His promises will be fulfilled precisely as He has declared them.

There are a number of spiritual rewards and benefits gained by those who are “in Christ.” Eph. 3:12 The key is to live the Christ life by making certain that we maintain the needed character and attitude that is vital to being “In Christ.” We have the right to come boldly, in complete confidence that we have this entitlement to the throne of grace. Heb. 4:16 He has extended to all in His family the privilege of access at all times. So, because of His promises access is granted to enter into the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. Heb. 10:19 Under the Law that Most Holy Place was accessible but one day a year and then only to the high priest. Now, through the blood of Christ, all who are in Christ have the privilege of entering at will. They worshipped before the Mercy Seat which is the throne of God. Our faith in Christ makes it all possible. What a tremendous honor this is that He has granted unto us.

Paul felt a great need that he pray especially for the Ephesians lest they Become discouraged because of His trials and incarceration. Therefore he prayed unto the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 3:14 Here again we have come upon a statement of the Word which is of tremendous value to us, if we comprehend the purpose of what we are reading. His name, the Lord Jesus Christ, is a God given name. It is a name of power and authority and we are privileged to use it in prayer. Jesus taught that if we ask anything, IN HIS NAME, He would do it. John 14:14 It is worthwhile to take strong notice that demons are to be cast out, in HIS NAME. Mark 16:17 He also said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in HIS NAME.

Therefore when seeking the baptism of the Spirit address your petition to the Lord Jesus and the Father will send Him. John 14:26

## EPHESIANS 38

Paul prayed that the storehouse containing the inexhaustible riches of the glory of the Lord might be opened to the Ephesians. The Lord in all that He is, in His nature, in His character, in His being and in His glory cannot be contained or the ultimate measure of His glory be determined. It is endless, immeasurable and cannot be diminished. It is the power and strength of the Spiritual nature that has been born within the spirit of the believer. Eph. 3:16 His glory, resident within the believer is the source of the powerful, mighty strength of the Lord that enables them to live a victorious life in Christ Jesus. The power of the Spirit made available to the church is more than sufficient to cause His character to be duplicated in us. Christ dwells within. If He does, and surely He does, then we are commissioned to live a victorious life. His sinless life of and victory over the powers of darkness.

To confess that we cannot live without sinning is to admit that we have not been crucified with Christ. Paul spoke of the life that he was living in the body, that is, the natural life which he was at that current time living. It was a life of faith in the Son of God. That is made possible by the experience that he speaks of when he said that he had been crucified with Christ. His old man, the carnal man, was nailed to the cross in Christ or together with Him. Gal. 2:20 Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh. The evidence being that the sinful nature nor longer has control. The passions and desires of the carnal man have been defeated and put to death. Gal. 4:24 NIV. Paul finds reason to glory in the cross for through it he found the world to be crucified unto him and he unto the world. Gal. 6:14 The pattern for a victorious Christian life is made to be very evident and is for all who truly love the Lord.

The vital part of all this is that Christ may be welcomed into a pure heart. Once again, the desire of the Lord is very evident by His desire that His people become His sanctuary, His dwelling place. A situation which cannot be possible as long as there are to be found impurities in the house that he would occupy. He is Holiness personified and requires a sanctified dwelling place. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isa. 52:11 Our love

for Him will determine our willingness to fulfill His royal call to be in His likeness. As with all things in the Lord, love is the key to attaining the perfect will of the Lord in our lives. Roots are the source of nutrients of life to the tree. Once established they become the strength of the tree to withstand the storms which will test their strength to the utmost. Our response to His great love is the foundation of all things in relationship to the gospel.

## EPHESIANS 39

A vital necessity in really knowing the Lord is the fact that He is LOVE and that we can know and participate fully in that love. Not human carnal love but the very essence, the heart, the source of all love that is pure and holy. Love is the motivating power of the gospel. The ability to live a Christian life depends entirely on love. His prayer for them was that they might be able to grasp and participate to the fullness of that love, to come to an absolute knowledge of its extremities which he measures in four categories.

Breadth, width, all embracing. As if though the Lord stood with His arms opened wide waiting to embrace those who come to Him. Length, how long He has waited patiently for some to come to Him. He is the husbandman and waits patiently for the seasons to come and to pass and the crops to become mature, especially waiting for the early and the latter rain. James 5:7 Then the rain of the double portion. The combined rain (early and latter) of the first month (new beginnings), this will usher in the harvest of the peoples of the earth by a great outpouring of the Spirit.. Joel 2:23 Depth, He reaches down and rescues those who have gone into the extreme depths of sin. Once He has rescued them there is no difference between them and those who have not known the depths of iniquity. Strong's Dictionary is interesting here by giving further meaning such as profundity, extent, deepness, deep things. Then figuratively, mystery. The mysteries of the gospel are open to the understanding to all who are in Christ. Lastly he included the height. The place of His throne. In the 91st psalm, a Messianic Psalm but may also be applied to the people of the Lord He declared that those whose love was focused on Him, He would deliver and set on high. Ps. 91:14 In all of these measurements there is no starting point given. No borders, no extremity, the love of God covers all who will come unto Him. Truly, what great love.

He desired that they come to a complete knowledge where they might be satiated with the love of Christ. There is no other love like His love. We humans do not love, nor are we capable of loving, on that Godly level of love until He fills us with His love. I see Paul throwing up his hands about here and saying, "it passeth knowledge." Eph. 3:18 The love of God is better experienced than explained. It is unique. No type of human love can match it. As a matter of fact the combined love of the whole world cannot even to begin to compare to it. There used to be a saying commonly heard when preachers were preaching on the love of God and that was; "it is better felt than telt (told)." To really know the glory of His love one must personally partake of it. He gladly welcomes all into His open arms of love.

## EPHESIANS 40

How far is the Lord determined to go? "That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." "That you might be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" NIV "That you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." NKJV The magnitude of this statement of Paul's is beyond full comprehension. It is absolutely staggering. Just think that based on our knowledge or the depths of our experience in His love, His church is destined to be filled (the word can also mean, cramed) up to ALL (the whole) the fullness (copiousness, complete) of that which makes God to be God. Eph. 3:19

In order to institute this completely amazing consummation to His plan of salvation we note that the church is recognized as the body of Christ. The affirmation is clear, "Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular." 1 Cor. 12:27 If, in Him the fullness of the Godhead has chosen to dwell, in the form of a body, then the church, His body must have the identical presence of Deity in her. Col. 2:9 As it pleased the Father to dwell in fullness in Christ it would certainly be the good pleasure of the Father to dwell in His sanctified church, the Bride of Christ. Col. 1:19 It is for this cause the Lord has seen fit to prepare what is known as the fivefold ministry to prepare and build up the body of Christ. Thus bringing her to a status of holiness and purity that is fitting for such an important and holy occasion. Eph. 4:12 Accepting one of these offices is to assume a great responsibility of leadership and of giving spiritual directions to the church.

Also the church is referred to as being the temple of God in whom He will dwell by His Spirit. The measure of His presence is according to the degree of the fullness of very God. His eternal presence is that of a glorious unity where He is the God of the people and they are totally dedicated to the living God to such a measure that He walks with them indicating that they are in constant companionship. 2 Cor. 6:16 The great city, the holy Jerusalem (that is the new), the wife of the Lamb is introduced to John as descending out of heaven and having the glory of God as the light which lightens her. The whole city is the temple of the Lord for there is no building in her that is designated as a temple. Rev. 22:9-11 However it is not without a temple for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. The magnitude of its shining and brilliancy is again one of those eternal items which can only be understood by the magnitude of the Lord Himself. There is no limit that can possibly be attributed to Him. He is all powerful. Mt. 28:18

#### EPHESIANS 41

Like all things with the Lord there is no limit to that which He is able to accomplish. In relationship to heaven or earth, time or eternity, with Him all things are possible. His capabilities far surpass our ability to present a request or even a thought that He could not fulfill. Impossible or unable are not in His vocabulary. When considering the complexities found in creation it is small wonder that such glorious powers are to be found in Him. The beauty of all this is that, if we function in the Spirit of the Lord, then that power is to be found in us also. Eph. 3:20 As His church we have so much made available to us but use such a minute portion of the capabilities that are to be found in the manifestation of His power, in us. From his statement in Col. 1:29 it is apparent that Paul was constantly aware of the moving of the Spirit of the Lord in himself. It was also something which he tried greatly to maintain and demonstrate in his ministry.

The Lord Jesus was the revealed glory of the Lord made known in human form. Thus demonstrating that it was now the divine order of God to make Himself known in such a fashion. Consequently that responsibility has been delegated to His church, His body. We can know and perform the perfect, good work to do His will, providing His power dwells within us, by doing that which we know is His will for us. Heb. 13:21 His glorious glory is to be

imparted to the church to such a degree that she will be changed from glory to glory, that is constantly growing and increasing in the glory of the Lord until she is made to be in His exact image. 2 Cor. 3:18 Arrayed in the splendor of His glory she will be on display, in the new heavens and the new earth, as the crowning result of the salvation made possible through the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Eph. 3:21

In his salutation Paul reminded them that in his efforts for the Lord he had been incarcerated in Rome. An act against the gospel which he considered to be of small consequence. What was more important was their walk before the Lord, which he called a vocation, the manner of life unto which the Lord has called us all, in Christ Jesus. Eph. 4:1 Not all may be called to ministry but most definitely all are called to walk according to the purpose of the Lord in our life, which is, bringing every work of righteousness to the measure of that which He has established. Heb. 13:21 The high calling of God in Christ Jesus is a calling that is holy unto a walk that is holy and will result in a life that is well pleasing to Him. 2 Tim. 1:9 It is through His superb glory, which He gladly shares with us, that we are made to be what He desires us to be. He presents the calling and then furnishes all that is necessary to achieve the crowning glory unto which His church has been called. 2 Peter 1:3-4

## EPHESIANS 42

Paul gave instructions on what is required to consider that one is walking worthy of the vocation of the calling of the Lord. The last word of verse two is a key to the operation of this walk before the Lord. Love must be the motivating factor. A love for the Lord. A love for the brethren. A love for our fellow man in general, while at the same time hating their sinful life. The list begins with a couplet that portrays the character of the Lord Jesus, lowliness (humility) and meekness. The complete humility of Jesus is our prime example. First of all, just in becoming a man was as great an act of humility as may be found, period. However He did not stop there for He went on to be crucified which was the most heinous death. Knowing where He came from and who He was, makes His coming into this world even more amazing. He knew from eternity the humbling that He must endure in order to free mankind from sin and death. Php. 2:8 In exact contradiction to



what the world teaches Jesus taught that those who humbled themselves would in the ultimate be exalted. Luke 14:11 It works too.

The individual who demonstrates meekness before the Lord is one who will be abundantly blessed of the Lord. Incidentally, meekness is not weakness. Some of the most courageous men who are recorded in the Bible were exceedingly meek. One who comes to mind is Moses who was the most meek of all on the earth in his generation. Num. 12:3 His exploits are recorded in the Word. He was chosen to stand before the Lord and had spiritual experiences such as the vast majority of Christians never have. Jesus promised that those who would come to Him would learn of His meekness and in so doing find rest for their souls. Mt. 11:29 There are sure blessings reserved for the meek. For instance, the Lord finds pleasure in them and He will beautify them with salvation. Ps. 149:4 Most assuredly, one of the ornaments of the Bride of Christ will be a quiet and meek spirit.

1 Pet. 3:4 Every member of the Bride of Christ will be of a meek spirit and consequently will be delivered from the great tribulation for the Lord will hide them in the secret place of the Most High. Zep. 2:3 The Lord will lift up The meek on eagles wings (Rev. 12:6, 14) but the wicked are cast down to the ground. Ps. 147:6 The destiny of the wicked in that day will be utter destruction at the coming of the Lord Jesus. Isa. 11:4 His Word promises that He will feed the meek. Ps. 22:26 He will guide them and teach them His ways. Ps. 25:9 The joy of the Lord will be increased among the meek. Isa. 28:19 Not only will they inherit this earth for a thousand years but the new earth will be totally theirs. Mt. 5:5

## EPHESIANS 43

Of top priority and importance is an effort by all concerned to maintain a like attitude and spirit of unity in the church. Eph. 4:3 Unity brings strength to a cause but division will quickly destroy any standard. Jesus said; “a house divided against itself shall not stand.” Mt. 12:25 Solomon declared; “a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Eccl. 4:11 This is definitely one of the benefits of humility. A willingness to submit to the decisions of others especially pertaining to spiritual matters in the house of the Lord. The ideal, the real church, will function as one body without any member being out of order or step. The church which will become His bride will fit the criteria

advanced by Paul. "I beseech you brethren, that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10 Just from this sampling of the scriptures it is extremely evident what the Lord wants of His church. Whether we participate or not it will come to pass and He will have His body totally united and of absolutely one accord.

There is the prophetic utterance which may be vocalized by an individual under the inspiration of the Spirit by which the desire of the Lord is expressed. Then there is that written prophetic Word which when anointed by the Spirit will convey an understanding, a revelation of the intentions of the Lord. Unity is definitely one of the written appeals addressed to the church conveying His perfect will for His people. What leader of people in this world would not want his people to stand one hundred percent with them. How much more the Lord demands a positive joining together of the body.

The following verses of the NIV translation of the Bible will help enlighten us as to the manner whereby unity may be achieved. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Col. 3:13 So simple yet some are carrying grievances that are years old. They spoil and hinder Christian growth. "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect harmony." v. 14 So, we see that love is the key to perfect unity. Through Him we learn to love as He does and as His love fills our hearts we learn to forgive even the very worst of offences committed against us, even as He did. Those beautiful words coming from the cross grip our hearts for we are included among those responsible for His death. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34 Sin, our sin, the sin of all ages sent Him to Calvary. He would be justified in resenting all that He gave up, all that it cost Him. Instead He continues to manifest His great love and forgives all who come to Him. He is not willing that any should perish regardless of how wicked they are but stands ready to forgive them. He wants to impart that great love to all who become His own.

## EPHESIANS 44

How much more blessed just our daily life would be if we would but pattern ourselves after the Word of the Lord. The NIV gives strong meaning to Eph. 4:3 by translating it as saying; "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit." Nothing in life that is contrary to the carnal nature is easily changed. Human pride is such that to yield to the desires of another which are contrary to ours, too often, causes emotions that should not exist and a division is caused. Paul urged the Corinthians to press on into perfection and to be of one mind. 2 Cor 13:11 Such actions would then assure them of the presence of the God of peace and love. There is no experience in this life like that of the glorious presence of the Lord. The result of living the Word will produce an atmosphere of heaven on earth in the hearts of those who will follow the way of the Word.

There is but one body of Christ as revealed in the scriptures. To function properly that body must cooperate fully with every other member. Seeing as there is but one body, then all must agree together, and be made of the same material, while it is a body with a multiplicity of members, every part must think alike and have the same goal in mind. Their unity it to be equal to that which is seen in the Godhead. Numerous, yet as closely related as the Son is to the Father. John 17:21-23 In conjunction with such perfect harmony of the body there is but one Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Eph. 3:4 Each and every member of the body is filled with the one Spirit. That eliminates any possibility of division. The whole of the body is the dwelling place of the Spirit of the Lord. The Spirit using the Word as a means of communication is the one who is building together, causing the body to come into sync and adhere one with another, that the body might be filled with all the fullness of the Lord. Eph. 2:22 As the Spirit of the Lord now dwells in the Spirit filled, the fullness of all that He is will dwell in that which is called the body of Christ. Eph. 1:23

All, in the call to repentance and the subsequent membership in the body of Christ have received the same and identical call. The Lord is no respecter of persons. However, the response to that high calling in Christ Jesus is determined by each and every one who is a candidate for the ultimate body of Christ. All have the same spiritual rights. All can hear and receive that

call but not all will respond. We determine our spiritual status by our commitment to Christ. The richness of the hope, the glorious prospect that we have in Christ is fulfilled in the joy and rejoicing that is ours as we grow in Christ. All may receive but not all will receive. What a pity. Eph. 4:4

## EPHESIANS 45

Such wonderful instructions are worthy of our total consideration. Especially as they are rendered in the NIV translation. "Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love." Eph. 4:2 Such excellent instruction should be put to practice. Teaching of this nature, when put into practice will work in every avenue of life. On the job. In the home with children and especially between a husband and wife. The manifold benefits work for all sides involved. There are two outstanding elements in this verse that enable one to place them in practice. The first is that it is something that requires being seriously worked at. The second is that it be motivated by love. The kind of love that is imparted to us by the Lord. When His love prevails in a persons heart the evidences of the presence of that love soon become obvious.

One Lord. One of the great mysteries concerning the Lord is the exact make up of His being. Is He one, two or three? If we are to know Him in the most intimate way we will have to come to a common comprehension of what constitutes God. The unity of the Godhead is seen in the delegation of His name Lord to each person in the Godhead. For instance, He who is obviously the Father said; "I am the Lord, that is my name." Isa. 42:8 The Son is given the right of bearing the same name. For God has made this same Jesus, "both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36 Also the Holy Spirit is called Lord. "The Lord the Spirit." 2 Cor. 3:18 ASV Thus we find that each, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are seen in the scriptures being called Lord. This is but one of many illustration, from the Word of the Lord of the individuality and yet the perfect, unconditional unity that is to be found in the Lord.

One faith. One doctrine, one belief, one teaching. Our Lord is not the author of confusion but of unity. It is very apparent that all that is taught even by Evangelicals is not Bible truth. In order to produce true doctrine in the church there will have to be many changes made. We have the teacher,

the Holy Spirit whom Jesus said; that when He would come He “shall teach you all things.” John 14:26 It is difficult to even imagine that the Spirit of harmony would produce the conglomeration of contrary to sound teachings being taught today. Of course everyone feels that they have the right doctrine but this is where humility steps in causing one to see the truth of the Word. In spite of the mixture and the confusion it generates the Lord Jesus will find a Bride who will be in total agreement with Him. “Can two walk together except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

## EPHESIANS 46

One baptism. Clearly, he does not have in mind water baptism but rather Spirit baptism. Spirit baptism has one purpose in view and that is to blend the body together in the Spirit of unison. Eph. 4:5 He expands on the reason for his statement in 1 Cor. 12:13 where he declares that we are all baptized in one Spirit into one body. There is not to be found a Messianic segment of the body nor a Heathen section in the body of Christ. Fleshly identities are lost and we are now one in Christ Jesus. All are treated alike, whether Jew or Gentile. All are equally privileged to drink of the one and same Spirit. All have put on Christ or are surrounded by the Spirit as if clothed by Him. None will receive preferential treatment on a racial basis. Any differences in the measure of the beauty of the anointing will be because of a fulfilling of the will of the Lord in surrender and dedication to the leadings of the Lord not on a racial origin.

One God and Father, Being acknowledged as the Father distinguishes Him from the Son, one baptism. Clearly, he does not have in mind water baptism but rather Spirit baptism. Spirit baptism has one purpose in view and that is to blend the body together in the Spirit of unison. Eph. 4:5 He expands on the reason for his statement in 1 Cor. 12:13 where he declares that we are all baptized in one Spirit into one body. There is not to be found a Messianic segment of the body nor a Heathen section in the body of Christ. Fleshly identities are lost and we are now one in Christ Jesus. All are treated alike, whether Jew or Gentile. All are equally privileged to drink of the one and same Spirit. All have put on Christ or are surrounded by the Spirit as if clothed by Him. None will receive preferential treatment on a racial basis. Any differences in the measure of the beauty of the anointing

will be because of a fulfilling of the will of the Lord in surrender and dedication to the leadings of the Lord not on a racial origin.

One God and Father, Being acknowledged as the Father distinguishes Him from the Son and the Holy Spirit. As the Father, He bears the full responsibility of leadership. While being the Father places Him at a high and supreme position as the progenitor, the source of all things, we find that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit were involved in every action which was taken. Take for instance, creation. Immediately we are introduced to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Gen. 1:2 The Lord Jesus, as the Word is credited as being the creator. Col. 1:16 There is a constant unity of purpose found between the persons of the Godhead which is marvelous to behold.

#### EPHESIANS 47

The last words uttered by the Lord Jesus on the cross were addressed to the Father. "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." Lk 23:46 Jesus, in death, surrendered His spirit being into the Divine protection of His Father. The word commit according to Strong's Dictionary means to deposit (as a trust or for protection), also (the keeping of) in this case his spirit. Peter will verify this by his statement in 1 Peter 2:23 when he wrote that Jesus, "entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly." That is into the hands of the Father who is omnipresent. Consequently, during the time of the three days when His body was in the grave, His spirit nature was in the hands of His Father and it can hardly be said that His Father was in hell. Therefore the spirit of Christ did not spend the three days in hell while his body was in the tomb.

At the conclusion of the three days and nights, Jesus as the great high priest ascended into the heavenly and presented the blood of sacrifice on the mercy seat of the Lord. When Jesus called Her name, Mary immediately recognized Him. He stopped her from touching Him for He was the bearer, the vessel of the atonement and it had not yet been placed on the mercy seat. John 20:17 When it was sprinkled there, He completed the offering of His own blood for the redemption of all who will come to Him. Not only is He the sacrifice but He is also the propitiation, the mercy seat itself. 1 John 2:2

At His ascension He took captive all the powers of sin and darkness. Eph. 4:8 Every force and power involved in captivity He defeated, conquering them by the power of His crucifixion. No enemy or Satanic force was left undefeated. He publicly displayed His victory over every opposing authority and ability of the powers of darkness. Col. 2:15 In exchange, as far as man is concerned, He distributed spiritual gifts to those whom he delivered from bondage. Beginning with the gift of salvation and the grace of God, to the gifts of the Spirit, there are a multiplicity of gifts which He most graciously bestows on His people. Paul exuberantly wrapped the whole idea of gifts and made it all to be found in the person of the Lord Jesus. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." 2 Cor. 9:15 NIV His gifts are better experienced than described. Even David proclaimed that "He daily loads us with benefits." Ps. 68:19 Every good and perfect gift originates with our heavenly Father. James 1:17 There is not a gift which he bestows on us that is not extremely beneficial both in natural life and spiritual life here on earth. It all begins at Calvary.

## EPHESIANS 48

He ascended, glorious and wonderful thought. His ascension sealed An open door into the kingdom of God. As the Lamb of God He stands in the immediate presence of His Father's throne as a sign of the full accomplishment of the redeeming work of Calvary. John the Baptist introduced Him to the World as the Lamb. John 1:29 The great importance of His eternal position is emphasized by the place He occupies both now and eternally. He is the very center, the heart of the throne. Rev. 5:6 John the Apostle saw Him with an evidence of shed blood for He was as a slain Lamb. Rev. 7:10 As surely as the Father is God, so just as definitely, the Lamb is God. The throne and it's occupants are the source of the waters of life. Rev. 22:1 This glorious throne and all that accompanies it will be the center, the core of spiritual life and activity in the New Jerusalem. The throne is the temple of that city to come. Rev. 21:22 The Lamb, the light of the world will continue to be the source of light in that eternal city. Rev. 21:23 We will eternally surround the throne, the very heart beat of the Lord and rejoice in the love and care that flows from it's occupants. The throne in it's self is a great study. It's importance cannot be over emphasized.

Christ in His descention from heaven went no lower in the earth than the grave. On the cross He made it obvious that His spirit was to be held in the hands of His Father. Luke 23:46 The spirit nature of man is the living portion of the trinity that is the make up of Man. His body was in the tomb and was the container of the remainder of His blood which had not been poured out on Calvary. The life of the flesh is in the blood. Lev. 17:11 The complete unit that makes man live is body, soul (the blood) and the spirit. In the creation of man, God breathed His breath into the nostrils of man and he became a living soul. Gen. 2:7 Thus a full accounting of the whereabouts of the Lord Jesus for those three days is given. Furthermore, the scriptures say that He descended to the lower parts of the "earth". Eph 4:9 Strong' s Dictionary on the word earth, gh, ge (ghay) is, contracted from a primary word; soil; by extension a region, or the solid part of the whole terrene globe. His soul was not to be left in sheol (the grave, pit, or hell) nor would He gaze upon the corruption of the grave. Neither would His body even begin to corrupt. He would not be left in the grave. Ps. 16:10 If the lamb used as the Passover lamb and the tabernacle sacrifice had to be without blemish, how much more the Lamb of the one true sacrifice. Ex. 12:5

## EPHESIANS 49

Great is the mystery of the being and the works of the Lord. He descended. It seems to be such a casual approach to an action that is unparallel in the past or in the future. He stepped down from the eternal throne of heaven. Down from the atmosphere of all that is right and pure. The Word of God, the creator became the created by taking on the form of man. Before He was able to ascend He had become the offering of God for the sins of the world. In fulfilling the will and purpose of God He took upon Himself the sin of every human being ever to be born into this world. All because Go so loved the world. Who can fully comprehend the magnitude of His decision and the subsequent fulfillment of the will of God.

The Lord Jesus was gloriously and majestically exalted above all. He is positioned over and above all that pertains to leadership in this world. He is supreme over all who would occupy a position of ruling, every monarch, every potentate is in subjection to Him though they are unaware of the Divine influence that is exerted on them. They are but puppets in His



hands. No one has the capability of the demonstration of power that He has. All power was given unto Him. Mt. 28:18 Dominion is His, He rules, He reigns and none can withstand Him. There is no name that is like His name. It is the name of salvation. When we speak it in love He responds with that unmatched depths of His love that literally overwhelms the heart of those who seek Him. If opposing powers approach, that name immediately conquers them. From the angels of heaven to the demons of hell all are submissive to the authority of that name. He is in charge now and will continue to be in the new heavens and the new earth, that is through out eternity. Ph. 1:20-21

He did not leave the church without proper leadership. On the day of Pentecost he sent the blessed Holy Spirit to the church to guide them into all truth. Through the Spirit and by the Spirit He established those who are to build the church. Not a building but the body of Christ in the earth. We are introduced to what is known as the five fold ministry. Five offices of guidance and great responsibility. These are not positions in the body that we chose to fulfill but they are divinely called, appointed and equipped by the Spirit of the Lord. It cannot be over emphasized that these men receive an office of the very greatest accountability before the Lord and also before the church. The importance of these ministries are of the uttermost importance to the church in the end of the age. They will be known by their works and not by self-proclamation.

## EPHESIANS 50

The Lord established the very highest goal for the completion of the ministry of these five positions, i.e. the highly visible last day church or more fitting the Bride of Christ. Eph. 4:12 They are to lead the Bride to the maturity that will distinguish her from the church of generations past. She will be the church of His glory, the glorious church of a sinless nature. Eph. 5:27 The Apostle Paul, once having introduced the subject, immediately set some guide lines and objectives in relationship to the Divine requirements for participating with her in her hour of maturity. The whole of which is to be a work of education leading to the complete edification of the body of Christ, the church. She is the great love of His life. The scriptures show that God loved all the people of the world.

John 3:16 while Jesus loved His church, which came out of the world, and therefore gave Himself for her. Eph. 5:25

This is that church which has reached the entire will and purpose of the Lord by being unified. Accomplished by their belief in the Word of the Lord. Through the teachings of the great teacher, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of the Lord they have been able to achieve absolute unity and perfect harmony. Col. 4:14 As an example of the type of unity that there will be we turn to the words of the Lord Jesus, "That all of them may be one, Father just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us." John 17:21 Thus the body of Christ not only will be melded together with each other but the very fullness of all that is called God will be a part of that beautiful work of the Spirit. We have another example which will hush up those who say it cannot be done. Too late. It has already been done. The early church believers were able to allow the Spirit to develop unity among themselves. Acts 4:32

Knowledge of Jesus is not just knowing who He claimed to be or what He has done or had done to Him, but a deep and extreme understanding and comprehension of who He is. A face to face affiliation with Him. A love relationship where the secrets of hearts are revealed. He knows all about us, now it is our turn to enter into the secret places of the Most High and learn the intimacies of His heart. Eph. 4:13 Paul in his search for a full and meaningful rapport turned to the crucified Christ. Is there a better way to understand one than to walk with them during a time of great suffering, to feel what they feel. In such moments it may not be necessary to speak a word but just to be present as one who is standing with the one suffering, is often comforting. Especially when that person is an intimate friend.

## EPHESIANS 51

That which makes the Lord to be God is the fact that with Him there are no impossibilities. The body of Christ is destined to reach a status in Christ of that of a "perfect man." Eph. 4:13 When the Lord makes a prophetic statement rest assured that it shall come to pass. Jesus issued the challenge for those who are His very own to be as perfect as the Father. Mt. 5:48 A standard that is utterly unachievable by the natural man. However that does not hinder the Lord from performing a work of the Spirit

in our lives. David had confidence that the Lord would perform a work in Him, and so he said, “The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me.” Ps. 138:8

There are some elements of the call of the Lord that are foundational and dare not be ignored. One of them is expressed by the Apostle Peter when he quoted from the book of Leviticus these words. “Just as the one who has called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written, be holy because I am Holy. 1 Peter 1;15-16 The expressed requirement of the Lord is not a secret but is openly stated. The challenge is too much for the flesh to even begin to desire but the Spirit of the Lord within the believer will understand and seek the Lord until the work is accomplished. Exactly how vital is a holy life? Holiness is a total necessity in order to gain heaven. “follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Heb. 12:14 There is no way that this particular necessity for entrance into the kingdom of heaven could be expressed in a more understandable manner.

In modern day life there is a constant urging by leaders to establish goals for our life and then set out to accomplish them. “Aim for perfection.” 2 Cor. 13:11 NIV. So the goal of every Christian who would fulfill the desire of the Lord has a definite objective in heart as they seek to draw closer to the Lord. Out of the apostate church the Lord will cause the apostasy of some to cease for the entrance of perfection will negate the idea of the impossibility of perfection expressed by those who excuse the sin that is found in the church by saying that perfection or sinlessness is not possible. Paul said that when “perfection is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” 1 C or. 13:3 He was willing to acknowledge that he had not yet arrived at a status of perfection but did not let that deter him, for he stated that he was pressing on to gain the vision that had been given him of the Divine will of the Lord. He was not about to fold or give in. His determination was to press on toward and gain, the prize set before him. Phil. 2:12

## EPHESIANS 52

“Until we reach unity.” The coming together of the body. We are all well aware of what happens to the physical man when there is a lack of co-

ordination between the brain and the muscles. If the church body of today tried to gather together under the present spiritual dearth and doctrinal differences it would end up in one great fiasco. Such perfect accord, particularly when it involves beliefs or doctrines, may only be achieved by an operation of the Spirit and a true change of beliefs. Obviously this requires a mighty move of the Spirit in the church in a last day revival. Eph. 4:13 Paul said; "there is one faith." Eph. 4:5 The teaching of the church in that day will originate from the teacher, the Holy Spirit and it will be the true revelation of the Word. The teachings of the Lord Jesus were identical to those of the Father. Thus demonstrating the unity and the faith as it proceeds from it's source. John 7:16

The Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Spirit has been given to the church that He mighty continue the revelation of a full comprehension of the Lord Jesus which must be manifest to every believer in the body of Christ. The words of the Apostle Paul give us an insight into what will be the cry of the church, "that I may know Him." Phil. 3:10 This is the cry of a mature man of God. He had within his heart a deep longing to understand Christ to the fullest. An association which involved suffering with Him and being made conformable unto His death that in the ultimate he mighty experience the experiences of Christ and know the depths of the power of resurrection. He sought a complete surrender to a life that was to produce the fullness of Christ being made manifest in his life.

The perfect man is the man who has grown spiritually until he has reached a spiritual plain that is identical to the length, the height, the depth and the width, of the Lord Jesus Himself. This is that one hundred fold Christian who will indeed be bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Gen. 2:23 A people formed from His pierced side a product of the water and the blood which flowed from His wound. John 19:34 The Lord Jesus, the eternal one came into this world as we all have, by water and by blood, thus God became a man. Through the water and the blood, we are brought into the kingdom of God and redeemed. Man is elevated to the high and holy status of being a son of God. He became one with us that we might become one with Him. The positive, the negative, all the experiences of life are a part of the process used by the Lord to bring His people to the high and holy standard that He has established. Even Jesus learned obedience by the things which He suffered. Heb. 5:8

## EPHESIANS 53

Once again, it is a matter of goal setting. In this case it has already been established by the Lord for His church. In several different ways the Lord will express through His Word precisely what He has in mind for the church of the last days. Here, we find it to be a receptacle for the very essence that makes God to be God. She will realize the fullness of His presence in her. Just as in Christ the completeness of all that God is deigns to dwell. So when the fullness of Christ dwells in the church it involves the presence of the Father as well as the Holy Spirit. "For in Him dwelleth ALL the FULNESS of the Godhead" in a physical form. Col. 2:9 In other words, "God was in Christ" 2 Cor. 5:19 Thus, the good pleasure of the Father was accomplished. It was exactly as had been planned in the eternal councils of the Lord. God, the Father and God, the Holy Spirit were to tabernacle in God, the Christ of God. This we find in the statement of the Lord Jesus, my Father and I are one." Not one and the same person but unified as one. One taking up His residence in the other., the Father in the Son. John 10:30

Thus we see that, "God who is a Spirit," (John 4:24) is building for Himself a eternal, Holy city and tabernacle of His own construction wherein He may manifest the fullness of Himself. Under these conditions both sides benefit and receive the desire of their hearts. He will dwell in the midst of a people who will be constantly worshipping Him and speaking out of their great love for Him. While His people, those redeemed by the blood of Christ will revel in the continuous glory and presence of the power and joy of the Spirit. In this case the body of Christ is most definitely the greatest beneficiary. If Christ dwells within us, and He does, then we have the fullness of the Godhead for that fullness lives in Him. "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives IN BODILY FORM." NIV. The caps are intentional for it is the body, the physical man (Christ and the church as well.) that is the Temple of God. The place of His eternal habitation. Even so, "the heavens, even the highest heaven cannot contain you." 1 Kings 8:27 That gives us at least an inkling of the magnitude of His greatness. His majesty far exceeds the ability of our imaginations in trying to understand the nature of His eternal being.

Now, comprehend this. The church is to be filled with all the fullness of God.” That you may be filled to measure of ALL OF THE FULLNESS God.” Eph. 3:19 “attaining to the WHOLE MEASURE of the FULLNESS of God.” Eph. 4:13 “That you may be filled to the measure of ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.” Eph. 3:19 NIV These scriptures leave little doubt as to what the Lord intends to do for those who love Him.

EPHESIANS 54 (missing)

EPHESIANS 55

Declaring the truth under the inspiration of love. Eph. 4:15 How extremely essential are these two elements to the spiritual advancement of the church. We find that love is the motivating factor for the spiritual growth of the church and that love is the very essence of God. The only real meaningful love is the love which makes the Lord to be exactly what He is, LOVE. 1 John 4:16 A love that is manifest by the attitude that each individual displays toward their fellow human being. The measure of love that we display one toward another will show whether or not the love of God is dwelling within. His love is noticeable when displayed under very practical circumstances. It is never more tested than when there is a conflict of personalities in the church. Love will not carry a grudge or a wrong doing of any kind over a period of time. His love in us will conquer our human emotions and enable us to love even those who are our enemies. Here is the challenge of the Word of the Lord. Great peace have they which love thy law: and NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM. Ps 119:165 The offended one who becomes bitter is the loser when they do not release the offence and commit it to the Lord. Love your enemy, do good. Mt. 5:44

Speaking the truth in love. Truth is to found in the Lord Jesus who is the truth. John 14:6 Truth is like love, a very important element involving the spiritual growth of the church. Truth is foundational and fundamental, without it there can be no meaningful growth in the church. Therefore we, particularly in the last days, are exhorted to buy the truth and hold on to it, don't sell it. Prov. 23:23 Truth is seen in the character of the Lord Jesus who came into this world filled with the grace and truth both of which are found to be components of the nature of God. John 1:17, 14 The effect of

truth on the church is monumental. It is the essence of the Lord revealed to the church as a pattern of life that is most beneficial. The call of the Spirit and the Word to the people of God is to be, in this world, the “pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim. 3:15 Therefore a witness to the unsaved that grace and truth are to be found in the Lord Jesus.

All the essentials for good and sustainable spiritual growth are to be found in love and truth. Lacking either will cause the cessation of good, strong spiritual advancement and to eventual apostasy and spiritual death. The goal of the Lord for the church is presented as being that of coming to the place where in “all things” the church is worthy of being joined together with Him. Being made to be one with the head, even Christ. Eph. 4:15

## EPHESIANS 56

“Grow up.” A most fitting word of exhortation. As the growth of all things is an essential part of natural life, so it is with spiritual life. The term would be easily understood by the agrarian civilization of that day. Spiritual growth is not always the result of good and positive events in our lives. There are times when real negative trials take place but they elicit a positive reaction and growth, therefore are necessary. Most unfortunately, there are times when the only way that the Lord can get our attention is to allow some sort of an adversity to take place in our life. Peter took cognizance of situations of this sort and labeled them as being “fiery trials,” “strange things” (events). Equating them to the sufferings of Christ. Circumstances that would not have occurred had they not been living for Christ. 1 Peter 4:12-13 However, any joy that may be derived from these actions may not be fully revealed until He comes, we are still to count it “all joy” as we face them now. James 1:2 Christians have developed the strange mentality that any and all negative things that take place in our lives should not be, and that the positive, only the good things should take place. Not so. ALL (good, bad, trials, tribulations, indifferent) things work together for good, for those who love Him. Rom. 8:28

The Main source of spiritual nutrients conducive to growth in the body of Christ, that is the church, is the Word of the Lord and the God appointed teacher, the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of truth and has come to the church to show them the things of Christ. He is the one who has been

commissioned to direct those in Christ in the things concerning the will of the Lord. John 16:13-14 Seed represents the Word of the Lord from the time that it is scattered on the ground until it is ripe and produces fruit. Mt. 13:23 The hundred-fold crop foreshadows the perfect church destined to become the body of Christ and subsequently His Bride. Eph. 5:27 The mature, the fully grown church. Those who have attained unto the fullness that is found in Christ. They are like Him in every aspect of the word. They join with the head, the Christ of God. A perfect fit. An exact likeness. Obviously prepared for one another. As with the natural baby they start their life by feeding on the milk of the Word. 1 Peter 2:2 They then graduate to a desire of something more satisfying to a growing body, called strong meat by the Apostle. The deeper things of the Word. A comprehension of it's mysteries and prophetic contents. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Those still milk are called babes but those capable of receiving and digesting strong meat are recognized as being of a full age. Heb. 5:12-14 Individually where do we stand?

## EPHESIANS 57

The direction of spiritual growth is always up. Eph. 4:15 Paul gave instructions to seek those things which are above, that is the heavenly. Col. 3:1 The measure of that growth is to reach the stature where one can be joined as one with Christ or into Christ in all things. When that growth has been accomplished the body has reached the same stature as the head and a perfect union will be the results. Thus we find in the scriptures the ultimate, the grand mystery, revealed to be Christ and His church. He is the head and as such will always have the preeminence, the leadership. Having been made one with Him we find that there are awards one starts to acquire. Those elements that cause Him to be different from other human beings. Take for instance John's statement; 'In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.' John 1:4 That life is eternal life. It is life as God lives it, holy, separated unto the Lord, uncontaminated by sin. All those who are truly joined to the head may enjoy all the privileges involved in all things which are God like. The fullness of Christ becomes theirs for that body has matured and may now enjoy, with Him, His fullness. Eph. 1:23

Because spiritual growth is that which will join His church to Him, it is well that we find and follow the means whereby we grow. The Psalmist



immediately, stated that it was the entrance of the Word which brought with it the illumination, even enlightening the simple. Ps. 119:13 Because the Word is the result of the inspiration of the Spirit what better way is there to understand it but by the Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth Who would keep His followers informed concerning future events and also those things pertaining to a healthy spiritual life. John 16:13-15 Again the author of Ps. 119 presented those who would serve the Lord with a key strategically move in dealing with sin. He found that hiding the Word in his heart was a deterrent to sin. Ps 119:11 It is one thing to have a reading program but it is another subject to take the time and the effort to study the Word. It is that which has the full seal and approval of the Lord. 2 Tim. 2:15 The Word is an amazing and wonderful book. It has the ability to make us to want to laugh with joy and weep with sorrow at one and the same time. It is history but at the same time the most graphic book ever printed pertaining to the future of this world and that which is to come. It is more than ink on paper, it is a person. The Lord Jesus is that Word made flesh. Thus to ingest the Word is to assimilate His life and life-giving force. It will change and alter our life style into His likeness and image.

## EPHESIANS 58

The love of the Lord revealed in the Christian will produce a life that in the ultimate will be joined together with Christ. It will develop into a body that will positively identify itself with Christ as His mystical body and Bride. As always He is the head, the leader having full control. All the activities and manifestations of spiritual life originate with Him. The responsibility, the guidance, the directing will emanate from Him. He is above all and in all those who will choose to enter into the Divine consequence of the church having been the recipient of His great love. Eph. 4:15

Outside of the Godhead there never has been a display of unity such as will be seen in the body of Christ when she is gathered together and unified. She is to be a perfect organism the entire membership moving together in perfect coordination. Eph. 4:16 She is compacted together. What an excellent and very descriptive word, further emphasizing the fact of the absolute fluid flowing together of the multitude of individuals, who will be in that perfect Bride. Eph. 5:27 Every member of the body will contribute to the function of the whole body without there being even the slightest hint

of a conflict of any nature. Thus the ability, the effectual working of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated and we have a glimpse of that which will everlastingly be the condition of the new heavens and the new earth, as well as the new Jerusalem, The love of the Lord as it is displayed through the Lord Jesus Christ lends itself to increase. In all that the Lord will do in His church the church will prosper and edify herself in the Lord while growing spiritually. Eph. 4:16

Words of correction and admonition in reference to the manner of life that was being lived by other Gentiles. While Paul addressed the Gentiles, he is establishing a code of righteousness that would apply to all who desired to serve the Lord Jesus. Most definitely what he presented to them in that day is just as much a pattern of life for today as it was then. If anything, the things mentioned by the Apostle are much more intense in our day, increasing in their volume and wickedness almost daily. We are destined to see a wave of the Spirit sweep over the church in cleansing and repentance. The Lord has promised a visitation in the last days of the Spirit on the church. Especially upon the young of this generation. Joel 2:8 The God of all mercy visit's the world with a visitation of mercy before He manifests His anger and wrath against a people who persist in living in unrighteousness and wickedness. We will soon see a sharp division between the ungodly and the Godly. Rev, 22;11 Note please that this is in association with His second coming. Rev. 22:12

## EPHESIANS 59

The true church of the Word will embrace the living gospel as it is presented by the Lord Jesus and the Apostles. All that they achieve is built on their love for the Lord and their willingness to love one another. Even though, at times, we find that the personalities of certain individuals affect us in a negative fashion, we are taught to love them. A perfected church may not necessarily mean that all others are changed to fit our criteria. But all will be changed and patterned after the scriptures. Therefore we do well to give earnest heed to the Word of the Lord Eph. 4:16

We come then to the teaching of the Apostle Paul pertaining to a full and joyful Christian life. One that is formed in the willing heart of those who are seeking a deeper spiritual life. While we are not saved by works there are a

number of things that we may do to enhance and cause our spiritual life to advance and grow. When they are presented to us they may not be what we want to hear and do but when followed they bring joy, gladness and spiritual liberty and growth. One of these teachings he presented as the, way of the heathen, or the style of their living.. Eph. 4:17 As he enumerates them there is nothing beneficial or enhancing in their manner of life that would add any good thing to the Christian life. Contrariwise it would detract and spoil the good thing that we find in the Lord Jesus Christ. The operation of the Spirit which is performed in us at the time of the new birth produces an attitude of life that is diametrically opposite to the Heathen life listed by the Apostle. Eph. 4:17-19

Knowing Christ brings deliverance from the life style followed by the Heathen. The beauty of that change is that nothing we left behind is missed, as a matter of fact we have to say; good riddance of bad rubbish.. When we discover that there are some ways of the old life which were either overlooked or have crept back in we then have the privilege of dealing with the old man by putting him off. Paul is not gentle in dealing with the sins of the flesh. His suggestion is that of spiritual circumcision an act that would require a change of heart. The cleansing and purification of the heart. This is a work of the Spirit of the Lord in our lives that cleanses and sanctifies the thoughts and desires of the human heart. Rom. 2:29 Another way that the Apostle uses to address the subject is that we are to be crucified with Christ. Rom. 6:6 Both are very effective in ridding one of unwanted thoughts and actions which rob us of the peace and joy of serving the Lord. Whatever price one has to pay to get rid of the ways of this world it is well worth it and a bargain at any cost.

## EPHESIANS 60

The word of the Lord in it's usage of the name Gentile is using a word that is synonymous with the word Heathen. Paul is using it in reference to those who by right of refusal have rejected Christ. Those who because of their rejection of Christ, walk in the darkness of sin. Because of their rejection of Christ they have chosen darkness rather than light. Their minds are corrupted to such a degree that their whole thought pattern is wicked only. To them everything has a wicked connotation, or they place one on any situation. They live in spiritual darkness. Completely ignorant of the joys of

serving the Lord which is caused by the spiritual blindness of their eyes and the hardness of their hearts. Their attitude toward spiritual things keeps them separated from the love of the Lord. They are not in this condition because they are Gentiles but because of their position on things spiritual places them in the category of having the Gentile nature. Eph. 4:17-18

The preceding is a brief word picture of the appearance of the unsaved before the Lord. Now, having come to Christ the exhortation of the Apostle is that a full consecration be made, where the old life be totally laid aside. Eph. 4:22 In just one sentence it is pointed out how the past life of all was corrupt having been deceived and involved in a past life of sin. "all have sinned." Rom. 3:23 The old man, the shell in which the real man dwells may be "put off" in the waters of baptism. Paul wrote of it as being "buried with Christ" Rom. 6:4 Ridding oneself of the of the deeds of the past and instituting a good house cleaning is not a grievous thing. The benefits are enormous in advancing one toward a spiritual goal of an extremely high standard.

This process when followed will bring a renewing of the spirit of the mind. Just think of the enormity of presence of the Lord when it may be said that "we have the mind of the Lord." 1 Cor. 2:16 That makes all of His wisdom and knowledge available to us when He responds to our prayers. Having the mind of Christ is the goal of the Lord for His people. A people of equal intelligence with whom He may communicate in a fashion equal to Himself. Just think of how far He wants to change His people until they bear His likeness in every aspect, not puppets but people who have chosen to be everything that He desires them to be. Phil. 2:5 we really have very little conception what we will be like in the new heavens and new earth but this we do know "When He appears we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2

## EPHESIANS 61

Our attention is focused on a condition in this world that is almost unbelievable. A people who are without restraint and past any feelings of shame or guilt. Totally surrendered to works of unrighteousness. Solomon in Proverbs described it as the way of an adulteress, "she eats and wipes her mouth and says, 'I have done nothing wrong.'" Prov. 30:20 It is a scene

that belongs to the last day world living in gross lasciviousness and perverted wickedness of all sorts. Manifesting works of greed that are excessive. Writing to Timothy Paul adds what He felt would take place in this world in the end of the age. Use it to compare with tomorrows news. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy. Without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”  
2 Tim. 3:2-3

The Ephesians however were not of that nature. How one comes to Christ matters little, the important thing is that they come to Him. There we may learn of Him and be taught the truths of the Word as they are found in the Lord Jesus. Eph. 4:20-21 Even for these who had not squandered their lives in the depths of sin there were the actions and sinful practices of the old life to be reckoned with. A life, which even for those religious persons who may not have dabbled in the depths of sin, there is a in need of a drastic change. For all have sinned, even the very best of mankind has come short of the glory of God. There must be a renovation, the installation of a new life within every person who is in Christ Jesus. The result is a new mind, a mind that receives it's inspiration and thought pattern from the living Word. The new man, the new creation will show forth that new life which we receive from the Lord. Eph. 4:22-23 This new man is to be one whose mind is stayed on the Lord Jesus. The Lord has performed in them an act of creation which will enable them to live a life which is modeled after the true righteousness and holiness of the Lord. He imparts His Spirit and His life then becomes our life. Eph. 4:23

We are then furnished with a lesson on what to expect from the new man. They will be persons of truth, speaking and living it. If angered, they will not retain that anger and allow it to become a source of bitterness. Those who are thieves will no longer steal. Their speech is enlightening and encouraging. They speak wholesome and edifying words. They walk carefully making certain that they do not grieve the Holy Spirit. In this process they rid themselves of “all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander. Plus every form of malice. They love and are kind one toward the other. Eph. 4:30-32 Thus we see His desire for our Christian walk.

## EPHESIANS 62

The instruction of the Apostle is that they serve the Lord in the spirit and nature of the new man. It is that new being that exemplifies the life of Christ. The new man is to be created in the image and likeness of Christ in true righteousness and holiness, which is the righteousness of the living God. The man of God is created by God with the divine purpose, that he be like God, with His own desire to fellowship mankind in mind. The Lord created the new man to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. Rom. 6:20 We have not been redeemed without the Lord having a strong and positive purpose in mind. He gave Himself to redeem sinners unto a life free from all wickedness. They are to be purified, sanctified unto the Lord and His manner of life. Titus 2:14 This is positively not a minor thing with the Lord, for we find that we are to "be holy, for without holiness no one shall see the Lord," Heb. 12:14 Those who have the hope of seeing Christ and spending eternity with Him and are going to make every effort possible to allow the Lord, to complete His work of righteousness and holiness in them. 1 John 3:3 As the Spirit enlightens the new man with the revelation of the will of the Lord through the Word of the Lord, We need have no doubts and qualms about the will of the Lord. It is well recorded in His best seller, the Bible.

With the basic works of righteousness and evidences of the entrance of that new life, lying will cease. The new man speaks truth even when it costs him to produce fruit or evidence of their new found faith. Eph 4:25 We are more than just neighbors, we are all together bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Therefore, His attitude toward the members should be ours too.

The next lesson is in restraining anger. We live in an angry world filled with angry citizens. The irritants are many, as are the instances when uncontrolled anger bursts forth. For home life it is a real killer of peace and accord. Therefore the added exhortation. How many times when anger has flared up and words have been uttered that we immediately wish we could recall and blot out. All is not lost. The Lord has a solution, do not let the sun go down on your wrath, in other words, humble yourself, repent and ask forgiveness of the offended one against whom the words were directed. Such action will heal and cure and one and the same time. Heal when forgiveness is extended and cured when we realize that it hurts the pride of

mankind to have to confess that they have foolishly reacted to a situation which in the end seems minor. Eph. 4:26

## EPHESIANS 63

Be victorious, make no room for satanic powers or influence, which come against you. Eph. 4:27 No retreat or giving of ground. Give him no openings or commit misdeeds whereby he can take advantage of our mistake. The instruction of the scripture is to resist him but submit to God.. James 5:7 Such aggressive action against him is too much for him, for he will flee. Which we may do by using the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for Jesus said that in His name devils would be cast out Mt. 16:17 Also members of the body of Christ have been furnished special armor against which he has no power. Eph. 6:11, 14 The church is well equipped when satanic attacks arise. Even before he makes his move, we are declared to be more than conquerors, through Christ. Rom. 8:37

The alteration of the old sinful man is a sure evidence of the work of the Lord in the salvation of the individual. The thief in particular is addressed by the urging of the apostle for certain of them mixed multitude, hangers on IN THE CHURCH)to cease committing their thefts by getting employment and to work with their hands. In giving to the poor, the needy, there would seem to be a form of restitution here. Salvation had an immediate response in a rich man named Zacchaeus, from Zakky (pure). What he most definitely had not been prior to his conversion, he certainly became at the time of his repentance. He immediately gave half of his riches for the poor. Plus, he promised that had he cheated anyone, he would repay fourfold. Luke 19:8 That is real conversion and restitution. Suddenly all of his riches had no meaning. Like Paul, he had a complete turn around when it came to the things which had so greatly counted for him in this life. Phil. 3:8

The speech, the manner of the language used may also be a sign of that new life which is found only in the Lord Jesus. The old passes away and all things become new. That embraces, not only words used in expressing oneself but the subject of the conversation. Gossip, character assignation, the destruction of someone's reputation. Criticism, all and any words proceeding from the mouth that are negative and contain words which express a hidden and deeper motive. How much better it is when our words

are words of encouragement and edification. In a world filled with heartache and sorrow how precious the words of our mouths may become in the ears of the hearer. They are of such great value. Solomon called them, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver," Prov. 25:11 Proper Words are vital to spiritual welfare. Mt. 12:37 What are our words really saying?

## EPHESIANS 64

Vital instructions concerning our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30 The symbolism used for the introduction of the personality of the Holy Spirit, in His role of dwelling within the people of the Lord, is as diverse as it could possibly be. He came to the Lord Jesus with the personality of a dove. John 1:32 Thus, we see the nature of the gentle, peaceful, loving Jesus. When the Lord sealed His covenant with Abraham the fourth sacrifice mentioned was a turtledove. Gen. 15:9 Four is the number of the earth. The covenant was that which the Lord made with Abraham and his seed inheriting the land that the Lord was going to give him. The total number of animals and birds was five, the number of atonement. When the sacrifices were arraigned the turtledove would have been the seventh of eight perfection and resurrection. Repeatedly, throughout the scriptures in sign, symbol and Word the message of redemption is told. What an exciting book the Bible is.

While on the day of Pentecost He came as a rushing mighty wind and filled the one hundred twenty with the Holy Spirit and fire. This time the Spirit of the Lord was dealing with a very different type of people. These had just come to the Lord. They were diamonds in the rough and needed the fire of the Spirit to burn and cleanse the old life out of them. Mal. 3:3 The fire of the Lord when it comes upon the Children of the Lord has a sanctifying effect in their spirit nature. If it comes upon the unsaved or the rebellious it is generally an act of judgment. Num. 11:1

The Angel of the Lord was to accompany, guide and protect Israel in their sojourn through the wilderness. The Lord gave them special warning to be careful and listen vigilantly to His voice and obey Him. To fail to listen to His voice is to lose certain victory. All that is required is obedience. That doesn't seem to be too big a price for all the benefits reaped. There is a sin



of “no return” recorded by the author in the book of Hebrews. Its consequences are ominous, spiritually deadly and eternal with no possibility of forgiveness. It is to sin against the Holy Spirit. Heb. 6:4-6

## EPHESIANS 65

Six elements of the human nature that we must set aside in order to enjoy the blessings of salvation. Eph. 4:30 Like weeds are found in everyone’s yard, these to some measure are found in everyone’s life. For some, they are a greater hindrance than for others. Bitterness is a thief and greatly destructive. James rightly identified the source of bitterness as not coming from above i.e. not from the Lord. He called it, earthly or worldly. Something to be found in the corrupt nature of mankind. Its character is sensual, of the lower or animal nature. Spiritually it is devilish or demonic. Anyone who has ever been under the attack of a person of this sort knows exactly how demonic it can be. Its destructive forces will destroy the best of marriages and tear apart healthy churches.

Roots can be as thin as a hair of our head, Roots may be minuscule, but they grow into great trees when permitted to do so. Bitterness is derived from envy and strife. Unchecked it will only increase in volume until the individual is consumed and destroyed by it. Deal with it in its infancy and be happy in the Lord. The bitter person is never joyful. Bitterness completely rules their life. From bitterness comes confusion and every evil work. If we find even the very slightest of bitterness in our spirit nature it is well that we abandon it at any cost. Whatever the circumstances it is better to lose face than to lose one’s soul.

The display of wrath and anger are a direct result of a bitter spirit. The bitter live a life of consistent anger which can increase in intensity until they are filled with wrath and threatening of all kinds as they fail to prevail in getting their own way. Wrath grows out of anger. Anger is ever present in a bitter spirit and when resisted quickly is turned into wrath. From these comes clamor, A tumult or a crying out or an argument. There is that evil character involved where the bitter have “an axe to grind” and out of malice or an evil spirit and attitude will instigate action which embraces these wicked works. Resulting in the truth that there are going to be many great changes take place. The Lord never challenges us beyond that which is obtainable.

## EPHESIANS 66

“Be kind one to another.” Eph. 4:32 A word of admonition addressed to the church. A most needful attribute of which the members of the church should become prime examples. Surprisingly, I have found that there are still people in this world who are kind and caring. not because it is something which is deliberately learned and practiced, because of necessity, but of a kindly nature. Acts of kindness are evidences of the love of Christ. A love which transforms and produces a new person. One in whom the kindness of Christ is made manifest. Paul in his letter to the Colossian church urged them to clothe, “to put On” themselves, Paul gives to understand that he is not talking about natural kindness but that which comes from Christ. The Greek word used here means to empower, to increase, strengthen. This shows us the value of kindness. It does not belong with words from the category of anything that is weak. Not all circumstances are of such nature that they even deserve kindness. That however, becomes the test of kindness. It is never more needed that when faced with acts that are unkind and rude.

Paul greatly emphasizes the necessity of kindness with several expressions and companion words which leave very little doubt as to the goal which he was establishing as a standard for the church. They are bowels of mercies (both plural), the ability to sympathize with others in their situations. A deep rooted inward affection for their fellow human being. Humbleness of mind, modesty, the ability to see the value in others and to give them the first place in our attention. Meekness, humility of heart and of mind. The placing of others before ourselves. Longsuffering, putting up with something of long time standing. The exercise of great patience. Forbearing with one another, putting up with the multitude of personalities found in humanity, from the home to the workplace. Any and all of these are spiritual benefits available to those who are in Christ.

The final, forgiveness. In the course of our life time there will be some grossly unfair things said and done against us. It is so easy for the carnal nature of man to be offended and to perpetuate that deed in our memory. Bitterness is a exceedingly destructive thing. Therefore he admonished them to forgive (even when forgiveness is not sought after). Rid the heart and mind of all adverse thoughts and feelings toward those who have

committed any offense, real or imagined. In the same manner and with the same zeal which Christ has forgiven you, forgive and go on to a healthy spiritual life. Col. 3:12-13

## EPHESIANS 67

Children of the dearest sort. Obedient and disposed to follow the Lord in all that is required of them. Extra ordinary in their willingness to commit their ways unto the Lord. Children of agape love, i.e. love as only the Lord can love. Eph. 5:1 They are to be followers of Christ. He has established the pattern of life that is an example unto them. The word "followers" in the original language is translated imitator. But that is too weak, for we do not imitate but rather He enables us to live the life style that He established as an example. These children of His love are born of the same Spirit that was manifest in Christ Jesus. We are changed and become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a life of the power of His love dwelling within us.

Paul challenged the church by presenting the holiness that accompanies a life that is filled with the love of Christ. The standard established by the Word of the Lord is always one of deliverance from sin. To be forgiven is wonderful but greater still is the deliverance, the removal of the desire to commit those things which are contrary to the will of the Lord. Paul called these people God's holy people. A spiritually health church will embrace The Word of the Lord in it's fullness. An apostate church will seek a way to excuse the teaching of holiness revealed in the Word. Holiness is a vital necessity in order to see the Lord. "Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb . 12:1

The words of our mouth show forth the spirit of the individual who is speaking. Jesus said: "that from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Mt. 15:19 The NIV gives us a good explanation of what the Apostle had in mind. "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or course jesting, but rather thanksgiving." Eph. 5:4 The Lord only knows that our expressions of worship and thanksgiving are far too few. He deserves our total admiration and our constant giving of thanks. He is more than worthy.

*(Note: It was here that Brother McKnight stopped writing his daily commentary on the Book of Ephesians because of illness. For*

*approximately the next four months he battled bouts of congestive heart failure. He passed away on Monday, August 1, 2011 at [Crista Senior Living](#) at the age of 92. Brother McKnight wrote his own obituary about one year before his passing. [Click here to read the Barton Family Funeral Home obituary.](#))*