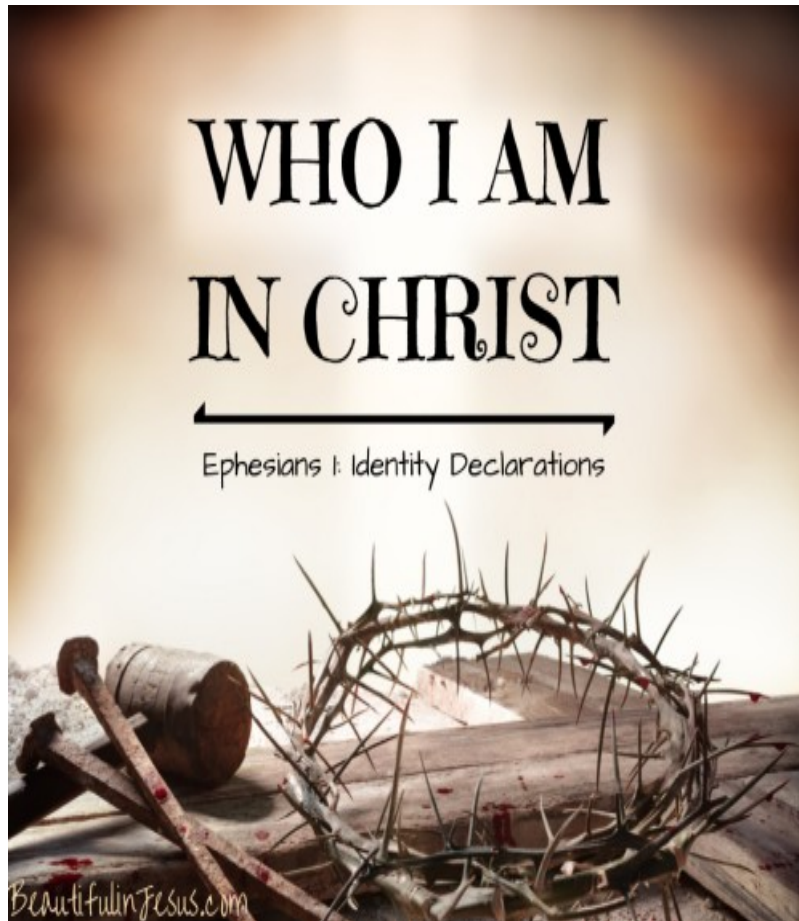


The Church in Christ

understanding

The Letter to the

EPHESIANS



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INTRODUCTION EPHESIANS

To the dear reader, the Truth shall be known

This study shall in no small way challenge even the most holy persons. It leaves no where to hide regarding The Holy Spirits awareness of every ones sins. All shall be revealed, all shall be opened up before God The Father, nothing shall be hidden and left untouched, all shall be placed onto the table of our hearts demanding an acknowledgment of action unto repentance. Every one that desires The Lord's Will shall be challenged and changed and those that don't shall be inwardly exposed.

When and who wrote the letter to the Ephesians?

Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians (Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20). It is thought that he wrote it during his first imprisonment (He was under house arrest for two years awaiting an appearance before Nero). This was around AD 60–62 he wrote this letter along with letters to the Colossians and the Philemon Churches. He would be released, but once again for his Faith arrested around the years AD 67, 68 from where he would spend his last days before being beheaded.

Why was The Epistle of Ephesians written?

Ephesians is a very hard hitting letter regarding the believers behaviour towards sin. Who Jesus is, and what The Holy Spirit wants from us, both in faith and in practice—regardless of any particular problem in the community. Many believe this church did not have any moral or spiritual problems but it most certainly did! Paul wanted to see the Ephesians truly growing into a mature church of faith. So after placing the truth before them he points out some areas that needed to be looked at, so that they would come together as a strong and trusting group of believers in The Love of The Lord. He expected that they would walk in accordance with the heavenly calling from The Father. (Eph 4:1).

Basic breakdown of the Epistle

There are many variables that come out from the Ephesians letter, but as very wide brush stroke here are the some main topics **1/** understand our calling In Christ **2/** understand The Holy Spirits disapproval and disdain towards any sin. **3/** Christians must live as new people, living as Christ did through and by The Power of The Holy Spirit with Love one to another. **4/** man and the powers of darkness are subject to God. **5/** All have a choice to make, to live by The Spirit or the flesh.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by The Will of God, To the Saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

The letter starts clearly identifying the writers name and position in Christ, being Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the Will of The Father. He then proclaims them to be Saints (one does not become a Saint after death) they are named faithful in The Lord Jesus Christ. Some argue Paul was not a real Apostle as he was not called with the original 12 by Christ, they need to read (Acts 22:6-11, 26:9-20). By his introduction above he clearly believed he was, and time has agreed with him! 1/ Paul was specifically Chosen by The Lord Acts 9:1-9 2/ Paul was sent as a witness (By God) to not just the Jews but to the whole world Gal 1:15-16 3/ The Holy Spirit through Paul would bring Light to those in darkness Eph 5:8 5/ Paul would bring Christ's Salvations Truth by preaching the importance of The Lords Crucifixion 1 Cor 1:17-18 6/ Proof of his writings being God's Word comes through all the above, and that they would out live time Matt 24:35. over 2000 years old and still going strong, not bad!

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and The Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle is not just being polite, he means it, they have accepted the Apostles teachings and live in The Truth, thus they have God's Grace and Peace. This comes from The Father and Son with The Grace and Peace of The Mighty Holy Spirit Working within them. This is not a greeting but a 100% Blessing! For it is The Father who is the Giver, The Son who is the Source, and The Holy Spirit who is the Communicator, of these all these Spiritual Blessings.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has Blessed us with every Spiritual Blessing in the heavenly places In Christ,

These Blessings are truly Spiritual as they convey the Fullness of The Holy Spirit. 1:3 Blessed be The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Paul praises Father God, The first Person in The Trinity, He is The Father of Jesus Christ. The Father Appointed Jesus to be the Peace Maker between He and man, Jesus was Anointed by The Holy Spirit just as all believers are, howbeit beyond measure, in that He was Perfect and sinless in all His ways which allowed The Spirit to remain in Him permanently. In this portion of Scripture Paul reveals Jesus as seen in His Humanity, even though He is God. The Godhead sees and treats each other as equals, God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit. Jn 20:17 Jesus Speaking... 'I am Ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.' Jesus identifies Himself as a brother to the other believers, not as God! 1:3 Who has Blessed us with every Spiritual Blessing in the heavenly places In Christ, Jesus Christ through what He did at the cross has Blessed us with every Blessing one can get Jn 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, The Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. It is The Holy Spirit Who Works every Blessing within the believer that is needed to bring such a person to a greater Christ like state of existence, remember He is God! Believers have God within them! Jn 14:16-17 Jesus tells us The Spirit will no longer live on the earth but in the believers!

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Paul is writing to a church of Saved believers! 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, None of The Salvation experience we are going through is by chance or an accident. Some make from this the 'predestinated gospel' claiming God has made some people for heaven and some for hell! What on earth are they on about? Yup, I am dumbfounded, that anyone that claims to know God's Love would preach such bunk about our Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ is a God of absolute Love. Salvation is for all mankind, The Lord would have it that none would perish, Scripture clearly tells us to go into all the world and preach His Truth to all peoples! Think about it!

However only those that respond to Christ's Calling will be Saved! The word 'chose' indicates a picking of something out from a larger number, when you buy a bunch of bananas you pick the ripe ones, not the very green or blackened ones. If I can continue with the bananas script, The Lord planted the banana tree and did all that was needed to grow equally all the bunches, they have all had His Touch, they were watered, fertilized, pruned etc. However, due to veering reasons some developed rot and blackened (evil, truth haters, untouchable hearts, and The Lord knows who they are) whilst others just remained hard and green (Stubborn, refusing the Goodness provided), all were taken care of Lovingly allowing everyone to ripen into that which was intended, naturally, only the ripe ones will be chosen! Matt 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen." God Desires all to be Saved but one groups hearts are full of evil and locked into their father the devil, only two groups will respond (Green & ripe) but only one group will be chosen and they are the ones that go onto the ripe stage without any impureness, meaning a desire to obey and learn God's Way. 1:4 in love that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love Our behaviour should reflect such glory! Rom 12:1-2. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by The Mercies of God (He Provides), that you present your bodies (we provide) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God (He makes such possible through His Sons Sacrifice), which is your reasonable service (Achieved by giving ourselves to The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ). And do not be conformed to this world (our choice), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Power of The Holy Spirit giving a better way), that you may prove what is that Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will of God (The surrender of self-will allows The Holy Spirit to Work within such a person, making them Christ like). Doing this in His Holy Name can only produce love.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to The Good Pleasure of His Will,

The last two words from verse 4 which we just read are very important in grasping what is being said here. In the mid-16th century, editors started to subdivide each chapter into verses, in this case many commentaries believe the fullstop was placed after the wrong word, verse 4 ends with...In love. And this verse starts with 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons So it should have read In love, having predestined us... The nature or reason for predestination comes from Love, The Fathers Love for mankind. This is speaking about the manner or way one is Saved. This is not speaking about the individual being predestinated for heaven and another predestined for hell, that is Scripturally erroneous "For God so Loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, so that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." As written above this speaks of the manner or way in which one is Saved. All come to Christ by their free will, for the door to Salvation is opened wide for **all** to enter, God has predestined that they will be admitted into the Kingdom of Heaven by the manner or way of adoption. 1:5...by Jesus Christ to Himself, This tells us how this has been made possible, Jesus Offered Himself as The Sacrificial Lamb at Calvary and Rose three days later. We come to The Father through Jesus, end of story. Jesus Said Jn 14:6 I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life and no one comes to The Father except through Me. 1:5... according to The Good Pleasure of His Will, There is so much in these words, Is 53:1 Yet it was The Delight of The Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His Soul makes an Offering for guilt, God The Father did this, and He was Pleased to do it. He didn't do it by accident. He Delighted to do it. Why? As the reward out weighed the price, because this was 'Their' The Father, Sons, and Holy Spirits one and only plan in which mankind will or could be Saved. Please do not let this beautiful and deliberate action of The Godhead be lost on us, what a great and magnificent assurance His settled Delight provides for Saved sinners. Team! God doesn't just Save us sinners, He Delights to Save us through His Wonderful Son Jesus Christ. God delights in the importance of His Son's Achievement, God Delights in the pleasure of "the many" rescued by His Awesome Son, God delights in The Son's Love for Him and God Delights in that The Son offered The Father His (The Sons) Glory. And The Fathers Delight is now The Son's, Amen!

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of The Glory of His Grace, by which He made us accepted in The Beloved.

Amen and amen **1:6 to the praise of The Glory of His Grace**, What did Grace give us? Grace has given us not what we deserve but what we need! And who can get this Grace? **Titus 2:11 For The Grace of God that brings Salvation has appeared to all men**, And what does Grace do? **Titus 2:12** Grace Teaches us of Jesus Christ and how to live a godly life. As stated above many will not ripen correctly rejecting The Holy Spirits Teachings and that is beyond sad. **Praise** is really the important word here, God does not need to be Glorified although I say He most certainly should be above all others and things. The action of **praise** comes from our spirit, and as we offer true praise to an honourable God He rewards this with His Glory through and by His Grace (**The Holy Spirit**). As we move forward in Faith He (**The Holy Spirit**) Teaches us even more of Jesus which causes His Glory to develop within us, hence, a continual, circular action of growth has been created between God (**His doing 100%**) and the believer. **1:6...by which He made us accepted** How were we accepted? Through and by the Death of Jesus Christ, there is no other way, if we believe The Power that came and comes from His selfless Act, then one will enter into The Power of The Resurrection **1:6...in The Beloved**. We are all In Him, Covered by His Garments of Blessings. Due to His Perfect Sacrifice we have been lifted up with Him into Heavenly Places far above all powers and principalities **Eph 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places In Christ Jesus**. Amen!

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have Redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His Grace

This speaks of the Sacrifice of Christ on the cross. **1:7 In Him we have Redemption** In the Greek 'the definite article' appears before **Redemption** which, makes it '**The Redemption**' this states there is only one way man can be Saved. The story of Redemption can be told by using these three Greek words **1/** 'Ago-ra-zo' meaning, 'to buy in a slave market' **2/** 'Ex-ago-ra-zo' meaning 'to buy out of a slave market, to buy off, to buy for once self' **3/** 'Lu-troo' meaning 'to liberate by payment of ransom' This is what Jesus Christ did. **1:7...through His Blood**, The King James Bible Dictionary (KJBD) tells us the word **through** used here is a preposition which simply is telling the reader '**the direction and process, it means the moving in from one side and out of the other side of, an opening, channel, or location, the continuing in time towards completion of a process or period**'. And of course this speaks of going **through** The Precious Pure Blood of The Son of God, Jesus Christ! **1:7...the forgiveness of sins**, The perfect Plan, this was set into place before the Creation of The world, this goes well beyond the OT understanding of **forgiveness** this means, it is as if we have never sinned, we are made pure by going through The Blood **1:7...according to the riches of His Grace** What did Grace give us? Who can get this Grace? And how does it work? All these were answered in the above verse **1:6**. Due to The **riches** of God's Great Mercies He gave His only Begotten Son so that we could safely walk through His Sacrifice unscarred to share in His Reward that The Father has given.

Ephesians 1:8 which He has abounded toward us in all Wisdom and Prudence,

And here we see even more Blessings from The Lord, these are unailing as He has made sure they abound toward us. The words **1:8 He has abounded** comes from one Greek word '**peris-seuō**' meaning '**exist in large numbers or amounts, to superabound**' **1:8...toward** this is unwavering, direct, accurately heading in the direction which holds in it the reason and purpose, which is of course **1:8...us!** Meaning, anyone that will believe shall not be left behind! **1:8...all Wisdom and Prudence**, nothing has been held back, the believer has all they need, The Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 1:9 having made known to us The Mystery of His Will, according to His Good Pleasure which He Purposed In Himself,

This speaks of The Lord's great Love and Desire towards us! This is His Will, no longer hidden.

The people of the OT even with the men and women of wisdom such as Ruth, Abraham, Moses etc. Did not understand what it was that The Lord was going to do, they did not foresee The Son of God hanging on a cross! **1:9 having made known to us The Mystery of His Will**, No one can understand this **Mystery** unless God reveals it. Over the past thousands of years The Lord has slowly revealed His Perfect Will and Desire. It all lays at the Birth, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. God had to humble Himself and become that which He had Created, a Man, He then Lived on earth as a Man to fulfil the requirements of the broken law by keeping it Perfectly for 33.5 years, once He had accomplished this, He then as A Man Offered His Own Perfect Life to pay for the flawed and imperfect life of Adam/man. He was born a Man for one reason to die, **The Mystery of His Will!** And the Resurrection depended upon His Perfection, His ability to Live within His Own Human Life's Power of Perfect Righteousness, and Holiness as no man, angel or any other living being could, outside of The Fathers Spirit and thus paying the greatest debt ever owed. **Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"** No one, not even satan has experienced this (yet)...The total absence of The Spirit of God, no one could survive such unless they were, are, and would always be Holy...Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be, Hallelujah. **1:9...according to His Good Pleasure which He Purposed In Himself**, This was agreed on by The Godhead before the birth of Creation. This speaks of what The Lord Jesus did allowing the time so that all could understand, there was for me, as there was for you a time when Grace Reached out and touched us with understanding! Amen?

Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things In Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—In Him.

This is speaking of The Lords Perfect Plan! **1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times** The word **dispensation** in the Bible simply means periods of time, OT, NT, law, Grace periods etc. here, however it speaks more of how The Lord is going to deal with **the fullness of the times**. This tells us that everything shall be fulfilled after the Millennium Reign of Christ **1:10...He might gather together in one all things In Christ**, The word '**He**' speaks of The Father. '**He**' is returning every thing back into the perfect state that once existed, and this is being done **in Christ**. **1:10...both which are in heaven and which are on earth—In Him**. Jesus' Prayer is being answered "Thy Kingdom come Thy Will be done"! All that was has been Judged (**man/angel**) and corrected (**The heavens and earth**) as was the Plan before the foundation of the world, sin no longer remains and The Fathers Throne is on earth for the first time since Adam!

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

The Apostle moves on to another point of interest, us! **1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance**, No one gains anything unless they are In Christ! And how does one find themselves In Christ? By and through His Sacrifice! Such is **obtained** by faith and faith alone In Christ, and the reward is **an inheritance** far greater than any that has been offered on earth. **1:11...being predestined** Again that word **predestined** As written above this speaks of the manner or way in which one is Saved. Salvation is opened wide for **all** to enter, God has placed a sure way which means being predestined through the way of adoption through Christ Jesus. **1:11...according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will**, The Lord God is not subject to others guidelines, authority, or **counsel**, what he says 'is' He is The All Powerful One and In Him are all things that were Created by Him. His purpose was, and still is today that all would enter into His Peace believing upon The One that gave His Life for all mankind, Jesus Christ. May The Lord bless us as we continue to study His Word! Amen.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the praise of His Glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Last week we read about the Perfect Plan being the predestination by adoption, Paul also covered God's Plan in that it was and is His Pleasure and Good Will to Redeem Jews and Gentile alike unto Himself (**The church**). Here we see Paul writing **1:12** That we should be to the praise of His Glory, The word 'we' speaks of himself being a Jew and Israel (**Jewish nation**). This is a guaranteed Promise from The Father. The words **we should be** speaks of the predestined Plan of God which demands faith. **1:12...who first trusted in Christ**. That word above 'we' covers Jewish believers today, and all the way back to Abraham's days. The word 'trusted' used here is not the common Greek word 'pis-te-uo' meaning 'to trust, to believe' but rather 'pro-el-pizo' which means 'to hope before, to repose hope in a person or thing before the event confirms it' Hence, the Jewish nation was given The Truth of The Hope to come before the gentile's **Jn 4:22** Jesus Speaking **You worship what you do not know; we know what we Worship, for Salvation is of the Jews.**

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard The Word of Truth, The Gospel of your Salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were Sealed with The Holy Spirit of Promise,

Paul brings it back to the Gentile Ephesian believers, why has Paul separated briefly the Jew and Gentile believers in his writings? I think he has done this to shown the believers that no one regardless of race (**or any other reason**) has sole monopoly on God, that The Lord's Plans are good covering all peoples of all races be it past, present or future times. Both Jew and Gentile were predestined unto Salvation by the same method, being adopted into Christ through His death! **1:13** In Him you also trusted, after you heard The Word of Truth, In Him speaks of Jesus Christ, faith comes by hearing The Word, which means more than an ear sound but the penetration of ones soul. **1:13...The Gospel of your Salvation;** The Gospel simply means the Good News! And that Good News is Jesus' Mighty Sacrifice from the beginning to the end, Birth, Death, Resurrection. Note, it says **your Salvation** this really is a personal One on one action! **1:13...in whom also, having believed, you were Sealed with The Holy Spirit of Promise,** The Holy Spirit Through Christ brings about this Blessing, The Holy Spirit finishes the legal transaction by entering into the believer through the work of Christ Who paid the outstanding debt of the believer at the cross. The **promise** firstly is the fulfilling of what Jesus Said "I will send The Comforter" the second part is The Spirit of **Promise** completing that which He has been sent to do, He will never leave or fail the believer, He will Work to bring about the needed heart changes within His children! Sadly many will reject The Mighty Holy Spirits Offer to bring about correct Holiness and Godly Righteousness and turn to self works..

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our Inheritance until the Redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His Glory.

Paul sort of calls this a down payment! **1:14** who is the guarantee of our Inheritance This is indeed a Living Witness 'within all believers' that they are Saved. I know I am saved as He is changing me from the inside out! Three words to describe His on going Work **1/ Sanctification**, this happens instantly when a believer comes to The Lord, our position is Perfectly Saved washed in His Blood! However, He Works within us whilst we are on earth to lift out condition up to our heavenly holy position, this is called progressive Sanctification. **2/ Justification**, this is the removal of the guilty penalty due to our sin which comes by faith by what Jesus did for us at the cross. The Holy Spirit provides confidence in us to call on His Name believing in His Mercy **1:14...until the Redemption of the purchased possession, 3/ Glorification**, the third word, we are right now lifted up in Christ, high above all things, we have The Fathers, Sons, and Holy Spirits approval and Love, we shall truly realize it when we stand before His Throne fully Glorified. **1:14...to the praise of His Glory.** How could anyone do any less than worship and praise The Holy One for all that He done?

Ephesians 1:15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in The Lord Jesus and your love for all the Saints

Ephesians 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Paul has just penned so much already regarding The Perfect Plan of God! News travels! In this case good news regarding the faith of the Ephesian believers. **1:15** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith They were not practising religious foolishness, they were not applying the law of works but rather living **1:15...in The Lord Jesus** It was and is clear that there was something special about these people. The Seal of The Spirit of Truth was transforming them into that which a believer should become **1:15...and your love for all the Saints** living, walking, sleeping, breathing His truth which is seen by the Power of Love! Please notice Paul did not say “I heard that there are many mighty miracles happening, that you are healing each other, the dead are raised, the blind see” etc...Think about what The Holy Spirit is Saying through the Apostle...They truly believe in The Risen Christ and live in His Love, all the other Blessings will come about in The Lord’s Time.

1:16...do not cease to give thanks for you, I believe this to mean that he was not on his knees every minute praying for ‘the Ephesian Church’ but rather they were in his collective prayers of those that seek The Lord’s Truth! **1:16...making mention of you in my prayers:** Paul had a powerful intercessory pray life. The NT tells us that the Apostle planted churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Colossae, and Hieropolis, all in all, it is believed he planted about 20 churches! Of which he prayed continually for.

Ephesians 1:17 that The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of Glory, may give to you The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him,

Paul is not calling Jesus Christ God **1:17 that The God of our Lord Jesus Christ**, Once again the Apostle speaks about The Lord’s Humanity, even though Christ was and is God He never used His Deity to live or overcome day to day trials, that The Living God became a Man and Walked upon this earth in the likeness of flesh (I use the word likeness of flesh as He was sinless, Perfect, Holy, and Righteous) is an outstanding showing of His Love for us. **1:17...The Father of Glory**, This verse in the Greek has another ‘The’ in it, thus, it becomes **The Father of The Glory!** He ‘is’ **The Father of The Glory** as He is The One to whom all glory belongs, **Rom 6:4 Christ was Risen from the dead through The Glory of The Father**. We are all called to see The Light of The Son of God, God’s Glory Shines about and in Him, He is The God of Glory, The Father of Compassion. **1:17...may give to you The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him**, It is measureless the need we have for The Holy Spirit, many consider they have the full truth and move into spiritual warfare, church correcting and world saving evangelism only to fail, yes, they may fill the church with like minded people but no one will change inwardly, their heart condition will still be filled with evils intent. **The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation** The Holy Spirit undertaking the task given by The Father through The Son **Jn 14:26 But The Comforter, which is The Holy Ghost, whom The Father will send in My Name, He shall Teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you**, Hence, **in the Knowledge of Him** speaks about The Holy Spirit teaching us about our Holy and Righteous Saviour, Jesus Christ, which Shines a Holy Light on our personal short comings, revealing the true dark intent of our failing hearts unholy wants, within this a true believer will desire to be changed by His Grace inwardly. Through and by His inspirational Workmanship within us we shall develop a clearer, stronger, keener, desire to follow after Jesus, growing in His Love towards The Lord God. Oh, to truly know thyself shall provide unfailingly the desire for change! **Jer 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?** Folks, don’t try to correct the worlds wrongs, let The Lord change our own hearts wrongs then through you/me He will bless those in the world!!!

Ephesians 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being Enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His Calling, what are the riches of The Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints,

Nothing being left out 1:18 the eyes... The eyes spoken of here, I believe, speak of both the spiritual and physical spheres. 1/ The believer would see what is happening around them in the physical and act accordingly by faith 2/ Equally, faith is what allows the inner man to be changed Mat 6:22-23 Jesus Speaking "The eye is the lamp of the body, and Light comes into the body through faith in what Jesus Christ has done! 1:18...of your One on one for each and every person that believes 1:18...understanding being Enlightened; this of course is carrying on from 1:17 Paul is saying the light of our understanding has been turned on! No excuses! Our knowing of that which The Lord has done within ourselves personally should be more than clear, which demands that our application and practice from such Grace and Mercy should equally be correct. 1:18...that you may know what is the hope of His Calling, Paul explains this perfectly in Phil 3:10-11 (I have added numbers) 1/ That I may know Him and 2/ The Power of His Resurrection, 3/ and the fellowship of His Sufferings, 4/ being conformed to His death, if by any means, 5/ I may attain to the Resurrection from the dead, again the word 'I' makes this a One on one relationship. The hope of His Calling is all tied up in those 5 points! 1:18...what are The Riches of The Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints, This is not speaking about what we will receive as such, but rather The Lord's Inheritance. Zep 3:17 The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will Save; He will Rejoice over you with Gladness, He will quiet you with His Love, He will Rejoice over you with Singing." Wow...Somebody get happy!!!

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding Greatness of His Power toward us who believe, according to The Working of His Mighty Power

We move onto POWER! 1:19 and what is the exceeding Greatness of His Power His Power is both unexplainable and unimaginable, with His Voice He Said "let it be" and the heavens and earth were created! But The Power being spoken of here runs in line with Him becoming a Man who destroyed death's power by being Raised up again despite it! There is nothing impossible to our God! BUT 1:19...toward us who believe, To see it, understand it, feel it one must have Faith in Christ and Him Crucified and Resurrected, one must believe in what The Son of God has done for sinful man! 1:19...according to The Working of His Mighty Power Speaks of what Paul is about to unfold in the next verse, which confirms the idea this Power speaks of the Death and the Resurrection of Christ from the dead..

Ephesians 1:20 which He Worked In Christ when He Raised Him from the dead and Seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

The Power theme continues, Hallelujah! 1:20 which He Worked Being The Lord God almighty 1:20 In Christ These two words sum up the event, all things are In Christ. It was done because of Christ, through Christ, by Christ, of Christ, and with Christ. He is The Reason that you and I have the same Victory, Power, Salvation, Peace, Grace, etc. I do not overcome because of who I am but rather due to Who He is and what He has done! His Perfection, Holiness, Righteousness had to cover every sin over all times! 1:20...when He Raised Him from the dead again absolute Power on two counts 1/ As just stated, Jesus had to pay for every sin 2/ God's unexplainable Power Who Took Jesus Christ's beaten, scarred, mutilated dead Body, which was lying in a cold and dark tomb and Raised Him into an Eternal, Living, unimaginable Light of Life, so bright the sun in comparison looks like the moon, being in darkness. This Power cannot be measured as it Works within people today, Lifting lost souls into His wonderful Light. 1:20...and Seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, He is Seated above all powers, be they good or evil and due to this believers are also placed into His Victory! That is Power, His Power! Due to Jesus Christ we share in His Victory over the world, which means if we have our faith placed right we will overcome the things of this world and in the spiritual world! Through His death and Resurrection this unexplainable Power has put all that believe into Christ, into His Eternal Life.

Question! Is The Resurrection more important than The Sacrifice of Christ, as we see The Power spoken of here comes from The Resurrection. No death equals no Resurrection, correct? And The Resurrection screams out the successful payment of man's debt to The Father, by The Son which occurred through and by The Lord's Sacrifice/death? Correct? My answer is they go hand in hand, they cannot be separated, they both had to happen but The Resurrection was reliant on Jesus Christ Presenting The One off Perfect Sacrifice, but Jesus Christ also believed in The Fathers Power concerning The Resurrection which afforded Him the ability to go to the cross! Inseparable.

Ephesians 1:21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

He has indeed Risen! **1:21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named**, The words **far above** is not a measurement in distance but in Power, Christ's Rule and Authority. This part of the verse speaks clearly about angels, mankind, demons and any other name you can think of including the heavens and earth, everyone, everything, ever created, born, made, or whatever is under His Rule. **1:21...not only in this age but also in that which is to come**. This is the One and Only, The Lamb of God Who has Risen being The Lord of lords and King of kings, He Stands Supreme above all, His Power and Rule is endless, He is The Forever, and Ever Almighty God, amen and amen.

Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things under His Feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Under Adam's rule man fell, sin ruled and destroyed which brought great darkness and death. Under The New Man all things have been placed back into the correct order. **1:22 And He put all things under His Feet**, Jesus, The beautiful Christ has total Dominion, all Power in the heavens and earth have been given into His Hands. He was Raised from the dead, Ascended on High, and Sat down at the right hand of God The Father, He has been declared Lord and Christ by The Father. **1:22...and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church**, Yahoo, great news, Jesus is of course The Greatest Gift the world has ever received and anyone regardless of their worldly statues or belief system can be Saved, if they so desire, but in this verse Paul is saying "get happy church as He Reigns over you and I". This speaks not of denominations, being the instituted visible church but the individual believers that have a living, truly founded relationship with The Lord. Jesus is The Head of the church which means He is in control, right now, at this very minute, watching, protecting and caring for us as He Teaches us Through The Holy Spirit, His Truth! Again I write...Somebody get happy.

Ephesians 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Believers are called by The Holy Spirit 'Christ's Body'. Here is something very interesting that I read, The church is not actually an institution but rather an organism, meaning (**Something having many related parts that function together as a whole**). It exists and functions only by reason of it's vital Relationship with The Risen Lord. **Rom 8:1** tells us '**who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**', and this tells us there are two types of believers, those that walk in the flesh (**Religious works, man's rules etc.**) and others that walk according to the desire of The Holy Spirit who are being changed into the Likeness of Christ Jesus.

All that read this study I pray and hope shall desire the Power to be submitted to Thy Great and Mightily Exalted Redeemer, Christ Jesus, that we will indeed be Surrounded and Filled by The Awesomeness of The Glorious Holy Spirit, being transformed into His wonderfully wonderful Pure Image. Amen and amen!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

We are about to learn a little about our sinful selves. **2:1** And you He made alive, Last week we ended up with The Lord being Resurrected up into Glory, Seated at the Right hand side of The Father. The beginning of the verse tells us that the same Power that Lifted Jesus, has, and is Working in us! We have been made alive In Him. **2:1...who were dead** The Apostle is speaking here to the Gentile believers but levels out the playing field in verse three. This is speaking about being spiritually dead due to sin. So, what is death? **1 Tim 5:6** But the widow that lives for pleasure is dead while she lives. The widow Paul spoke of writing to Timothy was dead even though she physically lived, when an unredeemed person passes from this life to the other side they do not enter into heaven! They are cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Death, be it spiritual or physical is simply being separated from God there is no darkness in God, death cannot be found in Him! Once we are Saved, and for a very short time experience sinlessness we regard wrong doing with horror, then after a while we just regard it as a weakness, “oh well I shall stop doing such and such”, then after a time of times we just do the same act without any thought at all towards it being wrong, scary place to be! **2:1...in trespasses and sins**, and these are the two words that tell us why our spirit was dead. The word **Trespasses** in the Greek is ‘para-toma’ and means ‘to fall beside a person or thing, to slip aside, hence to deviate from the right path, to turn aside, to wander’ Thus, in the Greek the word trespass tells us we are walking down a path that we ought not walk on. The Greek word for **sin** here is ‘ham-atia’ meaning ‘to miss the mark’ falling short of God’s Glory, **Rom 3:23** “All have sinned (missed the mark) and fall short of The Glory of God.

Ephesians 2:2 In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

A blind walkway where words, actions, and thoughts are married to death. **2:2** In which you once walked is an action statement, the context of it here points to living every minute in sinful rebellion against God. **2:2 according to the course of this world**, This tells us our thoughts, opinions, hopes, impulses, desires and so on were caught up in the methodologies of this world. **2:2...according to the prince of the power of the air**, Jesus rules over all things, satan is terrified by His Name **James 2:19** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! The word **prince** in the Greek is ‘archol’ and refers to ‘the first in order of persons or things’ meaning satan has power and authority in his kingdom. The word **power** speaks of the demon spirits of which he rules over. The word **air** in the Greek is ‘aer’ and refers to ‘the lower, denser atmosphere’ this makes satan the power and authority over demons and spirits in the lower heavens. **2:2...the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, Anyone that has not got The Holy Spirit cannot believe on who Jesus Christ is correctly, and therefore will not believe or understand what He has done, this leaves them dead in their trespasses and sins, separated from The Father. The lie satan sold to man produced a nature of evil which has followed everyone born of the flesh since Adam’s day, **Rom 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Ephesians 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Paul addresses the Jewish believers here levelling the field. I believe most of humanity wanted nothing to do with God. The words **2:3 also we** presents himself and all other Jewish Christians. There is no doubt coming from his writings that all Jews and gentiles have sinned, falling short of God’s Glory! Jew and Gentile alike were and are without Salvation as long as they remained distant from God’s Glory, Jesus Christ. The Wrath of the Lord comes upon all that deny The Son! His Wrath is seen in them by their sinfulness, by the way they conduct themselves.

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Ephesians 2:4 But God, Who is rich in Mercy, because of His great Love with which He Loved us, Paul quickly swings the attention back towards The Lord. **2:4 But God,** But who? The Lord, our God, amen, that's who! Regardless of our rejection of Him, He forgivingly approaches us offering a way to regain that which '**we**' threw away! **2:4...Who is rich in Mercy,** God's Judgment is never a punishment but a corrective form of Love. The Mercy of God runs to meet us, it cannot be, and shall never be exhausted, however His Mercy can be misunderstood and then rejected. **2:4.. because of His great Love** He responds with Love, as we have just read He runs to us! We are Saved due to **His great Love** Even though we rejected Him, swimming happily in our sins **2:4...with which He Loved us,** This Love was seen hanging on a cross for our sins, beaten and disfigured beyond human repair. God Loved, and Loves us through The Lord Jesus Christ. Just a note on love, love does not always receive love back! Love, sadly can be, and in fact is rejected often, and in The Lord's case Who has offered such an unparalleled level of Love the pain of such rejection hurts beyond compare!!

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in sins, He has quickened us together with Christ, (by Grace ye are Saved)

True Love never gives up, it is unstoppably a giver. **2:5 even when we were dead in sins,** I hope you remember what being dead means, The Holy Spirit has repeated this from **verse 1** to show what a horrid place we were in! We could not return unless He built 'The Passageway' in which we could journey through. **2:5...He has quickened us together with Christ,** Again He reminds us that it is He that has done this marvellous thing. This is not to gain praise (**but we should indeed offer such**) or Glory (**As His Glory outshines the sun and all that there is**) but rather to enforce the terrible condition we were in, revealing our deathly state. **2:5...(by Grace ye are Saved)** Personal words directed at each believer, you and I were dead, destined for eternal damnation, but Love willingly interjected, The Grace of God, being The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again that we may enter The Passageway provided, and Live.

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

This speaks of faith **2:6 and raised us up together,** Those that believe have been raised up together by faith, this speaks of a spiritual lifting up and was made possible through His Sacrifice covering all the past, present, and future times. No man/woman can cause themselves to be lifted up, no man can make themselves holy or righteous by, or within their own efforts, all have fallen well short, other than Jesus Christ Who was the first to be Resurrected from the dead! **2:6...and made us sit together** Three words here **made, sit, together,** firstly, He raised us up together, then He **made** us, meaning there is absolutely no option given as to what we are going to be doing! **Sit,** this of course implies rest, meaning He has done everything that was and is needed to be done. **Together,** without indifference, in agreement, for the church has become one in Christ. **2:6...in the heavenly places** He is seated at The Right Hand of The Father in heaven, and due to Him we share in His glory seated in heaven **2:6...in Christ Jesus,** He did it all and yet here we are seated in Christ in heaven, wow, think about that, use your faith and connect the dots! And then get happy!

Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The Fathers has and is still demonstrating to the angels and all of Creation that the extraordinary wealth of His Grace is inconsumable. **2:7 that in the ages to come** This speaks of the eternal ages, the ages that are coming upon one another. **2:7...He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace** Unstoppable Love, the future is guaranteed for all that believe, so what is it one needs to believe in? Jesus' miracles? His virgin birth? His words of Wisdom?

All those and much more are unequalled events and actions, however the fullness of Grace is laid at the feet of the cross, it is only by His death that forgiveness can be given. **2:7...in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** The **kindness** within His Grace has allowed us to be adopted by The Father, seated before all of heaven to look upon, and this is all due to One Man, Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 2:8 For by Grace you have been Saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is The Gift of God,

For all of mankind! **2:8 For by Grace you have been Saved** Interestingly, in the Greek text it is written **For by the Grace you have been Saved** But either way the word **Grace** speaks of Christ. He was and is The Gift which was poured out at Calvary. **2:8...through faith,** I believe this requires an act from the receiver of Grace, and that is obedience! The sun rises and throws heat and light onto the earth but in order to receive the fullness of the light and heat one must obey the bodies need to gain the health benefits of the sun and go outside. Faith is not something that can be experimented with to see whether it does or does not work, rather it is an inward action of obedience giving one's life completely into The Lord's Control and Protection which covers all of one's past onto the futures end. This tells me that **Grace** touched us, and by **faiths** Power we looked correctly towards Christ's Sacrifice and were **Saved!** **2:8...and that not of yourselves;** Here it is! **Grace, Salvation and Faith** all come from God. Grace and Salvation speak of Jesus Christ and what He has done. Faith speaks of The Holy Spirit's input, The Lord knows who will respond correctly, who will receive His Truth and who would sadly reject it **Jn 6:44 Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless The Father who sent Me Draws him"**. And we also see in **2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and Apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through The Righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2:8...it is The Gift of God,** Free, and openly presented for all of mankind to receive if they should so desire. There is no amount of money that could buy this Gift, it is with out price. The Gift of Salvation is at hand for all to receive, and all man has to do is believe upon The Grace provided.

Ephesians 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

No stone unturned, Paul has told us that Grace, Faith, and Salvation all come from God. **2:9 not of works,** Paul kicks out any incorrect avenue concerning being Saved. Man cannot be Saved or earn any level of merit from God through or by works. Religion is not the saviour **Matt 5:20 For I Say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.** The scribes and Pharisees had the Scrolls and lived as best they could religiously according to the writings, but failed! Commandment keeping is not the saviour **Matt 19 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbour as yourself.'** "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. He had failed well beyond just giving away his money and following Jesus, He answered The lord arrogantly offering a lie, a false testimony about keeping the commandments, he had not loved his neighbour as himself, proved by his unwillingness to give to the poor. So, trying to be conscientiously good through religious acts and law keeping does not save one's life. **2:9...lest anyone should boast.** We see **Pro 28:25 "He that boasts, and puffs himself, stirs up quarrels."** This sin rejects spiritual truth which obviously denies Christ, which causes a staleness of spirit, which if not repented of causes death. People, Let us brag on about Jesus. **2 Cor 10:17-18 But, "Let the one who boasts boast in The Lord."** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom The Lord commends

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His Workmanship, Created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We are a Work of art by God, hallelujah. 2:10 For we are His Workmanship, He alone has Created, we have done nothing to add to this majestic condition. 2:10...Created in Christ Jesus for good works, All of God and nothing of man, He is The One that supplies the energy, direction, and plan for each of His Children (believers). Once the farmer has planted the tree he fertilisers, trims and waters it regularly so to allow it to bring forth much fruit. The fruit is the product of His hard work, so it is for us as He Works within us to bring out His Goodness. 2:10...which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. God Created all things in the beginning and His Plan is speedily zeroing in towards the finishing line. God knew man would wilfully walk away from Him and in effect disown life itself! But He equally knew His Plan would open the doors for who so ever will to enter back into Eternal Life through Christ Jesus, amen.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcised by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

The word **2:11 Therefore** takes us back to last weeks study where we read about Grace, Faith and Salvation all coming from God, and that man had no hand in the creating of such, nor in the future developmental process. **2:11...remember that you**, This of course is written to the whole church, but it is also a One on one personal Word for us from The Spirit of Truth. Therefore, don't forget what you used to be and don't return to such an idiotic, sinful, condition. Grace has provided a wonderful opportunity for us to advance on and up in His Righteousness and Holiness. All a believer has really given up is sin and heartache, which we learn as we walk with The Lord allowing Him to challenge and then change our understanding of what life is really about. **2:11..once Gentiles in the flesh** The word **once** proclaims that which was and no longer is! **In the flesh**, is simply expressing that **once** upon a time under the Abrahamic Covenant the Gentile nations did not know God as the Jewish nation did, Jesus Said **Jn 4:22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for Salvation is of the Jews.** **2:11...who are called Uncircumcised by what is called the Circumcision** Once again this is speaking of the old system where Gentiles unlike the Jews were not circumcised under the law. The Israelites were circumcised which represented an outward showing of The Covenant between God and Abraham see (**Gen 17:9-14, 22-27**). **2:11...made in the flesh by hands—** The human hand held the knife that cut the skin, such an act did not save one's soul. Paul is saying, remember from where you came from, what you were once like, and return not, equally do not be deceived into entering into the OT agreement which needs the use of human hands/works!

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from The Covenants of Promise, having no hope and without God in the world. God had **not** forsaken the Gentile nations but rather they were ignorant, uneducated regarding Him. **2:12 that at that time you were without Christ**, The Lord was never apart from them but they (**us**) were apart from Him! They (**we**) had no Covenant with The Messiah as Israel did until Christ paid the price for all of man's sin. Many a person believes in 'A' god or god's but refuse to believe in 'Christ and what He has done'. From the beginning of man's existence The Almighty has done all that is possible to open the eyes of mankind's thinking regarding who He is, as an example, man has witnessed The hand of God not just keeping Israel alive but making them a super nation, He has accompanied Israel throughout the ages and yet most of the world denies such a truth, if it was not for The hand of God Israel would not be here today. **2:12...being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from The Covenants of Promise**, The word 'commonwealth' in the Greek is 'politeia' and means 'the rights of a citizen', This means God becomes The Father to only those that by faith believe (**Israelites included**). Only such can enter into this heavenly Commonwealth, Jesus Said of the Jewish religious leaders of His day **Jn 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do"** they like many Israelites did not believe alongside the Gentile nations making them all **strangers from The Covenants of Promise**, Thus rendering such a person as **2:12...having no hope and without God in the world**. It is good to remember from where, and what we once were, how we once lived and behaved, for memories (**at least for me**) demands praises be offered as The Spirit of Truth changes us daily into something beautiful, something good, through Christ's Sacrifice. Amen!

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by The Blood of Christ.

Here it is, the how! **2:13 But now** The Holy Spirit quickly brings the readers back onto a positive, **but now!** Hallelujah. **2:13...in Christ Jesus** The safe place, seated with Him above all things, **see Eph 2:6**. No longer separated. **2:13...you who once were far off** Speaks of being outside of God's Plan unable to believe that a Man dying on a cross was the answer problems.

2:13...have been brought near by The Blood of Christ. What “**But now means**” any that believe have right at this second been covered by The Blood! He, not an action by sinful man has brought us near to Him, He Bleed The Price, died on a cross, and then was Raised up to Glory which allowing The Power of The Holy Spirit to Work within anyone that receives by faith **The Blood of Christ**.

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our Peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

The Power of His Sacrifice. **2:14 For He Himself is our Peace,** This can only be received by faith in Christ, for it is in Him that this Peace abounds. This is not a Peace that an unredeemed person can understand or find, rather, it gives total harmony for the believer with The Holy Father, which in turn allows one to remain in and at Peace with their human neighbours even when such a neighbour may be attacking them with every bit of verbal abuse and violent action they can muster. **2:14..Who has made both one,** When Jesus Rose from the dead it placed all that would believe into His Body, this of course is speaking of both Jew and Gentile believers. **2:14... and has broken down the middle wall of separation,** The hostilities between Jew and gentile have been broken down by Christ’s death and Resurrection, as a matter of fact He has left no stone unturned **Gal 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God through Faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were Baptized Into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one In Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to The Promise.** Folks we are all placed far above all powers and principalities In Christ Jesus, amen!

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished In His Flesh the enmity, that is, the law of Commandments contained in ordinances, so as to Create In Himself one New Man from the two, thus making Peace, He overthrew that which separated man from God, and man from man. **2:15 having abolished In His Flesh the enmity,** The word **Enmity** simply means ‘**hate**’ and the word for ‘**abolished**’ in the Greek is ‘**katargeo**’ and means ‘**to render inoperative**’ which he achieved by surrendering **His Flesh**. **2:15...that is, the law of Commandments contained in ordinances,** No one born from the seed of man could or can keep the law which was given for two reasons **1/** To show man how inept, sinful and lost they are, how wicked man’s heart really is. **2/** For One Man who was to be born from a virgin to fulfil all the laws requirements Perfectly. Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, never sinned, kept every letter of the law perfectly and at the cross paid sins debt which removed the laws demand of the death penalty, nailing it to the cross see **Col 2:14**. **2:15...so as to Create In Himself one New Man from the two,** This speaks of something new, He did not join two together but rather Created that which has never been. Adam fell due to weakness, folks such is not within Christ! All that call on His Name can walk in His Power as a New Creation! The words **so as to Create** refers to the fact that He has in **His Flesh** wiped away **the law and it’s ordinances** to bring about the perfect God given Creation **2:15..thus making Peace**. Folks the law is still in action for all those that do not live In Christ, the death penalty is still in place, and for those that are In Christ they have indeed gone through death’s spiritual door onto Life everlasting, covered In Him by The Law of The Spirit of Life! (see **Rom 8:1-2**)

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in One Body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

To who? God! **2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God** Jew and Gentile being able to enter into The Holiest of Holies, that is The Throne Room of The Father, under the old dispensation it was only accessible by the high priest one day of each year see **Lev 16:34**. **2:16...in One Body through the cross,** This is the how! It was achieved by Jesus Christ offering His Body on the cross. This of course speaks of the only way to The Throne Room **through the cross**, meaning by Faith through Jesus’ Sacrifice! **2:16...thereby putting to death the enmity.** The result of what Jesus did at the cross. First up, praise Jesus Christ, the 100% reconciliation with ‘our Holy Father’.

Also, we have been Redeemed from the power of the sin nature that once allowed sin to rule within our mortal bodies without true repentance, and also of course, the curse of the law has been broken (the curse being the death penalty demanded by a Just and Righteous law).

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and Preached Peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

Peace arrived after the Resurrection! This is not talking about Jesus in The Flesh but in The Spirit, after the Resurrection. Yes, during His time on earth He did heal some Gentiles and He most certainly preached to the Samaritans after Speaking with the woman at the well. But all in all His task was towards the chosen people, those who had received the law of Moses, the Israelites. All commentaries I have read confirm that **2:17 And He came and Preached Peace to you who were afar off** Speaks of the gentiles, and **2:17...and to those who were near.** Speaks of the Jews. The Israelites had the greatest privilege and honour bestowed upon them but failed to execute it correctly. They had the law, history, and scrolls, yet rejected God's Word **Isaiah 29:13** Prophesied **Therefore the Lord Said:** speaking of Israel **Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,** Such a Scripture can cause one to ask "who really was afar or near"?

Ephesians 2:18 For Through Him we both have access by One Spirit to The Father.

The Trinity is being spoken of here, through Christ by The Spirit to The Father! **2:18 For Through Him** No other way, and how does one go through The Lord? By the virgin birth? By the Word's He Spoke? By the miracles He performed? No! They are all wonderfully amazing within themselves but it is by His Perfect Sacrifice that we are enabled to receive forgiveness of sin, and therefore Eternal Life. **2:18...we both** Jew and Gentile believers. **2:18...have access by One Spirit to The Father.** And here is the reason of reasons to **have access to The Father!** Paul does not print 'to God' but **to The Father!** The Living Heavenly Father wants to be our Father!

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Saints and Members of the household of God,

We have become one In Christ **2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners,** Paul is addressing the Gentile believers here, The OT law separated Jew and Gentile, male and female, poor and rich (**Due to being misunderstood and used incorrectly**). Under the Rule and Reign of Christ all have become one in the spirit. **2:19...but fellow citizens with the Saints** This is big! It means we have the same access to The Father as the great OT Saints of God, such as Abraham, Moses, King David, Ruth, Esther, Rahab etc. And when I say we have the same access, I mean as the next part of the verse shows. **2/ 2:19... and Members of the household of God,** We have been placed through Christ into heavenly places, seated spiritually in The Holy of Holies! Adopted by The Father as His Children, we are members of His Household!

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Let us not reject that which is given! **2:20 having been built on the foundation** I understand this to mean two things **1/** The building is not yet finished on earth as others are still being added to it, as the next verse alludes to, **2/** But the words '**been built**' states it is finished! **Is 46:9-10 for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My Pleasure'**. All that is to be done has been declared by God and thus in the spirit it is finished. **2:20...the Apostles and Prophets,** Old Testament, New Testament, the bringing together of God's Plan. Both groups were and are contained In Christ.

2:20...Jesus Christ Himself being The Chief Cornerstone, Jesus Christ is The Chief Corner Stone, In builders terms a cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a Holy Temple in The Lord,

The word's 2:21 in whom speak of The Lord Jesus Christ Who brings everything together through and by what He did at Calvary. 2:21...the whole building, being fitted together, All of times past unto the fullness of the future are bound as one, completed in His Mighty Work. All believers, be it angels or man, Jew, Gentile, male, female, those on earth as in heaven are brought together in His Power and Glory, which keeps everything in Perfect order, Christ is The Chief, The Headstone of the Corner, The Almighty God who is above and through all things, amen. 2:21...grows into a Holy Temple in The Lord, We have been made Holy through and by Christ. The word 'grows' is an action word implying it is still being built, once again on earth many believers are still to discover they are indeed believers! They are the final building blocks needed to end construction.

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. This is the sixth time The Holy Spirit has used the words 2:22 in whom which of course speak of God's Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit wants us to grasp how and in whom we are placed. 2:22 you also are being built together Once again The Spirit through Paul emphasises that Jew and Gentile are one, but it is also important to receive this personally, responsibly, each member has a part to play in keeping themselves and others (without judgment) on the right path of Truth. 2:22 for a dwelling place of God in The Spirit. This is The Holy spirit Who indwells within the believer giving all that is demanded of Christ's Righteousness to complete the Temple Build for The Father.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

At the time of writing this Paul was under home arrest due to his faith. **3:1 For this reason**, This is of course one letter so this statement carries on from last week, The Lord is building the Holy Temple where Jew and Gentile are equal. **3:1...I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus** He does not consider the physical fact of being imprisoned by the Roman authorities but rather the greater spiritual truth and Blessing of being a **prisoner of Jesus Christ**, when one arrives at such an awesome level of power in faith, they understand and pray to have their so called rights and desires deferred for the sake of Christ, great things happen for those of such a faith. Note, he is not 'a' prisoner but 'the' prisoner, his job from The Lord was being bound to the Gentiles to speak God's Truth.**3:1...for you Gentiles** Paul an Apostle to the gentiles! From that time on God's complete Plan for the church was started. Thank you Jesus!

Ephesians 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of The Grace of God which was given to me for you,

Paul does not just assume **3:2 if indeed you have heard** that they all knew him or the task given to him by God. **3:2...of the dispensation of The Grace of God** Paul, before he believed in Christ The Messiah was as we would consider an antichrist, he hunted down believers having them either imprisoned or killed, yet through and by The Amazing Grace of Christ was Saved and then used to pen a great portion of the New Testament in which millions upon millions have been and continue to be Saved. **3:2...which was given to me for you**, In fact, no one else including the other Apostles had received the fullness of this Truth from The Lord, Paul took the message he had to the other Apostles and The Holy Spirit confirmed to them that it indeed was from Him! Note: The Apostles had seen The Risen Lord and preached correctly that He had been raised up from the dead, just as I most certainly would have, as it is an outstanding Truth. But Paul preached Christ Crucified in that everything was paid for and won through His Sacrifice.

Ephesians 3:3 how that by Revelation He made known to me The Mystery (as I have briefly written already,

He was chosen before the foundations of the world for this task. **3:3 how that by Revelation** The word **Revelation** in the Greek is 'apo-ka-lupsis' and means 'to unveil, reveal, and uncover, or the lifting up of a curtain so that all may see alike what was previously veiled' There is no excuse for not understanding as all the information has been given clearly and precisely as The Lord directed. **3:3...He made known to me The Mystery** The word **He** of course speaks of The Holy Spirit's Teaching of Paul (as He does us). The difference is He gave Paul that which had never been given before, the OT believers all waited and hoped to find out that which was given to the Apostle. What God would do, how Christ would pay the debt, and how the church for all races would be put into action. **3:3...(as I have briefly written already**, On that which we have already studied.

Ephesians 3:4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in The Mystery of Christ),

He considers that which he has already written to be very important, in effect here asking them and us to re-read it (**I did, great stuff**). All that has been written up to this stage is very powerful in the revealing of God The Fathers Will, and how it was all to be fulfilled.

Ephesians 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by The Spirit to His holy Apostles and Prophets:

From Genesis Ch 3 up until Christ's Resurrection The Lord revealed that which He was going to do, but did not disclose the events with a full level of understanding. As an example Abraham and Sarah had the promised child at an impossible age, and then some years later were told to put him upon an

altar of sacrifice! This of course speaks of Christ's birth and Death, then King David who was a lowly shepherd was set among princes, and made to inherit the throne of glory. In this, he was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. The events of Noah, the great exodus from Egypt, The Tabernacle and much much more pointed to what The Christ would and indeed did. **3:5...as it has now been revealed by The Spirit to His holy Apostles and Prophets:** From the day of Pentecost onwards The Wonderful Holy Spirit has been revealing The Truth of Christ. The same Spirit that Worked within the Apostles and Prophets in Paul's day Works equally in ours today. One by one the Apostles received The Message The Holy Spirit was giving through Paul, howbeit, a study of Acts shows it took some time, Peter wrote just before his death of Paul's writings **2 Peter 3:15-16 as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his Epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand,**

Ephesians 3:6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His Promise in Christ through The Gospel,

Here we see the Mystery, Jew and Gentile due to what Jesus Christ did for mankind come together in the one same body! Noah prophesied **Gen 9:25-27 "Blessed be The Lord God of Shem",** For he would receive the Blessing of The Messiah, however Noah went on to say **"God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem"** As the Jews sprang forth from Shem, the Gentiles sprang forth from Japheth and Canaan, all three were sons of Noah, and all three would end up within one tent! **3:6...of the same body,** this words/phase comes from one Greek word 'sus-so-mos' which translated means 'members of a joint body, a fellow-member of the Christian community' **3:6...and partakers of His Promise in Christ through The Gospel,** The words 'The Gospel' simply means 'The Good News', and what is that? Jesus Christ died at the cross and was Resurrected into the Highest Place in Heaven, opening the doors for all that would believe such wonderful tidings! All that are within this one body are **partakers,** receivers of **His Promise** being The Spiritual Truth of Christ.

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to The Gift of The Grace of God given to me by the effective Working of His Power.

A positive confession, Paul calls himself a number of different titles and among them we find such as slave and bondservant **3:7 of which I became a minister,** he is not saying he was a church pastor or **minister** but a student, a servant, given Wisdoms Power to spread The Gospel. **3:7...according to The Gift of The Grace of God given to me** he affirms his role as a student here, Paul understood it would be foolishness to assert, or even presume any self level of praise towards his own abilities or actions. **The Gift** of Christ which comes through His Sacrifice allows **The Grace** of The Holy Spirit to Work within any such believer. **3:7...by the effective Working of His Power.** Complete surrender, he recognized that only a supernatural Power could change Saul the Christian killer to Paul the Christian teacher, he once, under the old nature proudly expressed him self as **Phil 3:5-6...of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

Ephesians 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the Saints, this Grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable Riches of Christ,

One must ask The Lord to keep one humble! **3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the Saints,** The words used here for **I am less than the least** comes from one Greek word 'ela-chist-oter-os' it does not occur elsewhere in the New Testament, it means 'lower than the lowest, far less.' Paul was saying he was not worthy to be reckoned among the Saints. It shows that he had not forgotten his past where he was guilty of persecuting the church and Jesus Christ The Saviour. However The Lord's wonderful Grace and Mercy changed him inwardly, allowing him the ability to state **I am less than the least...** Knowing The Lord's Love and mercy is unmeasurable and all Saving

3:8 this Grace was given, Think about the above Scripture **Phil 3:5-6** The Lord took a man who had put all his living time and effort into becoming one of the best to come out of Israel, if it was possible to gain Salvation by obeying the Jewish ceremonial laws Paul would have been one of the best qualified Christians in history. **Phil 3:5-6** states He had great zeal in persecuting the Church, and the word zeal pertained to the level of violence used! And to end the verse he states, as to righteousness which is in the law, found blameless, he lived to the highest most rigorous ethnic standards possible and saw himself as quite the man! But Jesus turned his religious pious upside down...**Grace was given** to the one who hunted believers down and had them beaten, imprisoned or even killed if they did not deny their Faith in Christ. **3:8...that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable Riches of Christ**, The word ‘unsearchable,’ comes from the Greek word ‘anex-ich-nia-ston’, and means ‘past finding out’ It cannot be rubbed out, removed, copied, or even explored for it is impossible to understand or interpret, the sufficiency in our Saviours Love, Grace, and Mercy, cannot be understood by the carnal mind. The fullness of the riches In Christ that had arrested Paul’s spirit, and any other that will believe cannot be truly appreciated. Paul, and rightly so, considered it the highest honour to be permitted to tell the Gentile world that there are such deep and unfathomable Riches in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of The Mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God Who Created all things through Jesus Christ;

No one is meant to miss out! **3:9 and to make all see** Note the word **all**, anyone can come to The Lord for Salvation, anyone! Jesus has provided the way for all to see The Truth, It has never been so clear and obvious. The Light of God’s Understanding has been poured out over The Message so that all can understand it, if they so willed. **3:9...what is the fellowship of The Mystery**, Of course, The Mystery was (**past tense**) that both Jew and Gentile are Saved by the same method, It is not to be confined to any one group, culture or nation, all believer have through Christ become one! **3:9... which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God** Some commentaries do not except the word Mystery used here, however I feel the end part of **verse 3:9** makes it clear it was hidden, therefore it was a Mystery! It was hidden from all, even angels **1 Peter 1:12 things which angels desire to look into.** and **1 Cor 2:11** tells us **no one knows The Things of God except The Spirit of God.** **3:9...Who Created all things through Jesus Christ;** The Lord Spoke and the Heavens, earth and all that is within them was Created, this includes all the angels and every other living source, but man. The Lord formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils The Breath of Life, and the man became a living being. There is nothing that The Lord cannot do, through the Creativity of His Hands and His Spoken Word all was made, but Redemption is one thing He could not Speak into being, such had to go through Christ’s Sacrifice. The Mystery that makes all one can only become a spiritual Truth within someone that believes Christ suffered and died for their sins, this Act of Jesus Christ ends The Mystery, fulfilling all at the cross, proved by Him being Lifted up and placed next to The Father in Heaven. All that desire true Salvation must go through Christ, this was Gods plan before Creation, this shows The Faith that God The Father had in God The Son before He Spoke all things into being, He knew man would fail but The Son would not.

Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

The Lord wants all to know! **3:10 to the intent** This means, “this is the reason that God Created the heavens and the earth and all that is within them, that it would come to this end, that the angels and mankind would at last know and understand”. **3:10...that now the manifold Wisdom of God might be made known by the church** We have already studied in **Eph 3:5** that the OT Saints and angels so desired to see and understand The Mystery but it was hidden from them, but given unto us! God’s Power has Lifted the Church to great heights through and by Christ Jesus, in many ways, it is, as if we are a picture screen from which the greatest display of workmanship is being shown.

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We must remember that we are but the screen, it is God who has made the displays which are seen on it. **3:10...to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, The Lord wants all to know His manifold Wisdom, and it is being done through the church. Remember in **Ch 1** we read that God has Seated Christ at His right Hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and in **Ch 2** he referred to satan as the ruler of the kingdom of the air, and he will again speak of these in **Ch 6** of **Ephesians**. However, I believe Paul is addressing in this verse all living forces, good and evil, and this includes man's cultural, economic, and political drive which infiltrates our lives on a daily basis, folks, God Created, and from His Awesomeness all things have come into being, all we have on earth is but a cheap and broken copy of that which is in heaven. All humans will come into contact with a spiritual power during their time on earth, be they good or evil! It is up to us to show these forces, be it man, angel or spirit The Power of our God...by our faith...in Jesus Christ...and what He has done...That means surrendering all our desires and wants to him and desiring His Perfection to shine through us...So darkness will tremble (**not at us but at God**) All the Holy angels will rejoice, and all of mankind that take note can be delivered and Saved. But we must surrender...Our choice!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 3:11 according to the Eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, The word 'the' states this to a one in a kind thing. **3:11 according to the Eternal purpose** Angels were created before man, how long before is open for debate, but they have never seen the Grace and Mercy of God Working, when satan sinned he was cast down and no Mercy was given to him due to the nature of his sin, he decided he was going to take God's Place and Power! The Eternal purpose here is that all the Angels are seeing how truly Great The Lord God Almighty really is! All the Saints that are now in heaven are seeing how Great and Merciful our God is! (speaking of those that passed on before the Work of Jesus at the cross). All that are on the earth also have the opportunity, not to just see, but to except His Greatness and becoming born again into His Eternal Spirit! **3:11...which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,** The Godheads Plan, there was never any other. This was, and is, and always will be centred upon, and in Christ. Every thing from the past into the future point to Jesus' Sacrifice, nothing comes close to equalling what He did at Calvary. God The Father was able to accomplish what He did In Christ due the The Sons Perfect obedience.

Ephesians 3:12 in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith In Him. In Whom! In Christ, there is no other Name under the heavens by which man can be Saved. **3:12 in Whom we have boldness** In His Name we can Trust, In His Truth we are Saved. We can boldly enter The Most Holy Place. When we are seated in the place of misery, fear, or uncertainty we should be able to call on His Name believing that He is there and shall never leave, this adds a certain unshakable level of Peace that holds one in that "good place". **3:12...and access with confidence** We stand before before The Father without fear, that is big! We understand He Loves us, that is big! We believe in His Love, that is even bigger! **3:12...through faith In Him.** This is how we get entry, Faith in Christ, as stated above their is no other Name by which one can be Saved, and no one could be Saved unless Christ paid the debt by offering His Life for ours, and in that we must believe. And we commend His Love by our actions, as stated above misery, fear, and uncertainty have no place in us, there presence is only manufactured by doubt which we overcome by faith fortified in the actions of prayer, praise, and worship.

Ephesians 3:13 Therefore I desire that you faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. This points back to verse one where Paul mentions that he is imprisoned. Paul made a lot of enemies in particular those from the religious sectors by going to the Gentile peoples, offering them the understanding of the words spoken by the Prophets. **3:13..which is your glory.** In this Paul rejoiced as he understood all that was coming upon him was for the sake of his and our Lord Jesus Christ. That they and we should rejoice, as one understands his joy born from his faith, as we see how he behaved under the weight of his chains. Paul wants us to see that all that is happening is for out benefit, as we read of his chains in tribulation we should be encouraged within ours souls, as the next verse amplifies.

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Paul turns to The Father, in prayer, for those that he is writing this letter for (As it turns out for all Christians). His prayer has been answered again, and again, over the past two thousand years or so. Paul who was to be beheaded for his faith, who spent so long under Roman house arrest and in dark dungeons. This man, bows his knees, he had a relationship with The Father that pulled him by faith out of that dark place and seated him in heavenly places far above all principalities and powers.

Ephesians 3:15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

The words **3:15 from whom**, have been debated thoroughly throughout the commentaries I have read, as to whom these two words relate to, are they directed towards The Father, or Jesus Christ? I came to the 'I don't care basket, and placed the question into it'. I am a man of simple faith, I just look towards The Father and Son with the level of understanding given to me, I believe they agree Perfectly in all things, and that the plan that was made even before Creation has not changed. The best I can write it is this way, The Father of The Lord Jesus Christ has Named all things after His Holy Son. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! In that The Father rejoices! **John 5:19-20** So Jesus replied, "Truly, Truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless He Sees the Father doing it. For whatever The Father does, The Son also does. The Father Loves The Son and shows Him all He does. In this **3:15...the whole family in heaven and earth is named**, **Jn 3:35** The Father Loves The Son, and has given all things into His Hand. Amen!

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to The Riches of His Glory, to be strengthened with Might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Paul reveals that which he had prayed for them (**and us**). **3:16 that He would grant you**, Once again, we should be both, learning, and being encouraged by Paul, he did not consider that which was happening to him as a massive subject matter. but rather the readers of this letter are of great worth to him, and his desire is that such would be blessed well above their own expectations by The God The Father! That all that read this with faith in Christ should receive the fullest enlightenment possible regarding the Truth of Christ and what He has done. **3:16...according to The Riches of His Glory**, Happily I write this teaches us who we are and that we cannot make ourselves holy, but **according to The Riches of His Glory**, we are blessed to become one with Him! Paul what's the reader to be overcome with the awesome Presence of The Mighty Holy Spirit Who selflessly Works His Transforming Power deep into the centre of the believers spiritual heart. Paul prays, that which he himself has! His desire is that we would all live a life of Faith such as his, be he chained, bound, beaten, free, loved or pampered his faith remained the same, his goal and vision always towards The Lord, he walked in this world physically but understood he is not of it, he lived in The Spirit. **3:16...to be strengthened with Might through His Spirit in the inner man**, We should be praying such for our brothers and sisters in our church and beyond. This simply is saying, if we so desire we can walk as all the other greats of God, but we need to surrender all we have, all we think that makes us, the successful or even the unsuccessful person we are today. The Riches of His Glory allows us to repent! Allows us to want inner change! Allows us to want to walk, live and die (**passing from the old life on and into the born again one**) for His Glory!

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Still the prayer goes on! **3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**; That the reader by faith will have the unstoppable Power of Christ in the heart, and that this faith spoken of is not something that man has developed by self belief, but rather The Lord God Almighty has provided even that. Once we understand this Truth we should continually ask The Lord to strengthen our faith, lifting our earthly condition to our Heavenly position. **3:17...that you, being rooted and grounded in love**, The Commandment to Love God and man is being held up within us due to Jesus' Victory at the cross by The Mighty Holy Spirit, let no man therefore boast of themselves! **Rom 8:1-4...For The Law of The Spirit of Life In Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an Offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** This is how true Love works through a believer by faith in Christ and what he has done, by surrendering ones self to The Holy Spirit, living a life unto Him.

Ephesians 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

Lets enjoy Paul's prayer. And what a powerful prayer it is! Regardless of the level of ones faith, be it strong, weak, or even fading, the reader shall gain strength in these words, and such comes by The Power of The Holy Spirit that we turn our eyes onto Jesus and believe Him rather than our problems and woes. Paul is saying trust The Saviour and in His time He shall indeed give to us through His Victory The Power of total understanding to can only produce freedom. **3:18 The width and length and depth and height** This means it is beyond measurement, it is never ending, this speaks about His Love for us, not our love for Him! Even to touch the beginning of this Love Offered by Christ opens the eyes of or understanding, and this delightfully births the freedom just written about, what a glorious road to walk.

Ephesians 3:19 to know The Love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be Filled with all The Fullness of God.

I'm going to write something that I am not 100% sure of, so please excuse me, but my thoughts are this was to discussed! I feel sadly this may be so ever true, that many people proclaiming to be Christians are in fact just religious folks, with strong and persuasion opinions. So, what is the deference between being simply religious or being a believer. Both believe in something, both follow some kind of ritual path and hold to some type of spiritual connotation. Both groups read the a Bible, praying righteous sounding prayers, both attend even the same church and both sing quite often the same praises, both believe in the existence of 'a' God! **3:19 to know The Love of Christ which passes knowledge;** I believe this is where religion and faith part company, religion cannot receive the weightier matters of The Fathers Love, being, Justice, Compassion, Mercy and Grace, which means true Holiness cannot function. The Bible gives us two very strong and compelling arguments to this being truth, both the Apostle Paul and Nicodemus lived within a pond of religious activities, sinking ever so deep into the world of unkeepable Torah teachings and commands. Both eventually showed by there actions and words that religion within it's own power was not enough, they both had a void in their lives that needed to be filled, they both needed to hop out from the pool of drowning and enter into a Spiritual rebirth, they both needed to make a choice to either follow The One that paid the price at the cross, or remain captive to a man formed religion, they both, at some time during their lives went to Jesus! They both had faith, but until they met and encountered Christ, their faith was seriously misplaced. Which shows we can have faith in the wrong thing. Even though we read that Paul dramatically received The Lords Calling, so in truth did Nicodemus, in fact, anyone that answers His Calling it is registered as The Miraculous. Nicodemus certainly witnessed the impossible being done! He heard Wisdom Voice Spoken with full Authority and Power which could only come from, as he said, "Someone sent by God"! **Phil 3:7-9 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for The Sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found In Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—The Righteousness that comes from God on the basis of Faith. 3:19 that you may be Filled with all The Fullness of God.** Religion, the worlds joys, man's ways or any other force cannot stand in the place of Jesus Christ's Holiness, when one is filled with The Peace of The Spirit which can only be achieved through Faith In Christ, understanding starts to open up which drains the inner pool of ones foolish folly and fills it, even to over flowing with The Fathers Wisdom. This is when, and from where our healing starts, ridding us slowly, gently of sinful wrong actions and teaching us of a far better way to live!

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to The Power that Works in us,

Paul's prayer, as all prayer should turn to the praise of The Lord God Almighty. **3:20 Now to Him Who is able** God, and only God is able to do such a Mighty Work that believers receive through and by Salvation's Power. We are to keep in mind that Jesus Christ has Saved us not only from our foolish selves, but from the powers of this world both spiritual and physical. The Holy Spirit through Christ's Work has lifted us above all these harmful elements. People, there are powerful forces that desire our hurt, we need to remember that it is by His Grace we are where we are, let us not minimize The Lord's Actions, lest we fall. We must, must remember **unto Him** okay?! **3:20...to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, As written above (**vs 3:18**) this goes well beyond our level of understanding, or at least from mine. The word '**exceedingly**' comes from the Greek word '**huper**' which means '**above and beyond**' which boldly proclaims above and beyond that which we could ever ask or even think of asking. The word '**abundantly**' in the Greek is '**perissos**' and means '**superabundant, exceedingly abundant above, beyond measure**' I hope we are getting the point, God's Ways are far above ours and so unsearchable. How amazing is He, He Knows our every thought, and Hears our every word, He Knows when even a single hair falls from our heads, He never forgets that which we have asked, He Knows when even a little bird dies, our lives were before Him even before we were born, He Knows the good and bad within our hearts, and yet came to our rescue, He Knows our weaknesses, folks He knows your name, alongside every other thing named in heaven and on earth. Nothing is unknown or hidden from The Lord and He will Bless you abundantly above all you can ask for He careth for you!!! **3:20...according to The Power that Works in us**, If we ask in and by faith regardless of our faith's strength be it strong, weak, or even fading (see **vs 18**). The Power that Works within us speaks of The Mighty Holy Spirit who honours Truth, I know I shall never forget who I was and from where I came from, He Saved me from the pits of hell and moved me from destruction's door. I know that it is through His Sufferings and death that I have obtained His Blessing and no other way, It is what He did at Calvary that has paid for my sins. I am made Holy through and by Him, His Blood so ever Cleanses me, the cross before me the world behind me...And you, Amen?!

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be Glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul's prayer ends **3:21 to Him be Glory** speaks of The Father, the time is coming when we will all this 'The Day of His Total Glorification'. **3:21...in the church** This is not speaking of the Catholic, Baptist, Methodist or any other institutionalized church but rather the individual believers that have been by Faith caught up in His Body. **3:21...by Christ Jesus** This again tells us that it is all because of Christ, that we are Saved because we are In Him, spiritually made one, with Jesus being the head. Please don't picture us all walking around bound together, that is not the meaning we are separate, but covered by His Spirit making us one with Him, before The Father of Glory. **3:21...to all generations, forever and ever**. Firstly how Blessed was Paul, he wrote that which was and is out seeing time. All that read this and believe are indeed Blessed by The Lord and shall carry this into Eternal Life. The **forever and ever** stands for the time of the church! **3:21...Amen**. Simply means every thing written shall be fully fulfilled, no one who holds even the tiniest of faith shall miss out. Great is our God, amen and amen.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Paul has over the last three chapters related on many spiritual Truths which should impact on how we live, he is about to bring that into the physical arena through chapters 4 to 6. He is about to show how they should be working in conjunction with each other, hence: The outworking of spiritual truths in and through our lives. Paul is writing that there is a need to live within a correct balance of the spiritual and physical realms, and I firmly believe they should almost be seen as one! Paul ends Ch 3 with a prayer, of which I have printed a small portion of: **That God The Father may out of His Glorious Riches Strengthen us with Power through His Spirit into our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through Faith.** Amen? Paul is about to unite The Spiritual to physical, meaning how the flesh should be responding to The Spirit! Just because we are move into a more physical looking realm, that does not mean we are finished with the Spiritual as all things are worked through and by a spiritual power...of some type, think about that!

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of The Lord, beseech thee to walk worthy of The Calling with which you were Called,

Paul starts with another reminder. He is the prisoner of The Lord for them (us). Due to this position I can only imagine how much he desires to see the church grow in Wisdom and Strength. Paul's Faith allows him to call himself a prisoner of The Lord rather than a prisoner of nero. **4:1 beseech thee** Meaning, I beg of you, he is not using his power and commanding them as a church leader but begging. Paul had a good grasp on The Wisdom of God and the nature of man! **4:1...to walk worthy of The Calling with which you were Called,** An action word 'walk' This demands we actually do something. The word 'worthy' comes from the Greek word 'axios' and means 'in a manner worthy of, or deserving of, carrying the weight of worth' Paul is saying make sure you are deserving, carry the weight of responsibility, practise and live by what you preach! Jesus said it like this **Matt 16:24...“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.** Folks are we really presenting to the world that which we preach? Are we really carrying our cross as The Lord intended? The word 'Calling' presents a picture of moving one out from one state and placing them into another. (Walking)An active showing off of Grace (Worthy display) Of genuine love, Peace, Grace and Mercy (our Calling) Cemented Faith In Christ.

Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, bearing with one another in love,

Firstly it is **with all**, meaning 100% truthful, complete in **lowliness and meekness** in who we are. **4:2 with all lowliness** Lets not mistake this for foolish pride. Exercising our statues of humanity, always seeing the best in others, not looking at them as a judge but as a loving family member. Not being envious of others Gifts and Graces but rather rejoicing in them with them. Not thinking more highly of ones self, being puffed up and boasting about our personal values, points, beliefs or opinions. **4:2 and meekness,** This speaks about the believers demeanour, how we conduct ourselves under duress, one who has their flesh controlled by The Spirit will learn not to retaliate, or seek revenge or allow an unrighteous anger to erupt. **4:2...with long suffering,** Bearing with great patience others faults and mannerisms, not allowing the faults and infirmities of others to become a stumbling block. A good way to hold true to this is by doing what the Apostle Paul wrote regarding “not forgetting from where you came from”. **4:2...bearing with one another in love, Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.** From 1 Cor 13:4-8. My prayer is we will get this right.

Ephesians 4:3 endeavouring to keep the unity of The Spirit in the bond of Peace.

If anyone of these are weak or missing, lowliness, meekness, long suffering, the believer is in for a lot of failures. If love is missing then they need to drop to their knees and seek The King. **4:3 endeavouring to keep the unity of The Spirit** This again is attached to the word 'walk' it is speaking of that which we must do! We must do our best to uphold all that which The Lord had given to us. If one is Guided, Governed and desires the leading of The Holy Spirit such a life style shall certainly become easier to exercise and live by. This of course brings the church together as one. **4:3...in the bond of Peace.** Only what Jesus did at the cross can provide this, we should have both peace with The Father and with each other.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one Body and One Spirit, just as you were Called in one hope of your Calling;

Once again we see the Mystery of God, Jew and Gentile becoming one In Christ. **4:4 There is one Body** One church, not many, one Faith, one Hope, one Baptism, so there should be unity within the walls of The Lord's Church. **4:4...One Spirit,** This of course speaks of The Holy Spirit Who is able to Work within the church making it one in unity due to Christ and what He did at Calvary. **4:4...just as you were Called** God Calls us not the other way around, He knows who will say "yes". **4:4...in one hope of your Calling;** That we are all equal. No one stands above another. Jesus came to earth to become a Servant to all! He is our Perfect example of how we should see our Calling...Let us serve!

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, One faith, One baptism;

This speaks 100% about Jesus Christ. In the last verse we spoke of The Holy Spirit, here we shall speak of The Son, and in the next The Father. **4:5 One Lord,** We do not have many Lord's, just One so there should be no arguments between us yet the truth is the church today is in a sad state. If we have One Spirit Living within us, and One Lord Reigning over us, how is it possible to have such a fragmented church? The answer is many have another jesus, another spirit, another gospel **2 Cor 11. 4:5...One faith,** This is actually speaking about Salvation, the process one has to believe in before entering into The Lord's Blessedness. Jesus Christ died on a cross, His Blood spelt and Body beaten to gain such an entry for us, our sins are forgiven because of His Sacrifice. **4:5...One baptism;** This is not done by water but by Faith In Christ. This happens when one is initially Saved they believe they have been Cleansed by The Blood of The Lamb of God, that His Death has gained them Life!

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

This goes well above my pay grade. **4:6 One God** The Father is One God and we all worship Him, but that does not mean The Son and Holy Spirit are any less God. We have just read about The Son and The Holy Spirit, here Paul concentrates on The Father. There is no secondary or inferior status within The Godhead They are as One. Each Member fills a different function but they act and work in Perfect harmony. **4:6...and Father of all,** Speaks of those that believe The Message of Jesus Christ. **4:6...Who is above all,** This gives me a picture of Ultimate Dominance and Power. **4:6...and through all,** The word 'all' speaks of all He Created, the stars, heavens, earth, animals, trees etc. There is no place where He is not! **4:6...and in you all.** This moves from Creation to man, but not all mankind! Yes God in all His Creation but He will not be found where sin is and unless one calls on The Name of Jesus Christ **Rom 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God Raised Him from the dead, you will be Saved"**

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us Grace was given according to the measure of Christ's Gift.

The holy Spirit through Paul makes this a little more self pointed in that it is directed to each individual. Above he used words such as 'in you all' which of course speaks of the entire Church, here he changes course slightly by using the word **4:7 But.** So, we are to have a look at ourselves, **4:7 But to each one of us Grace was given** Every single believer has been given this blessing and

should seek The Lord to have it released within them. Remember, The Father is through all things and in all believers, no one misses out! God does not want us to have our thinking adjusted to that of a religious stereo type, becoming an oversimplified idea of what man thinks Christianity should look like. You and I have got the level of Grace given within us by God, we all have some type of Ministry, and we should all be desiring to understand what it is and how to operate within it! This is not the daily Grace provided by The Lord for us, which speaks of our experience, but the Grace to be involved in His Work, His Ministry, which speaks of Service. If we surrender our lives and cast off the religious balderdash He shall Grant us the Blessing of being able to perform what ever it is that He has Called us to. **4:7...according to the measure of Christ's Gift.** This is as all that we receive In Christ, that which is given by God! It is **Christ's Gift** to each believer. And we all have what ever level or measure The Lord has so determined for each one of us. It is my personal belief that we will never be set free to use it in it's fullness if we do not lay down our lives, we must desire to understand what Jesus Christ has done for us and what He wants to do within us, we must desire that The Holy Spirit Through Christ does His Mighty Works within us, unhindered by our foolish pride and lack of knowledge!

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He Says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave Gifts to men."

The words **therefore He Says:** expresses the reason for all we have. The Holy Spirit is not changing the conversation to another point as we shall see. Paul has been directed to pen that which comes from **Psalms 68**. We see in the Psalm the removing of The Ark of the Covenant from the city of Kirjath-jearim to Mt. Zion, this action spoke of the great victories gained in God, we read in verse **18 of Psalms 68 You have Ascended on High, You have led captivity captive: You have received gifts for men; Yes, for the rebellious also, that The Lord God might dwell among them.** No one would have connected this to the Work Jesus Christ did at the cross until The Holy Spirit had Paul write that which he did in Ephesians. The Ark was to rest at the top of Zion, no longer carried about by the Israelite armies, this was a picture of The Lord God's total victory over all the earth. Mercy and Truth would go from there into the world, all would hear the good news even the rebellious and those who were far removed from the One True God. In the Psalm King David sings **"That God gave to men" "That God may dwell with man"** Right throughout time The Lord has been doing that which would eventually bring man back into His Loving Secure embrace. King David was singing about this great victory which would happen 950 to a 1000 years later being The Birth of The Christ which would eventuate in the death and Resurrection of our Lord. **4:8..."When He ascended on high,** This of course means He has Risen, Mission fully completed! However I am going to ask you a question, does this speak of His Ascension from the grave when Mary saw Him or 40 days latter from earth to heaven? For indeed there is a massive discussion to have over this point. **Acts 1:9** tells us **And when He had Spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a Cloud received Him out of their sight.** The answer is in this verse. Even though Jesus' Sacrifice was indeed complete there was still one thing that had to be fulfilled under the Old Dispensation. The high priest on the Day of Atonement, after the animal had been sacrificed would take blood from The Brazen Altar and passing through the Court yard and Holy Place he would enter into The Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood onto The Mercy Seat, a Cloud was above The Mercy Seat **Lev 16:2...and The Lord Said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into The Holy Place inside the veil, before The Mercy Seat which is on The Ark, lest he die; for I will Appear in The Cloud above The Mercy Seat.** Jesus after 40 days was taken up through The Cloud, it was then that going through the heavens that satan would try for the last time to stop Jesus from Entering into The Most Holy Place in Heaven, but instead was made a show of by The Lord who dragged not just satan but every fallen angel and demon around the heavens by a chain, we shall study that some more in **chapter 6. 4:8...He led captivity captive,** This speak of the Saints of God, all those that were held captive in paradise. When Jesus the Man gave up His Spirit to God and left The Body it was at that point in time His Body died. Whilst The Body laid in rest Jesus in His Soul

and Spirit form went into Paradise and freed all held there, however I believe it would still be 40 days until they entered into Heaven right behind Him, I say this as He still had to sprinkle The Mercy Seat not with Blood per se but with His Holy Presence. **4:8... and gave Gifts to men.**" Far to many awesome gifts for me to write about but lets start with Eternal Life, The Baptism of The Holy Spirit, the ability to speak directly to God The Father and on and on we could go. I would be short minded not to mention the Gift that The Son of God gave us for all at Calvary! For everything we receive comes from this great Work of His. May we all be blessed as we consider this lesson throughout the week.

Ephesians 4:9 (Now that, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Continuing from last week theme. **4:9 (Now that, "He ascended"** The Holy Spirit through Paul desires that we (**the readers of the letter**) gain a greater understanding of what it was that Jesus Christ did. When our Lord entered back into Heaven there were not many following Him on earth, but since that time hundreds of millions have turned to Him! In fact today 2.38 billion people claim to follow Christ, sadly I feel that number may drop back into the millions on the day of reckoning. **4:9...what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?** Here is the question! What does it mean, the lower parts of the earth? This is not the grave six feet deep, nay, this is deep within the core of the earth. On the cross, Jesus Said, **"It is finished"** (Jn 19:30). He did not need to descend into hell as His suffering was over, no additional payment was needed, all had been taken care of. So, where did He go? Firstly: A place called Paradise, this was completed the second He gave up His Spirit, the Bible records that many people were seen on earth as they waited for Christ to fully Ascend into His Glory, this was I believe over the following 40 days. Secondly: He also presented Himself to those that died before the flood, before the law, those that had rejected the prophet Noah's message of the coming Salvation, this is very much like today as we speak God's Truth to an unbelieving world. I do not believe He entered into hell, rather I believe this was done the same way the rich man spoke to Abraham across the chasm which separated paradise from hell. He also made an open show of the powers of darkness by triumphantly dragging them around heaven. Folks, only unrepentant sinners enter hell and they all know why they are there, Jesus had no need to go there. All that have rejected The Truth being Jesus Christ and what He did at the cross are in hell, one can deny which I have just written but that does not change it's existence. God Loves man to much to allow the power of sin to enter into the new earth, sin is a highly addictive power which ends in death, our Loving God will not allow such to continue. All born of the womb in some way or another hear the Gospel of Christ, no one will have an excuse, He has knocked on the hearts of every person without exception. Faith is the only answer to man's dilemma and this must be placed in Jesus Christ **'and'** what He did at Calvary!!! Every thing we get, we get through what He did, we are Saved by His death, cleansed by His Blood, healed by His stripes...Christ is the Source of Eternal Life, and The Work He did at the cross is the means!

Ephesians 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He may Fill all things.)

4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended There is no doubt that satan would have wanted with all his evil heart to hold Christ captive, but no one can hold God as satan found out! Paul is saying that it is the same Jesus Christ that was hung upon a cross that descended and ascended, that all can be sure of such. That nothing has been left undone, the powers of darkness have been completely defeated, all righteous souls have been lifted up into heaven, death has lost it's power. **4:10...that He may Fill all things.)** That every role spoken by Him and written of Him in the OT was at this time completed, The Heavenly Father has Lifted Him above all things, Seated Christ at His Right hand side making Him The Great High Priest, The Mighty King, The Saviour, The Almighty God, The Greatest Warrior which even death is subject to, He has overcome, fulfilled, and stands above all the heavens and earth. Christ is the Leader of the Church, fullstop.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers,

The Holy spirit turns it back towards man. 4:11 And He Himself gave We have just read that Jesus is by The Fathers Appointment above all, so we should not get carried away by whatever appointment we have in our lives, as all glory must go to The Lord. We do not become any of these things by our own power but by Christ's Blessings, He gives us the ability.4:11..some to be Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers, Long list of God Called positions and they must be taken seriously. Any one called into such an office has a great responsibility to know the Truth and to remain humble, able to receive correction, understanding that it is God and not them that has the Power of Wisdom. Today Apostles as of Paul's days are Called directly by The Lord, I would imagine in a profound and sure way, I equally believe the calling of Apostleship is somewhat scarce today. Anyone who is Called into such does not have the same authority of those in Paul's day, who wrote by The Power of The Holy Spirit the Biblical Scriptures we are reading, rather God gives them the ability to preach with Power The Word, and to successfully plant churches. Prophets, We can all prophesy but a Prophet does more they have the Gift of interpreting Scripture and foretelling things to come. Evangelists, This is the Gifting of winning souls in great numbers. Pastors This person is a shepherd of God's people, one given a heart that desires the security and safety of the flock. Teachers, Is an instructor that enables others to learn The Truth, these men and women will without doubt teach on Jesus Christ and what He has done. They will not be involved with politics, church get better programmes and such nonsense.

Ephesians 4:12 for the perfecting of the Saints for the work of Ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ,

Just as we read, those who are trusted to aid the church need to remain humble, understanding it is not by their wisdom that they bring the Message of truth, but equally the church needs to show the correct Godly level of trust towards those Called with the task of aiding them (For they are from The Lord). 4:12 for the perfecting This simply means presenting other believers with the Truth. The Greek word for 'perfecting' is 'kata-rit-izo' which means to 'to equip for service, the restoring of anything to it's proper order, properly put things in order, to make complete' For believers to grow in The Lord The Truth must be taught at all times, lest we end up with incorrect church growth. There must be seen, and felt, a moving of The Holy Spirit within the church which means peoples lives are being changed by The Power of The Lord as they realise their own sin nature, and wrong desires, thus wanting their hearts to be changed more so daily into the image of Christ! 4:12...of the Saints This is speaking of the living not the dead, the Catholic church names certain individuals as saints after their deaths, but The Lord Calls us Saints, all of us, not certain individuals whilst we are alive. 4:12...for the work of Ministry, We are being made perfect by The Holy Spirit for "the work of Ministry". Gifts are given to all believers by The Lord and as we have already discussed we need to surrender ourselves so that He can learn how to use them. The work of Ministry starts firstly within the believer, once we get past the childish stage of judging everyone else and start judging our own actions, thoughts, and intent then understanding of The Lord's Great Work engages our minds. It is my prayer for any who read this that the fighting and blaming of spiritual darkness, and anybody else for that matter, regarding the hardships in one's life will stop, I strongly suggest you use that squandered energy, and foolish time wasted minutes worshipping and praising Jesus, when you do this Jesus' Light Shines, and folks, no spiritual darkness can stand in His presence James 4:7 tells us Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. This is not done at separate times but rather in one action! Praise God, whilst we are submitting ourselves to God we are at the same time resisting the devil! The opposite is also true when believers are fighting against

an already defeated devil they are **NOT** worshipping the Living God but rather insulting what Jesus Christ did at the cross, He said "It is finished" and that means nothing has been left undone, sin the world and satan dealt with at the cross, darkness cannot be found In Jesus, so logic screams from the highest mountains, "stand yourselves in The Lord Jesus' Holy Presence". Amen! **4:12...for the edifying of the Body of Christ**, Take note, this is for the building up of the whole church, not just one or two. This of course comes through the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers by The Power of The Holy Spirit, who have been entrusted by The Lord to do this wonderful work which can only happen if the church recognizes their Calling and then surrenders unto The Lord allowing the whole body of Christ to feed on The Word of The Holy Spirit, firstly through the above selected of The Lord, which in turn shall cause a Spiritual explosion within such a church bringing many into true Repentance unto Eternal Salvation.

Ephesians 4:13 till we all come to the unity of The Faith and of the Knowledge of The Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

No one believer is greater than another, the Prophet, teacher etc, are no greater than the new born in Christ! For all that believe are Saved by The Grace of God, so let no one boast. Two parts in this verse have stood out to me. **First: 4:13 till we all come to the unity of The Faith** This of course speaks of an unknown unit of time, and why we have to have teachers and so on, for we are all, not just one or two, but all, to arrive at such a place of agreeance. The words **The Faith** means simply The Truth being what Jesus Christ did for us all! This is not a blind type of faith but is cemented in what Christ did, we can all trust Jesus paid the price demanded at the cross for all our sins. This is The faith that once understood brings everyone together by Jesus' mighty act at the cross. **Second: 4:13...and of the Knowledge of The Son of God**, The word '**and**' opens the door for the second part, this comes by The Power of The Holy Spirit, such knowledge can only be given through the first part of this verse, being Faith in what Christ did at Calvary. If one does not understand what Jesus did at the cross then one will not understand who Jesus Christ really is and why He came to die! He is The First Begotten, The only One that could Walk on this earth without taking His mind off The Father, He did this for about 33 and a half years, if it was bang on 33. 5 years then that would be one billion, five hundred and seventy one million, seven hundred and ninety six thousand seconds. Folks, He did not for one of those seconds take His Mind off from The Father, He never acted on humanistic emotions, He never allowed sin to enter Him! His Mind was 100% steadfast towards and on The Father, brothers and sisters, we would be blessed beyond greatness if our minds would allow such for even half a day! If we have begin to understand what He did at the cross we will gain the much needed unity in The Faith, Jesus is the Source, The One that provided the Perfect Sacrifice whilst The Work He did at the cross is the means, meaning everything that was needed to bring Salvation to mankind was taken care of during His Sufferings that day, satan, sin and the world's power were defeated along with the outstanding debt owed to The Father by mankind was paid in full. **4:13..to a perfect man** This is a progressive development within each individual believer, no one (**at least to my knowledge**) was fully mature at their born again experience, in fact this is true also of our Lord **Heb 5:8 Even though He was The Son, He learned Obedience from what He suffered and, once Made Perfect, He became The Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey Him. 4:13...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;** We are finite (**limited by our nature**) whilst The Lord is infinite (**100% plus, completely unlimited in Who He is**) We are human, He is God! I believe what I am about to print to be correct, The measure of the stature one will grow into is up to the believer, we can determine how we walk! We must continually be seeking His Holiness!

Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Growth and protection. **4:14 that we should no longer be children**, There is a starting place, as written above, we must grow into spiritual maturity, Paul is saying to the Ephesian church leaders

that they should have the correct understanding of The Truth and thus, they should be passing that on to the new born in Christ, hence creating strong growth coupled with protection of the Truth. **4:14...tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, A mature believer shall not move away from the Work of Jesus Christ, all that they belief is tied up In Christ and empowered by what He did at the cross, and they will teach others of such a wonderful Truth. **4:14...by the trickery of men** This speaks of deceitfully deceived people. They will be known by their fruits, they will argue and wage war against anyone that does nor agree with their understanding of doctrine, note, I do not say Truth! These people have been deceived, and I can guarantee they have had numerous chances to repent, but pride is powerful, pushing them into a place of wilfully misleading others. **4:14...in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting**, Make no mistake, what they say is well researched, they present strong and dangerously convincing doctrines which are constructed to remove believers from what Jesus did at the cross onto some type of law obeying life style! These are workers of darkness, and the church needs to be aware of such dangers. The mature in Christ have a great responsibility of both protecting themselves and the less mature in the church from such wolves by remaining in the simple Truth, **1 Cor 1:23 But we preach Christ Crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, Gal 6:14 But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Cor 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.** Paul is telling the Ephesians and us to remain in the simple Truth! It's not hard, aye?

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the Truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

We just read about the deceitful know our attention is being placed onto that of integrity. **4:15 but, speaking The Truth in love**, If the Truth is spoken with love then one will also live by, and act in love, this speaks of the complete package. Such a person will think, speak and act out from the power of love, showing the world how he/she is being changed by The Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us love is not easily offended, I point that out as when one speaks The Truth in love to others (**the religious**) they often become indignant or even more so inflamed towards such a person. **4:15 may grow up in all things** Truth spoken in love leaves no stone unturned, all that receive such shall grow strong in The lord. Such a believer shall take on the Character of Christ, they shall become Christ like leaving behind the foolishness of this world looking toward The Heavenly Spiritual Promise. **4:15...into Him who is the head—Christ—**The Promise, Jesus Christ The Lord God Almighty! I was involved in churches for many years that simply did not know Christ as the Head. Yes, they stated very strong doctrines regarding a truth of sorts but negated the Work done at the cross therefore relegating the truth into a lesser spoken or preached position. This is why the church is full of arguments, scandals, and fractions of differing opinions. There is One Way, One Truth, One Life, Amen?

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Oneness by choice. **4:16 from whom the whole body**, No one is to miss out, no one is less or more important than another. This is speaking of our relationships with each other and with The Lord, as He is the Head of the body! **4:16...joined and knit together** This is The Work of The Holy Spirit, through the art of knitting He has joined us all together. Every part is in it's correct position, every part is able to work as it should, as long as it obeys the guidance and desire of the Spirit, this acts just as our physical body, think of the brain as a central computer that controls all your body's functions, if the body does not receive the direction given by the brain correctly then it becomes dysfunctional. **4:16...by what every joint supplies**, All joined together to aid and supply each other in The Love of The Lord. **4:16...according to the effective working by which every part does its share**, Everyone has a task to do, firstly to seek The Lord to change their inner person and then to

aid others to walk in Christ by faith in whom Jesus Christ is and what He has done. **4:16...causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.** Encouraging each other without jealousy or envies, not thinking, I should be recognized more as I'm better than he or she, or what every the case is. All should except their place and rejoice in Christ, thus developing a better understanding on how to better aid those around them, this is the maturity required which brings unhindered growth in The Love of The Lord.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in The Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Paul places himself as trust worthy. **4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in The Lord,** Paul uses his position of being an Apostle here in the word's **This I say**, meaning listen to me! The Greek word for 'testify' is 'martureo' and means 'a solemn declaration, protest, or injunction of the nature of an appeal to God' The Apostle is saying you can be sure this is coming from The Lord Almighty. He places himself in Christ which further declares his testimony to be truth, testifying...appealing to their understanding of The Truth to except what he is saying. **4:17...that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,** The word 'walk' is an action word, Paul is saying we should not resemble the world, each individual should no longer look and live like they once did! How do we stack up away from the church, would one behave like you do at home in front of other believers in the church? If not, then repent, for such a person will be enter into The Kingdom of God! **4:17...in the vanity of their mind,** The word 'vanity' translates simply into 'emptiness', being void of The Truth of God, worshipping anything that the heart desires. And the 'mind' spoken of here speaks of the inner man, which understands that which is morally right and wrong but determines it's own path which alienates it from The True God God. See [Genesis 4:7](#)

Ephesians 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from The Life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

We were all at this place once! **4:18 having their understanding darkened,** This has been passed on throughout the ages, all born of the womb inherit a sin nature, all fall short of The Glory of God. But the Light comes to all mankind, at sometime, in this case their understanding was so dark that they missed the Truth even when He knocked on the door of their hearts. Their hearts are darkened due to satans lie, however we hold a key that shall indeed aid many in darkness which presents a far greater power than satan has 'faith in prayer'. **4:18...being alienated from The Life of God,** The word **alienated** holds a powerful meaning in the Greek, 'being estranged, to shut out one's fellowship and intimacy' **4:18...because of the ignorance that is in them,** This is more than just being ignorant, this states it is in them, seated within them, a wilful act, something they could readily have removed but for pride! **4:18...because of the blindness of their heart;** This blindness has come upon them due to what we have just read, these people have stood against Truth, which has alienated them from The Lord of Salvation, their conscience no longer calls evil, evil!

Ephesians 4:19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

No stopping sin within a person that refuses to except they own that horrid nature. **4:19 who, being past feeling,** Totally excepting and driven by a lifestyle of the nature. **4:19...have given themselves over to lewdness,** As written above this is a deliberate act, they have allowed this to reign within them, the fleeting moments of sins reward is desired over the Eternal Blessing of God. **4:19...to work all uncleanness with greediness.** The word 'all' sums up this dark calling, nothing in untouchable to such a person! Greediness gathers sins true reward, eternal damnation! **Ephesians 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ,** On this verse we shall end and start with next week, stay strong in The Lord. You have over the years learned great and good things of The Lord, you are no longer the same, He has and is teaching us how to be more than over comers. Amen?

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ

We ended with this starting verse last week after we had addressed how many have given themselves over to lewdness, greediness etc, and so we start. **4:20 But you** This is being directed towards those that at some stage of their lives were paganistic in all their beliefs. **4:20...have not so learned Christ** This goes well beyond just receiving religious guidance, these have become disciples of The Lord. **Phil 3:9-10** tells us **And be found in Him...That they may know Him** These people have learned about Christ and what He has done, they understand who He is and who they are! They have in fact become one in The Lord, Spiritually covered and Filled by The Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as The Truth is in Jesus:

Discern the spirit of Truth over darkness! Equally, by their fruit they are known. **4:21 if indeed** These are not words to discourage but to challenge! **4:21 you have heard Him** Changes will be recognized in the privacy of one's home, no one hears the Voice of The Lord and remains the same. **4:21...and have been taught by Him**, His Voice teaches us about The Lord Jesus and what He has done, He guides us into the Spiritual changing room where self is removed and replaced for The Perfection of Christ. **4:21...as The Truth is in Jesus:** The Apostle points us to that which we need to study, learn of and desire above everything else. Jesus, He was born a man, the only man that could complete the laws requirements. This man Jesus was Filled by The Spirit of Truth just as we are however He could Say "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life", He was and is without sin, Perfect in all His ways. If a believer really wants to be set free then they need to look towards all The Truth that is In Christ Jesus, we need to live spiritually within Him. We need to be praying for such an outcome, for such a desire, regardless of the cost.

Ephesians 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

What you were yesterday must change, the old man must be removed. **4:22 that you put off**, Notice the word 'you'. The last verse just told us we have been taught by Him...Being taught what? To allow The Holy Spirit to put to death that which is not of The Lord within us, so that the Truth may be realized, we must desire that our home lives mirror Christ, not just our church life. Every time you say yes to Christ, in truth you say no to the world, self, and satan, in **John 3:30** John the Baptist said **He must increase, but I must decrease**, and such it is with us also, Christ must increase within us which only allows for us to be decreasing, if our old habits are still ruling, then maybe we need to be doing a little more praying regarding our inner self...[As something is wrong! If there is an issue then it is of one's own making. **4:22...concerning your former conduct**, I wrote above, (notice the word 'you') This has become personal, a one on one thing between you and The Lord. Simply how does one's holiness shape up compared to The Lords? Don't blame anyone else, or another spiritual power for wrong conduct, it's you, it's your own action, it's your own thought process, it's your life, own it! Honesty coupled with the desire to change brings great reward. **4:22...the old man** Speaks of what we used to be/ or in some cases, still are **4:22...which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts**, He must be put off! This speaks of our old nature, which if allowed shall work deep within a believer until acts of sin become easy to do, especially in the privacy of ones home, but folks, be reassured they are seen by heavens audience, think about Who that is! The sin nature, which we all have is a progressive and dark power which needs no outside help from any devil to crave and lust for self satisfaction. The only answer for the sin nature is the Power of what Jesus Christ did at the cross, the sin nature can be, and in fact must be put to death, by faith believing in who Jesus Christ is and what He has done, such allows The Power of The Holy Spirit the latitude to do His Mighty Works within such a believer.

Ephesians 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

We must stop living in, and by the faith of yesterday. **4:23 and be renewed** The Greek word for renewed is ‘ana-ne-oo’ which means ‘to be renovated by inward reformation’ This is a continual action throughout life. **How**, and **what** we **think** of, what we **look at**, and how we **speak** is up to us. **Ps 101:2-3 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt Thou come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:** Yes, in the beginning, as babies in Christ The Lord provided safe passage regarding **all the above cognitive functions**, everything was about Jesus...Oh, how we loved Jesus...We just couldn’t get enough of Him, then, wham!!! All of a sudden the old man emerges from deep within us, the self pleasing drive for sinful satisfaction knocks at the door of our heart. This is where many in the church start to blame demonic activity, start to rebuke daily the devil, and miss the greater truth in that we all have a sin nature, and a free will! **4:23...in the spirit of your mind**, This is not speaking of The Holy Spirit but man’s spirit, that which allows us to have an awareness of God. This is not telling us to overcome every negative thought by self control of the mind, but rather ‘**in the spirit of our minds**’ pray for and desire that The Holy Spirit will be able to teach The Truth and Life of Christ which in time shall most certainly demand a positive response from within our spirit to receive His Holiness, His Life, and to have It even more so abundantly.

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true Righteousness and Holiness.

2 Cor 5:17 tells us we are a new creation, the old has passed away **4:24 and that you put on the new man** Once again we have the power to decide how we will live. Yes the old man has passed away, but we can give life back to it by not living in the correct line of faith. The new man wants only to learn of Jesus and then mirror what it has been taught guided by The Perfect Teacher. The Holy Spirit Teaches and Directs us individually, providing all things needed for us to live unto Him according to our callings. Are you in obvious sin? A religious person would say “repent,” and then try to deliver you from a demon spirit (**shifting the blame**) whilst praying God’s Mercy and Strength for you (**which you already have, I assume you have The Holy Spirit in you...Ps He is God!**) Year after year I was told to repent without being told how to correctly! **Repentance is a must**, but it can only be achieved within The Power of The Holy Spirit, through what Christ has done at the cross. This demands faith coupled with honesty between the believer and The Lord. Do you like how you are living? Do you want change? Are you prepared to pay the price of obedience? Are you truly ready to repent? Folks, millions sit in church pews hearing about Christ without actually ‘**learning Him**’. Have you learned Christ? If so, then you will be living, changing, obeying The Spirit unto true repentance. **4:24...which was created according to God**, There is one Creator, He has never made a mistake, what you and I are today, was, and is exactly as He Created. If you are ‘**learning Him**’ and not religion then you are on target according to your **trust and faith**, so sit, relax, and get ready for His next directive. **4:24....in true Righteousness and Holiness**. Note the word ‘**True**’ meaning it is accurate, exact, perfect, speaking of that which has been placed into the believer He has given all we need to live unto Him, all the questions above were asked for a reason, when a long drop toilet is full they empty it then the process of filling it starts again...we need to be wise with what we fill our spirit with? The word ‘**true**’ infers there is a false righteousness and holiness which does not come from God. Folks we must trust big time in and on The Holy Spirit this year, we shall never understand Christ nor see His Glory unless The Holy Spirit Teaches and reveals Him to us. The listening to sermons and lectures, and even the study of the Word will never allow you to see The Deeper things of Christ unless The Holy Spirit is driving you, leading you.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,” for we are members of one another.

Truth is what has Saved us, Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The life. **4:25 Therefore, putting away lying**. It is our God given duty to be truthful, to stop telling porkies, for such brings unity into the

body of Christ. 4:25...“Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,” for we are members of one another. Loves speaks, this is not an opportunity to bring self righteous judgment which offers a false righteousness. Hold your peace if you cannot offer encouragement unto growth.

Ephesians 4:26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

There are three words for anger used in the New Testament ‘Thumos and paro-gis-mos’ these point to a boiling rage where one is screaming, bordering on violence, Scripture forbids such anger. 4:26 “Be angry, and do not sin” The Greek word used here for ‘angry’ is ‘orge’ this means a righteous passion, a correct and just level of indignation, one should not progress past that level of corrective anger least they fall into sin. 4:26...do not let the sun go down on your wrath, Even though such an anger comes from a righteous heart, one must be quick to restore true peace.

Ephesians 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

If one does not deal correctly with the anger just spoken of then they present an opportunity for the devil to bring an even greater harm, self pity onto unforgivingness which hardens the heart which then produces bitterness, which imprisons the spirit and mind, but even worse it hinders ones fellowship with The Lord **Mark 11:25 If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.** We must remove that leeway offered to the devil, and settle our account of anger quickly. People, the act of remaining angry and risking all the above should be an unthinkable scenario. Whatever the issue, whatever the offence such a failure is a blatant act of disobedience towards The Holy Spirit. We are to offer opportunity and place only to The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Lying, anger, and theft... 4:28 **Let him who stole steal no longer,** Paul is saying “let us no longer practice the ways of the world”. This is speaking about taking money or items illegally but it really covers a raft of things such as taking 30 minutes for a work break when it should only be 10 minutes etc. 4:28...**but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good,** The answer is honest work, being paid by the way and skill of using ones hands.4:28...**that he may have something to give him who has need.** This proclaims that the business of a Christian is not to make money just to fill a bank, but to aid and benefit others less fortunate, when such a need arises (after and only after they have met the needs of their own family).

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart Grace to the hearers.

Lying, anger, theft and speech...4:29 **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,** Swearing, gossip, slander, jest, foul jokes, belittling, cursing, malicious, prideful speech etc...4:29...**but what is good for necessary edification,** Jesus Said in **Matt 12:37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.** Lets use the words we speak to bring hope, joy, peace and love. **(I am defiantly a work in progress, but I shall pray and try, always).** 4:29...**that it may impart Grace to the hearers.** This is why I will pray and try, to see others grow in The Lord, and hopefully to see many others come into Salvations embrace through the simple use of correct language. Let us not speak and gossip about others incorrectly before other believers or none-believers alike as it destroys the spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve The Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were Sealed for the day of Redemption.

For He dwells within us. 4:30 **And do not grieve The Holy Spirit of God,** Lying, anger, theft, and corrupt words. The word ‘grieve’ in the Greek is ‘org-izo’ it’s meaning may surprise some! It does not mean He will just feel sorrow, however I am sure that is a part of it, but rather the meaning here is ‘to make angry, provoke to anger, irritate’ Folks, I for one do not want God to be angry with me!

Heb 12:10 tells us that The Father of spirits chastens us “for our profit, that we may be partakers of His Holiness.” The chastisement mentioned here is the first intention or the first category of the discipline of the Holy Spirit, if we are wise we shall not allow it to go any further. Many feel His displeasure due to not repenting from our foolish rebellious, stubborn, and disobedient behaviours.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Paul brings and end to a list of sinful behaviours before the next verse which hoists us up into a positive frame of spirit and mind. The idea here is that believers need to seek The Lord (2024 and onward) to live unto Him, to be rid of every type of sin which is causing an impairment to or walks. **4:31 Let all bitterness** In the Greek the word means **venom**, bitterness robs one of victory as spoken about above, however it goes further as it robs others also just by association, boy, being around a bitter person is so draining. **4:31...wrath, anger,** As said above the Bible forbids such emotions, anger is a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility, where as wrath is a more intense and prolonged form of anger fuelled by a strong desire for revenge or harm toward others. **4:31...clamour,** Bitterness invites wrath and anger which opens the door for **clamour** which is a loud and confused noise, people with very raised voices, shouting over the top of each other. **4:31...and evil speaking** The words ‘**evil speaking**’ used here comes from the Greek word ‘**blasphemia**’ which means to ‘**blaspheme as it regards profanity, slander etc...**’ **4:31...be put away from you,** All that we have just read about must be put away from us, The Lord is making it clear, this is not a matter of choice, His way or the byway (**big year coming!**). **4:31...with all malice.** Paul tags on one last sin. The Greek for ‘**malice**’ is ‘**kakia**’ which means ‘**evil, naughtiness, maliciousness, and wickedness**’ covers a lot aye? This however also stems from bitterness...So if any one holds any type of bitterness, please seek The Lord to be rid of it, replace it with His Grace and Mercy! Amen?

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

The cross, the cross, the cross, how great is our God! The word ‘**be**’ can be translated ‘**become**’ as this is a work in progress, however, one must not delay, we must rid ourselves of all the above wrongs. All that have read this have been spoken to by The Holy Spirit, all should desire His corrective discipline, guidance, and counsel daily. Do not go home and do as **James** wrote **1:23-24 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.** Let us all desire to be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one to another, remembering always what Jesus Christ did for us at Calvary, and let us be prayerful that the old me, the old you will be truly put to death this year! Let us turn willingly from all these negatives we have been presented with, and seek The Lord for His Righteousness, Holiness, Grace and Mercy...For all things are possible to our loving Father. Amen and amen. **4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.** This is the act of true believers, not keeping a record of passed wrongs, prepared in every way to forgive, touching and aiding others by living in God’s Grace and Mercy, not placing self above anyone, but in all things willing to serve by The Power of His Love, in this we shall be acting as our Father in heaven, forgiving others as He has forgiven us!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be followers of God as dear children.

The Holy Spirit enables such **5:1 Therefore be followers of God** The word 'be' in the Greek is 'gin-o-mai' meaning 'to become' and the Greek word for 'followers' is 'mim-e-tai' meaning 'imitators, mimic' so this verse is saying **therefore become imitators of God!** The church needs to do this. We are all born again but not all copy, or even try to copy His Perfection. How do we do this? **5:1..as dear children.** We can follow, imitate The Father through Jesus Christ. **1/** Know who you are! A child of God, that is massive, if you really know this then you know The Father who will never leave you or forsake you, think about that! **2/** Trust Him to do all He has said He would. **3/** Read the Bible as a hungry person devours food learning as much as you can about Jesus, The Holy Spirit delights in anyone that seeks such knowledge. **4/** Desire regardless of the cost His Will to be done daily in your life, amen! The first word of this verse is **Therefore** which connects us to last weeks study demanding we free ourselves from sinful thoughts, words, and actions. If we are indeed dear children of God we will confess our weaknesses and desire the destruction from within us of any such sin, unrepentant sin brings death, remember that, but true confession shall bring about God's correct deliverance, how and when is The Lords business, it is, for us to trust and remain faithful. Point **1/** tells us He will never leave us etc. Folks that is 100% true, but He will not allow us to remain the same as we are today either, He shall, if need be punish us to what ever degree required to free us from sins hold. Father I do ask that we shall not swim in such sin, They will be done... Please Lord, amen.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has Loved us and given Himself for us, an Offering and a Sacrifice to God for a Sweet-Smelling Aroma.

Here we see The Holy Spirit through Paul Speaking of both The Son and The Father. **5:2 And walk in love,** God's children shall be known by this as God is indeed Love, how then can we be different? I guess we should ask ourselves "how am I walking, how do I effect others around me" Are we relying on The Holy Spirit to develop this within us, are be walking in obedience, or are we doing our own daily religious thing? We need to keep check of how we live, continually. **5:2..as Christ also has Loved us** This speaks of everything The Lord has done, leaving heaven, walking perfectly in obedience to the law on earth, His Ministry, every Prayer He made, every thing He did was because He Loves you and me. **5:2...and given Himself for us,** The attack on him by man and satan ending with The Sacrifice that holds all The Power to Save every soul that believes. He at no stage swayed from The Fathers Will, from His Love of God and us, He was steely eyed and unflinchingly steadfast to the end, which ushered in a new beginning, hallelujah. **5:2...an Offering and a Sacrifice to God** The only way man could be forgiven, the only way the law could be fulfilled, the only way we are afforded The Fathers Mercy and Grace, Jesus Christ fulfilled all the symbolical blood offerings from the Levitical system by offering Himself on the cross. **5:2...for a Sweet-Smelling Aroma.** Christ was both The High Priest and Sacrifice, He did not have to do this but desired to follow through with the offering of Himself for our sin. He Who was Perfect, sinless, complete in Righteousness and Holiness in every way volunteered His Body and Life as a Sweet-Smelling Aroma unto The Father, by such an act He has finished sin hold and put away the laws demands, Perfecting His children in every way for ever, at least those that believe!

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for Saints;

Sexual immorality **5:3 But fornication** We will be looking at the role of the husband and wife later on in this chapter. '**fornication**', This is a common and very dangerous sin that operates today without to much hindrance. I want to speak about both the physical and spiritual sides of this sin. **The physical side:** You do not have to be married for this sin to act out in your heart! It is in direct opposition with God's Law, it is a work of the flesh, and a sin act against one's own body.

Without true repentance it shall cause the violator/s to become unfit for communion! That opens the door up towards all types of evils and calamities which could come upon person or persons. Finally it shall bring Gods Wrath onto them, ending up with exclusion from The Kingdom, least they repent! **The spiritual side:** This verse is not really about spiritual fornication but just a quick look as it does happen. When a believer or even a whole church starts to embrace another belief system moving away from who and what Jesus Christ did at the cross, they start to mix unknowingly with demon spirits. This happens also more often than we know, the world starts to move into our hearts through political, cultural, philosophical, ideological interests. Many believers will say but you need to keep up on world events, my answer, rubbish! You need to get closer to Jesus, He will show you all you need to hear, see, know. **5:3...and all uncleanness or covetousness,** This covers every type of sexual sin both in the physical and spiritual realms. Every sexual thought and act outside of the marriage bed is forbidden. Anything that does not cause praise in truth to The Father for Jesus Christ is sin. **5:3...let it not even be named among you,** This should not be even spoken of among us, The Holy Spirit through Paul is making it clear this is a serious sin. If you watch TV be careful as it is the devils playground. Everyone must decide for themselves, as for me the news, 99 % of TV shows are a no no, they cause people to dance the devils waltz particularity through political and cultural deceptions. **5:3...as is fitting for Saints;** It can be hard at times! But, people I fully believe who ever is reading this is being called to a higher place. We must develop by Faith a virtuous life style which simply means living unto a higher and moral standard both at home and out of home.

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

The Lord is calling us to remember who we are! **5:4 neither filthiness,** The spirit of this world is to be noticed here, an impure heart will allow inappropriate gestures and behaviour, even the attire we wear today has been stripped down to near nakedness with the intent to excite lust. **5:4...nor foolish talking,** This is speaking of talking for the sake of talking, once again political views and so on are a good example! Listen to those with strong views they become brutal in their delivery of opinion. **5:4..nor coarse jesting,** This speaks about being witty but without reverence or care towards any thing, this can quickly become coarse and vulgar moving onto the demise of many. **5:4...which are not fitting,** The Holy Spirit has Called us His Children, need I write any more here? **5:4...but rather giving of thanks.** I really, really, do long for the day when we sit and talk about Jesus after our service on Sunday rather than some of the rubbish we speak (**It's not all rubbish**), I for one have allowed foolish talk to have far to much leeway in my life.

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

We have spoken of these in part, it is a very strong warning, not from a man but from The Holy Spirit Himself through the Apostle! This needs to be taken very, **very**, seriously. The Lord is saying we need to be aware of the consequences of immorality. Surely the church (**you and I**), are aware that there is no room in the Kingdom of God for those that blatantly continue to sin in such a way. Those that truly believe Christ will be challenged by these words, I most certainly have been whilst studying these verses, in fact the Fear of God touched me, I must grow in The Spirit. So, how do I do this? By pursuing The Lord's Perfection in life through an honest assessment of my own hearts desires! How do I measure my own hearts desires? Whatever happens in life isn't no accident, or necessarily always God's Perfect Will for us, how we live will determine what type of changes happen within us, be it either positive or negative! Folks, how we change for The Lord is more in our hands than one may think. Where can you find this hidden secret regarding our hearts desires? Easy, in our daily routine. He knows our actions, what we spoke, what we think, and He wants us to decide, will we feed the flesh or the spirit? This will determine what life we live. **Gal 6:8 Whoever sows to please their flesh (daily activity), from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to**

please The Spirit, from The Spirit will reap Eternal Life. (daily activity) Adam and Eve, Cain, Esau, King Saul, Eli, Job, King Solomon, Judas, fell due to their hearts desires...Col 3:5–6 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, The Wrath of God is coming. The Holy Spirit is Saying, “Be warned”! These thoughts, words, and actions in time turn into idolatry! That is, the sin becomes us! Many in the church world wide suffer in ways that they shouldn’t even though they are Saved, and is it possible that many could enter hell due to their refusal to hear what The Spirit is Saying and repent. I will finish this with the words I used at the start...This is from The Holy Spirit Himself, this needs to be taken very, **very**, seriously! We have all been warned!

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Eph 4:21-23 Speaks of The Holy Spirit and the need to discern His Voice and leading. **5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words**, Insincere believers who sit in the pews of churches. People who read the Bible using their own enlightenment to make sense of it! The Truth has set us free, opening the doors to overcome all things as The Lord so directs. All we need to do is believe and obey, Jesus has taken care of the rest, and folks The Holy Spirit makes it even easier, He aids us to believe and obey, to receive this all we need to do is what we have spoken of before...Honesty, be honest with “Him, Father help me to believe, help me to obey, rule my life, do as You please in me...” and so on...Easy aye? **5:6...for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.** What I am about to write is not always the case, so please do jump to an incorrect judgment of yourself. The wrath of God that comes upon the disobedient ‘can be’ seen in sickness, disease, peaceless and irritable mood swings, financial hardship, unsettled faith etc. Equally, I these can be God’s great Mercy restoring one’s walk into Christ. Anyone that rejects The Holy Spirit shall end up in the final Judgment.

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Discern, decide, and act! This is for our protection from both **1/** insincere believers and **2/** those in the world. Don’t get mixed up in their life styles, don’t sit in their darkness! Yes, we are to live in the world but not act as it does, yes, we are to share the Good News with the unsaved, but not become partakers in their sin! The word ‘**partakers**’ simply means ‘**to partner**’ we are not to do as they do! How can the lost be Saved if we live like them? How can we discern within the church the falsehood of insincerity if we are ourselves except and live in it? Let’s not cloth ourselves in a devils garment! Remember, The Lord is good, He has placed people about you and I that we can trust, speak doctrine often with them, avoid as much as possible politics, race and cultural beliefs etc. Rather, we need to seek the fellowship of those that walk in The Holy Spirit, and we shall grow strong. Discern, decide and act, It’s up to you! **Joshua 24:15 “...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve The Lord.”** (verse abbreviated)

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are Light in The Lord. Walk as children of Light

Note, The Spirit is not saying we once walked in darkness but that we were darkness! My friends and family that do not at this time know The Lord are darkness, on the way to hell, doomed to eternal damnation. Adam and Eve walked as Light but became darkness because they wanted something rather than The Fathers Love! They got what they wanted, death! Dead to God, having no form of The True Spiritual Life. **5:8...but now you are Light in The Lord.** Due to Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. This is not the light of a lamp rather this means we are ‘light’ **1 John 1:5...that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.** Our spirit man is more than just glowing, no darkness can enter such as it belongs to The Father, unless we decide to reject His Teachings, then we may need a little Holy Spirit smack! The Lord Loves us and shall not fail in placing us all into a safe and growing position, amen?

5:8...Walk as children of Light My family and friends are 100% being Saved as I am walking in The Light as He is The Light, and there is no darkness In Him, so I know what I ask He hears, He hears because I ask according to His Will, and I know His Will is that none should perish. He will finish what He has started, for it is The Holy Spirit that has directed me to pray with thanks giving for my family and friends Salvation, and you are no different for we **walk as children of Light** therefore we ask according to His Will **Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that He who began a good Work in you will carry it on to completion until The Day of Christ Jesus.** People, we can have confidence in God's intent! It is The Lord, not us, He started the Work in You and I! His Work in us is Good and Trustworthy because He is Good and Trustworthy! He never gives up once He Starts! He always finishes His Work because He Sees the End! He did not Save you to make you miserable about family and friends, Trust Him, believe! **Isa 55:11 So shall My Word be that goes out from My Mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, but It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.** People think about how we interact with those outside of the church! Help and love them but do not become them!

Ephesians 5:9(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all Goodness, Righteousness, and Truth), Light is known by it's effects! I believe we need to continually keep our faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified! Our faith will remain true if we remember Who paid the price and how He paid it. The Holy Spirit brings total Truth which creates within us His Goodness and Righteousness. It is 100% God, due to Jesus and what He did, many believers try to manifest such a goodness and righteousness and it looks real! It deceives, it comes from an untruth! People faith can so easily be misplaced! **Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable to The Lord.

Our mission, joy as gold nuggets to be dug up! The word 'Proving' in the Greek is 'dok-im-mazo' and means 'to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and having found that the thing tested meets the specifications laid down by the test, then to place the sanction or approval on the thing or person tested' This speaking about our hearts! We must walk in The Will of God, we must prove His Word! That means checking what we read and hear, be it from the front of our church, TV, radio, book, or what ever! We are all responsible for our individual walk! Stay in The Truth, it's really

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

This speaks about the lost and deceived. We are 'light' we must not oppose the sinner but the sin. We must not join in their conversations that are full of cursing, swearing, and coarseness. We are to correct their blindness using wisdom. If the conversion is corrupt be silent or leave! Don't join in.

Ephesians 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. Sin is repugnant to The Holy Spirit and He does not want us to talk of such actions! Sin of any nature does nor require our investigational skills to discover every sordid detail. Pray then shishh.

Ephesians 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Nothing will remain hidden, either we repent or get exposed! **5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light,** 2024 is going to be a big year, things we did not call sin shall become sin! His Light is going to reveal all to our inner spirit. We should ask "Will this be acceptable to The Lord" for His Light shall expose our speech, thoughts, actions, clothing, pleasure, household furniture, business....everything shall be made known to the believer. **5:13... for whatever makes manifest is light.** Hears the good news there is so much that is not sin, we can live really good lives, we can still laugh, joke, mix with family and friends, watch TV and so...But we must remain aware of the Holy Spirit within us, for He wants all to be Saved...So lets be wise. Amen?

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 5:14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you Light.”

This is to the believer and lost alike. **5:14** Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, “judge ye yourself” The one person that we should trust the least is self! We fall asleep by slowly drifting away from the fellowship of God, by becoming caught up in daily activities, this causes a spiritual slumber. **5:14...arise from the dead**, From sleeping to being dead! This is where deliberate sin is active, maybe over a time it has just become the norm! There is no such thing as a little sin, to God sin is sin and all unrepented sin shall be answered for. We are to call what The Lord calls sin, sin, and turn away from it! **5:14. and Christ will give you Light**. There’s a Light that Shines from Heaven and that Light is Shinning within me There’s a Light that teaches me I need Jesus How He died, How He suffered for me, Father I need You, Jesus You’re the Power, Holy Spirit Shine through me, Lord I give myself to Thee. It all comes from The Lords Sacrifice and our surrender.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Are we still babies in The Lord? If not, then no excuses, we are not spiritual simpletons. This is telling us to take guard, to be alert as to how we are conducting ourselves. How we live, how the world sees us, do people know by our lives we are believers? Do they want what we have?

5:15...not as fools but as wise, We shall answer to The Father regarding our behaviour in front of those that need the Truth, are we cursing or blessing them by our actions and words? Lets be wise and cease from spending time on secular matters, worldly things which pass away so quickly. Lets use what The Lord has given us wisely bringing about joy unto Salvation and greater growth.

Ephesians 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Make best of the time we have. **5:16 redeeming the time**, The word **redeeming** in the Greek means ‘to buy up for one’s self or one’s advantage’ We are being told to use our time serving The Lord, to get ourselves into a position of spiritual strength and correctness through prayer, bible studies, worship and praise, meditation (thought/thinking) Bible readings, faith-based books, radio and TV, and of course fellowship.(**careful with what you watch, read and listen to**). **5:16...because the days are evil**. There is an active force fighting against the church trying to minimize the importance of being Holy and Righteous. Convincing many that the fellowship of Saints is not important as we do have TV, radio etc...The powers of darkness know their time is coming to an end and shall fight with all they have, we need to redeem our time wisely...Walk hand in hand with The Lord daily.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the Will of The Lord is.

This demands work! **5:17** Therefore do not be unwise, The word ‘Therefore’ connects to the days are evil so let’s not be stupid...‘unwise’ in the Greek comes from the word ‘aph-ron’ and means ‘senseless, crazed, foolish, stupid, without reflection or intelligence, acting rashly’ do I need to say more? I think not! **5:17...but understand what the Will of The Lord is**. As I wrote we need to work being schooled in His Word, we must work through study, holy awesome thought, considering the things of Christ with thanks giving, singing with songs unto The Most High etc. Aiding each other.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

This is an obvious one, lets put aside such foolishness. Once the mind is placed under the control of an outside substance we place ourselves into a very precarious position to say the lest, consider the heartache, sorrow, destruction, death, sickness, loneliness, separation, and debt caused through alcohol and drugs, is it any wonder The Lord is saying “Enough!”

Ephesians 5:19-20 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to The Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God The Father in The Name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Two things here. 5:19 speaking to one another 1/ believers edify themselves in worship and song 2/ Believers communing with one another in praise and song lifts the church. 5:19-20...in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, This is not mere entertainment but dedicated time spent unto The Lord and not for His sake but for ours. 5:19...singing and making melody in your heart to The Lord, As such frees our hearts, lifts burdens, allows faith to act, places us in The Spirit before The Lord God Almighty, allows healing, offers peace, adds confidence, creates greater opportunities in knowing Jesus Christ...on and on we can go. 5:20 giving thanks always Thanksgiving, For all He gives is Good, starting and finishing with His Son Jesus! So let us always be thankful. 5:20...for all things to God The Father God is good beyond compare, beyond understanding, His Mercy and Grace is unexplainable. 5:20...in The Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, This reveals the source of all God's Blessings and the means by which all Blessing come. Everything we get comes through His Name. The Lord Jesus Christ. Lord stands for 'Deity' 'Jesus' means Saviour (Fulfilled at the cross) 'Christ' means Anointed (Chosen for such a task). His Name is all Powerful on earth and in the heavens, when used in faith it will shake the cosmos.

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in The Fear of God.

Soon we shall speak about the family unit along with bosses and employees. 5:21 submitting to one another This I believe is speaking about the wider gatherings and fellowship of the Church. Submission within the church must be voluntary and not forced "I'm the pastor so you must do as I say" and so on, such is of the world, Biblical submission wipes away all false superiority and self governing attitudes whilst developing true humility. One to another proclaims everyone must do such, yes some carry greater responsibilities than others, such as those in leadership roles, but they do not occupy such a position due to their own strength and making, but God's. 5:21...in The Fear of God. Which begins by being submissive to God in the learning of knowledge, which turns into Godly wisdom, which therefore understands who God is and what He desires, which allows correct Godly Reverence, which is the Fear of God. Which, when understood Works within us by The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ obedience unto submission one to another.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

So many wrong teachings on this! As the above verse this must be voluntarily done, unless that is the case there shall be unrest within the home created by religion. This can only be done through understanding correctly The Fathers Desire. This only applies within a marriage, this does not mean women are to submit to all men rather male and female are to submit one to another as we have just studied! 5:22 as to the Lord. Here is the key, it is impossible to fulfil this without first submitting to The Lord, If one is living with correct reverence unto The Lord The Power of The Holy Spirit shall make this not just possible but a blessing, the opposite can also be stated if humanistic religion is being pushed. A believer submits for many reasons to The Lord but the greatest one is Love the same should be said in a marriage, loving Jesus allows a woman to fulfil The Lords Will through and by His Love!

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is Head of the church; and He is The Saviour of the body.

This passage says nothing about domination. The husband's role is to love his wife with a sacrificial love. How essential is one's marriage relationship? It is seen here in the same light as Christ and the church. This in fact shows how important the wife should be to the husband! Paul has compared such to The Marriage of The Lamb to His Beloved church. Once again if the wife is in obedience to Christ she shall fulfil this role. But! Yes there is a but! The husband must be as Christ to the wife, failing that how can he expect the wife to be devoted?

5:23..as also Christ is Head of the church; How patient, long suffering, silent, gently corrective has The Lord been? How many times has He forgiven us without retribution? He Directs and Teaches with understanding, kindness, and Love holding no record of wrongs. 5:23..and He is The Saviour of the body. He looks after His Church with complete care. That means the husband must look after the wife in every way. The husband is to provide, protect, and keep his wife safe.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

The true church/Bride of Christ seeks to please Him in everything it does. 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, This is written as an example of how the wife should be acting, how do we treat The Lord, do we trust Him, honour Him, obey Him and so on? 5:24...so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Of course this is only workable if the husband is acting as Christ would! Of course both will fail but all they do to each other should be as unto The Lord! I personally believe the wife is more open to The Holy Spirits leading in these areas and shall work hard to get her husband to become Christ like by dedicated prayer.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also Loved the church and gave Himself for her,

What did Christ do for the church? Really an unanswerable question. The word for love used here is 'Agapao' which is the type of Love God showed at Calvary. This is a self giving Love which took The Lord to the cross. Four types of love a husband should have for his wife, he first three unsaved people have 'Eros' love of passion, 'Stergo' love of satisfaction, 'Phileo' fondness and affection, but this love only a believer can have 'Agapao' The God kind of Love, this must be active in a Saints marriage and in the church. 5:25...just as Christ also Loved the church We move from husbands to Christ. Imagine the measure of love The Lord has for the church! If the husband wants his wife to love him as the church loves Christ, then he should seek The Lord daily desiring His love, praying he will be what his wife needs him to be, praying that she will be blessed, not changed into what he thinks but rather into what The Lord desires, as we shall see in the next verse. True love shall seek such! 5:25...and gave Himself for her, The greatest Sacrifice ever given! I'm going to say The Holy Spirit is talking to us all, not just husbands and wives, this is the sacrificial, self-giving love which constitutes the very essence of our daily living, and if this is how we should all be living then it stands to reason that the husband as the head of the house should give himself for his wife.

Ephesians 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

We continue with The Lord Jesus Christ. 5:26 that He might Sanctify and Cleanse her Speaks of why Jesus went to the cross, He gave His life so the bride (Church) would be set apart and cleansed. Or in layman terms She (the church) was moved to a safe place while (hidden in Christ) while He removed everything that was harming her (Sins desire)! 5:26...with the washing of water by the word, The word washes us as we read or hear it as The Holy Spirit is Working within the Spirit Filled believer due to having faith In Jesus Christ and what He has done. This means the husband should have his wife in a safe place spiritually and emotionally speaking words of encouragement over her of love and security. Christ gave Himself up for us to make us a perfect and spotless bride, so husbands should be willing to expend themselves for the sake of their precious wives.

Ephesians 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

We are Christ picked! 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, Jesus set out to win the church with Love and has done such wonderfully. And then The Holy Spirit will present the bride (church), as it is He Jude 24, who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before The Presence of His Glory with exceeding Joy 5:27...not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, Means there was (or is) work to be done, long suffering required until the Bride is ready.

Which means husbands need to be patient and loving with their wives 5:27...but that she should be holy and without blemish. Being separated from evil, this can only be done through Jesus Christ by The Holy Spirit, husband and wife and church believer alike can only arrive at such a place by faith in Christ.

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

What Christian husband would not want his wife to grow spiritually? Or what pastor would not want to see the church grow in faith and numbers? The desire is there, but the cost is great. To help a wife grow in holy living and biblical understanding involves a level of personal growth. It requires both love for one's wife and a serious commitment to helping her. Give to the wife and church what you would love to give to yourselves!

Ephesians 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Is it true that no man ever hated his own body? Many have hated it, I believe that! But this is speaking to born again believers filled with The Life of Christ! Remember they are one flesh not two. No man who knows Christ disrespects his body with worldly desires but fills it with The Lord's Truth. Rather he seeks health and happiness for his body, so he should also care and promote the happiness of his wife just as the Lord does the church. Amen?

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

This carries over the meaning of not hating one's own flesh as we are one In Christ! This means we are members within His Holy and Perfect Body! We are one in The Holy Spirit! Jesus is The True man, we become such by being spiritually placed in Him, seated in heavenly places! The husband needs to understand he is one with his wife in every aspect! Anything outside of such thinking brings hardships which in truth is sin!

Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This means the tie between husband and wife take precedence over all other relationships, fullstop. Parents, siblings, uncles aunts, and even one's own children do not become one with the flesh of a married couple. Rather as one they become a safe haven for their children, parents and so on.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The Father sits at the weddings of His Children! They become one with His Seal of approval. Marriage is indeed a great mystery, why! Because its deepest meaning was partially concealed, but is now being openly revealed by The Holy Spirit through Paul, meaning, that marriage is an image of Christ and the church, hence...but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Wives, let your fallen submission be redeemed by modelling it after God's intention for the church! Husbands, let your fallen headship be redeemed by modelling it after God's intention for Christ! Headship is not a right to command and control. It's a responsibility to teach, care and love like Christ. Paul is saying, Husbands love your wives just as they are, every part and parcel of them according to The Divine pattern just explained. Wives, recognize and respect your husband's position as spiritual leader over the house etc. Live in harmony with the Scriptures. All relationships are subject to how one walks with The Lord, husbands and wives need to spend as much time together as possible lest they fall.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Notice it is parents not mum or dad! As they are one in the spirit they shall work as one in the raising of Godly children. Equally notice this is coming out from the Bible directly given not to the parents but to the children. It is expected by The Apostle that the children will be reading this! It is expected that the parents and the church will treat them as children of God Almighty! **6:1 Children,** Again these children are in The Lord, under the covering of two parents acting as one. **6:1...obey your parents in the Lord,** Obedience is required towards the parents as these children have a relationship with The Lord. **6:1..for this is right.** The Bible way, The Holy Spirit way, the right way!

Ephesians 6:2 “Honour your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

The fifth commandment. **6:2 “Honour your father and mother,”** In doing this the children are honouring God, remember this is not the parents directive but God The Holy Spirit! Children must read the word, not forced but gently encouraged. **6:2...which is the first commandment with promise:** Obedient, believing children, hallelujah, shall reap the rewards of God. However children get to this stage due to godly parents obeying The Holy Spirit themselves! Teaching their children about The Lord, more so than any other thing! Obedience brings rewards and should be taught through just and righteous parenting from an early age. It shall in fact aid one through their life as The Lord has Promised such and He shall never break His Word.

Ephesians 6:3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

The first seven words **6:3 “that it may be well with you** come from **Duet 20:12** and from these verses, I get, their faith must be In The Lord for such is super rewarding, however the word ‘**may**’ used here presents a condition, their obedience must be unto the honour of their parents through The knowledge of The Lord! **6:3...and you may live long on the earth.”** Here is the super reward, as they are living for The Lord they shall know and do great things. Folks, when the family unit breaks down it means relations with The Lord has firstly been broken. Here’s three guarantees, **1/** When children exhibit long lasting disrespect towards their parents it shall be due to poor parenting skills **2/** That which they exhibit is that which they have learnt and been permitted to continue in, if not corrected by godly parental intervention they shall carry such into their adult lives, bringing hardships into their own homes and often the wider community. **3/** We do mess up, we do fail, we get it wrong but Jesus never does, a prayer of faith Saves souls! The Lord shall not fail our families, 100% guaranteed! But you must have faith!

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of The Lord.

Men and woman are tarred with the same brush, sin, both present grand errors and failings **6:4 And you, fathers,** however, believing men come under the microscope of The Lord as they have been directed to take a holy and righteous charge of the household. Today the devil can and does attack the family in many ways through the radio, TV, computers, phones, tablets, even in schools and churches and so on. The key, parents need to educate children in the faith, and live it themselves, the father must drive this. Does it guarantee a child won’t stray? No, it doesn’t but the role of the father and mother is to teach Truth and leave the rest up to The Lord through their faith. **6:4...do not provoke your children to wrath,** Raising one’s child in love is a must and true love shall use correct discipline when the need is presented. Screaming at, and calling one’s child names due to frustration and anger is both immature and ungodly! The word ‘**provoke**’ tells us that it is in fact the fathers inability to rule as a man of God that has caused the problem.**6:4...but bring them up in the training and admonition of The Lord.** The word ‘**but**’ links the negative parenting to this positive style, note, it must be ‘**of The Lord**’ through many ways of encouragement, correct communication, corrective reproof when needed, the bible is the criteria to follow directed by The Love of The Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

As we are in New Zealand we shall address this as meaning bosses and workers! **6:5 Bondservants**, This word speaks of slavery, in Paul's day slavery was a common thing! However, modern slavery does exist with over 30 million people treated as sub-humans, earning a dollar a day if they are lucky to feed their families! **6:5...be obedient to those who are your masters** Really, this applies to all believers, if a believer is being treated unjustly they should seek The Lord for guidance, and be obedient to His directive. **6:5...according to the flesh**, Men and woman of the world operate in the only way they know and understand, believing workers are to do their best in The Lord to uphold and do that which is correct, in doing so they shall be blessed by The Lord. **6:5...with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ**; Showing Christ to your boss, and all that are working with you through your actions according to the word! **1/** Such actions will aid lost souls to see The Truth. **2/** And encourage a believing boss to seek The Lord even more! A believing worker must be honest doing the work at the highest level achievable. **6:5 with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ**; A clear conscious in Christ brings great rewards, The Lord sees the heart and shall reward greatly all that treat others as unto Him, for this shall reap a harvest of souls.

Ephesians 6:6 not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing The Will of God from the heart,

All believers should take notice of this! **6:6 not with eye-service, as men-pleasers**, We should be conscience as to who is watching us, every thought, word, and action be they sinful or not are committed before The Lord's Eyes! **Eye-service** speaks of one trying to deceive the boss by doing that which is right only when he/she is there, **as men-pleasers**, speaks of a singleness of heart possibly coming from an incorrect motive, self pleasing folk out to impress who ever they can by their efforts. Moving this into the church picture how many folk go to church and 'put on a show' presenting a false picture of who they really are? **6:6...but as bondservants of Christ**, There is no room for lies and falsehoods, this is speaking to workers/slaves but I am going to take it even further, the Church is bound to Christ through His sufferings, death, and Resurrection, what He did at the cross allowed The Resurrection to happen, but even more so His Sacrifice has provided an open ended pathway for The Holy Spirit to enter into our lives permanently. **6:6... doing The Will of God from the heart**, Is what The Holy Spirit brings, He teaches us of Who Christ is and what He did, He challenges and changes our **hearts** intent and desires, which produces a correct and holy out working of one's character allowing **The Will of God** to be done as it is in Heaven! So, let's not be known as Christian workers and Church goers that offer mere eye-service unto being man pleasers! How one acts at work, church and then at home can be so removed from each other...Yuck, sounds horrid, so please, please help me Lord!

Ephesians 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to The Lord, and not to men,

I'm thinking this is something one should be praying daily! **6:7 with goodwill doing service**, This goes well beyond human feelings and fleshly attitudes as this presents feelings unto cheerfulness due to the faith attached in doing such **6:7...as to The Lord, and not to men**, Holy Spirit pleases will always walk in The Joy in The Lord. Amen!

Ephesians 6:8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from The Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

This does not say one may, or could receive back, but rather "will receive back"! **6:8 knowing...**We know, we understand that which is expected from us, no excuses! **6:8...that whatever good anyone does**, In a moment we shall be encouraged to do that which is right in The Eyes of The Lord! However in saying that it must be clear that we are not to be mere man pleasers, we should not do good so as to receive a reward, be it from man or God! Correct faith drives a believer do that which is right and good in The Sight of God and man due to having The Holy Spirit residing within them,

such shall desire to both please The Lord whilst having His Name Glorified! It brings great joy seeing other people genuinely seeking and praising The Lord for the first time. **6:8...whether he is a slave or free.** This speaks to every believer. We are seated in heavenly places far above all powers due to Jesus Christ, we should not be worried about our earthly position, what we do as job, level of education, and so on, but leaving foolish talk and desires behind such as cultural, political, racial opinions etc. What you and I believe, or are educated in, outside of Christ shall pass away and hold no bearings regarding the eternal outcome of one's life! What one receives in heaven is up to the believers willingness to surrender one's will by faith to God, many offer total outward obedience unto service but inwardly their heart changes little. We need faith, The Holy Spirit has Told us we are already seated spiritually in the highest place, again this demands faith, so lets seek Him for a humble and contrite heart desiring His Will to be done whilst we are on earth! Salvation is indeed a gift from God and cannot be taken from a believer, however I personally believe over a time of times if someone hardens their heart and rejects such a great Gift through sinful unbelief they can through self effort forfeit their Salvation. But heavenly rewards do differ according to the believers life on earth! **2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before The Judgment Seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.** All that stand before Christ in The Bema Seat Judgment, are Eternally and wonderfully Saved. This is not speaking about how often we prayed, fasted, or went to church etc. But rather how much we allowed The Holy Spirit to change us into the likeness of our Saviour through our understanding of Who Jesus is and who we truly are, which equals how much it cost The Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. The cross folks! let Him in desiring Godly heart surgery whilst our flesh walks upon this earth!

Ephesians 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Once again we shall address this as under NZ conditions. **6:9 And you, masters,** Paul's letter to Philemon is a short but good read regarding masters and slaves. **6:9...do the same things to them,** How one treats their staff reflects on how one's heart is governed! This can be said also about the family unit. Being a boss demands a high level of responsibility towards the welfare of the workers but, it also means holding the workers accountable regarding that which they 'must' be doing to receive the agreed pay. **6:9...giving up threatening,** Simple rule, if they are not doing that which they should be doing then believing boss's should seek The Lord for guidance, following through that which they receive from The Lord with a good conscience, even up to releasing the worker if need be. But a believing boss should not threaten or belittle his/her employees as they are supposed to be doing The Will of God, for the good of others, from a pure and willing heart. **6:9...knowing** Again the word **knowing** Just as I wrote above for the workers (**slaves**) believing bosses should have an understanding of what is expected from them, there are no excuses before The Lord as these bosses know **6:9...that your own Master also is in heaven,** We are all seated where? We all have the same Holy Master, how we treat others most certainly impacts their sociability either adding or robbing their sense of control and purpose, which in effect presents for them with a willingness to do good or evil! **and there is no partiality with Him.** How we allow The Lord to Work within our lives is up to us! He treats everyone Justly, showing Mercy, providing Grace, not holding onto past wrongs, etc. However He also corrects and **disciplines** where such is needed, and within that one needs to be prayerful regarding future actions so that the outcome through obedience may provide in The Lord's Time His Blessings.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in The Lord and in The Power of His Might.

The word **Finally** brings an end to Paul addressing the family unit and work place. There needs to be no more said on that which should be obvious regarding our general behaviour habits and practices. **6:10...my brethren,** He addresses them (**and us**) as family members. He enforces the word brethren by saying '**my**'. Closer than blood family, and Paul, as the other Apostles went on to prove my statement by dying for their faith, they laid down their lives firstly for Jesus and then for us.

From such great men and women we can learn through the word and Holy Spirit how The Lord Worked in and through them! We can be just as they! **6:10...be strong in The Lord** There are times when a believer may ask “**How, how can I stay strong when all seems against me**”? Firstly blessed of God, don't give up, remain standing in your faith. If we recognize The One that is working in us, which can be at times be painful, then we shall continually be strengthened in The Faith. Remember we are spiritually seated in heavenly places but walking on the worldly turf, we are no match against satan or the powers of darkness, equally we are no match against our own evil desires, so we must participate in His Truth always, we shall, like all that have walked this walk be tested, and we may even fall, but we must get back up! **6:10...and in The Power of His Might**. And this is the how we remain strong, we remain strong due to **The Power of His Might** Who He is and what He has done for us! He paid the price at Calvary, He hung on a cross and faced all the powers of darkness as a human-being, and folks, He won, He defeated every thing and everyone that tried to overthrow Him. He fulfilled the law and freed us from the penalty of death which was rightly ours to pay due to our unstoppable thirst for sin **1 Cor 1:18 For The Message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being Saved it is The Power of God**. In good and hard times give Him praise, He will never leave you or disown you, He shall let you know He is with you, what else do we need, when we are faced, and we shall be, with all types of adversities rejoice as The Spirit of God shall encourage you at the right time. Amen!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Remember Jesus has overcome everything and everyone that tried to overthrow Him! **6:11 Put on the whole armour of God**, The problem at times is simply believers do not understand or even truly know how to dress themselves in such Power and Glory. I use the words Power and Glory as I know this all comes to us through what Jesus Christ did at Calvary, the armour of God is the Covering we have due to being placed into Jesus by The Power of The Holy Spirit. The fact we are told to put on **the whole armour** suggest many are only partly dressed or coated in His Power and Glory, wrong or misguided faith comes from man's religious ways, many go through religious rituals daily trying to put on God's covering but this happened when the believer, by faith said "yes" to Jesus. Correct faith tells us we have been bought at the highest price payable at the cross, then placed into Christ, seated in heavenly places, through the Power of Jesus' Work at the cross! The armour is a picture of The Holy Spirit, His covering of Power given to us through Christ's Victory, and He has told us He will NEVER leave or forsake us, correct faith always points to Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us, **1 Cor 23-24...we preach Christ Crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has Called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ The Power of God and The Wisdom of God.** The reason Jesus and His Work at the cross is so important to us is **6:11...that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** Be not mistaken there is a devil and he hates everyone of us, so we need to be wise and walk according to the directions of The Blessed Spirit of Truth. There is no way any believer will escape the devils attention but the victory is in how one reacts to his attention. If you jump into a ring with him fighting and screaming, rebuking, and casting this down and binding this or that you will be simply beaten up! How are you beaten up? he will just leave you to scream and carry on as faith in what Jesus did is not be exhibited, such a believer is playing his game, rather **James** tells us **4:7 (my words in pink) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil (this is a singular action, you do not praise God then take five minutes out to resist the devil, rather as you praise God in that action you are also resisting the devil)! and he will flee from you (he cannot stand in the Light of God). Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (hence The Light, The Power, The Love, The Covering, The Armour is pouring on you).**

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We have just studied how to act and live regarding family members and our treatment of those in the workplace. **6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, Paul reminds us of our past study, how often have you heard believers having a good old sole destroying judgment day against other believers, or pulling down those voted into power etc.? We need to live in and by The Spirit of Truth and Power, we must pray for our Government and love our heavenly family etc, etc, etc. This means our enemies are not human-beings **6:12...but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Introducing the enemy! The Greek shows this to be a line of order starting with principalities, being fallen angels trickling down to the lowest ranking being the spiritual host, demon spirits. There is so much that we could look at regarding them but I believe we need to keep our study on The Lord's Victory over them, nothing else matters but honouring our Father, after all The Lord said this is the first Command with a Promise.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Second time this is stated! **6:13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God**, Again I reiterate the

above warnings, satan is dangerous, his army of evil is dangerous, the only protection we have is found in Christ Jesus, he rules the world and fallen man by default are laden under him believing his lies. Why does The Holy Spirit have Paul write twice to take the whole armour? 1/ Many have been fooled into a pious state of spiritual warfare, stripping away slowly their faith 2/ Because this is a real threat! Be warned! 6:13...that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, This is not speaking about the end times but rather the day or days when a believer finds themselves in a war of faith, a decision of trust needs to be made, a realization that we still suffer from financial, physical, emotional, and cognitive, issues which reveals negative behaviour issues which tests our faith. 6:13 and having done all, Done what? Simple, understanding the picture of the whole armour of God as it allows us 6:13...to stand. In The Power of His Truth.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with Truth, having put on the Breastplate of Righteousness,

Stand! 6:14 Stand therefore, This speaks of a war, and only the victor stands! 6:14...having girded your waist with Truth, The truth is without the Blessing of what Jesus did at Calvary we would all be doomed. This word 'Truth' speaks of the written word, but that alone cannot Save a person John 5:39-44 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which Testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have Life. The truth in full is Jesus Christ and what He has done for us at Calvary! 6:14...having put on the Breastplate of Righteousness, The Righteousness spoken of here reveals an act of unequalled bravery, which satisfied the law, broke sins power, beat the devil, was then buried, Resurrected then presented Holy Perfect and Righteous before the Father in Heaven. However one needs to understand the Truth in that Righteousness comes through His Sacrifice, Resurrection and Presentation.

Ephesians 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of The Gospel of Peace;

The only part of the body Jesus washed! 6:15 and having shod your feet This speaks of where we stand, how we stand, why we stand! Our feet, our walk, the path that we are on. 6:15...with the preparation If we are standing on the Truth of who He is and what He did for us we shall be covered by His Righteousness allowing The Spirit of Truth to better prepare us to learn The Gospel, which means The Good News! 6:15...of The Gospel of Peace; The Good News! Jesus paid our sin debt at Calvary and if one believes on who He is and what He has done, and where we are going due to Christ, peace must reign, as The Truth shall set you free! Come on somebody get happy.

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of Faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Slightly incorrect translation used here. 6:16 above all, taking the shield of Faith The original text does not place Faith above The Truth, for without Truth as the starting point one would not know where, and how, they are to place and act with their faith! Rather the correct translation is "in addition to all, take the shield..." What sort of Faith is being spoken of here? That which comes from The Truth, which provides Righteousness, which promotes The Gospel of Peace, In short we have a Saviour that Loves us so much He gave His Life at the cross, He suffered greatly even before that event so we may be Saved and become Children of God. Our faith must be in Jesus and Him Crucified. We must believe in that selfless act we were Saved in as this unfailingly produces by Faith praise and worship unto Him. 6:16...with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Be warned, this darts shall come, they will be fired for sure, the devil hates us beyond our understanding of the word. However, satan is not the one in charge but The Lord, there is always a reason for such an action being permitted and that is to aid our growth. Our dependence must be in Christ and what He did at the cross, we shall receive His assurance and peace which comes from The Truth during our times of trial, this simple means we can trust Him for it. Note, with which all the fiery darts are quenched! Quenched means to 'extinguish, to satisfy one's thirst by drinking' How do you quench the darts? By taking the shield of Faith! And what is the shield of

Faith? Allowing The Truth of God's Righteousness to be taught within you which brings the Peace of The Gospel of Christ, Jesus Christ and Him Crucified!

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of Salvation, and The Sword of The Spirit, which is The Word of God;

More wonderful stuff. **s 6:17 And take the helmet of Salvation**, The Power that frees us from the grip of sin! Salvation comes through what Jesus did at the cross! The picture presented here is that of our heads being covered, our thinking mass, Jesus gave His Body, poured out His Blood, and gave up His Life so we may live. So let us grow in faith **Eph 4:23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds**; meaning 'to be renovated by inward reformation' growing strong in The Lord's Salvation Process (re-read Eph 4:23). **6:17...and The Sword of The Spirit**, This is how we stay alive in Christ, this is where we grow strong. Notice it says '**and**' **The Sword** meaning they go hand in hand. This speaks of the written word, however it only has power when it is read with understanding, which demands correct Faith, for The Power I speak of is The Holy Spirit, The teacher of The Word! For He is **The Word of God**. We should be reading the word everyday, and speaking to The Lord about what we are reading! We start with The Truth which produces Righteousness aiding us to walk in The Gospel of His Peace where we learn to live in and by The True Faith which quenches the devils lies and allows Gods Glorious Salvation Plan to become alive within by opening up the Scriptures by The Power of The Holy Spirit through the wonderful Work of Jesus Christ at the cross!

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Prayer life! **6:18 praying always** The more we pray and just in general converse with The Lord, the more we shall hear from The Holy Spirit! It is a two way street, you want Him to Speak to you then you speak to Him! Again this is a faith thing, this is not saying pray every second of your life! But it is saying talk, think, and act in the spirit, live for Him. A loving husband and wife do not speak to each other continually but they stay close in action word and thought. **6:18...with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, With what? All prayer and supplication! Meaning, all areas of your life are important to The Lord, leave no stone unturned, no word unsaid! **6:18...being watchful** Again, we are reminded that we are in a spiritual battle so do as directed, stay close to The Lord, remain by Faith in Him, speak to Him, seek Him, desire His Will to be done! We must be aware of The Holy Spirits leading, amen? **6:18...to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—** Be watchful for your brothers and sisters in The Lord, encouragement shall be found in Christ through such prayers and requests, as this is what Love does, it looks after it's family.

Ephesians 6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known The Mystery of The Gospel,

No matter how weak or strong one's Faith is, praying in The Truth builds the inner soul. **6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me**, Paul asks the weak and strong in Faith to pray for him offering them a way to engage in all that he has just written regarding the armour of God! Paul in fact is saying "I belief and trust your prayers shall be heard and answered" **6:19...that I may open my mouth boldly** What has he asked for? At the time of writing this Paul was a prisoner of the Roman authorities. Has he asked for the devil to be smashed out of the way, or that an angel of The Lord may free him, or that the church should enter into heavy spiritual warfare on his behalf, etc.? Short answer, no! Rather he desired to hold captive those that though they held him, and use this time to preach The Truth. **6:19...to make known The Mystery of The Gospel**, Those that though they held him prisoner were seen by Paul as fair game, in **Eph 3:1** Paul makes it clear he is a prisoner of Christ's not the Romans. They had no choice but to hear what he had to say, hallelujah, somebody get happy! Paul asks both the weak and strong to aid their growth in The Lord to help him to **make known**! Meaning, his faith already saw the guards and all that were sent to him by The Lord responding favourably, as they begin to understand **The Mystery of The Gospel** which is of course

Jesus Christ and Him Crucified, Resurrected and Glorified. The letter to [Philippians](#) was penned after Ephesians, folks, The Lord answered their prayers [4:22 All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household](#). Caesar's household refers to those that though he was the captive. The Lord is amazing, this brings such joy and laughter to my heart.

Ephesians 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Paul loved to preach and speak The Lords Message of Truth and freedom. On the road to Damascus Paul willingly became a man in chains unto a Mighty Master. **6:20...that in it** In what? The chains of freedom, The covering of The Spirit of Truth! **6:20...I may speak boldly**, understanding the correct analysis of the armour of God produces without fail the ability to speak correctly for and about Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ brings The truth which is The Gospel of Peace, which allows us to walk in The Spirit, **6:20...as I ought to speak**. As Paul desired did so should we, we have been given Power to speak **as we ought to** His Truth, but outside of church many speak of earthly political, emotional, racial, financial or sporting things, which offers little or no hope towards Eternal Life. If you and I are truly ambassadors for The Lord then we need to remember every person...every person, regardless as to how we feel about them or how we want to act about them stand before us possibly as their last hope before death and hell swallows them up. Lets consider our actions our words which will be controlled by how we think...We must be found In The Lord's Spirit.

Ephesians 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in The Lord, will make all things known to you;

There are no secrets or hidden agendas, all is open and able to be seen! Tychicus was a man that they could trust, he had been with Paul, he had suffered for The Gospel, he is mentioned five times in the Scriptures, the first being in Acts [Ch 4:20](#) where he is setting out on a missionary journey with Paul. He would inform all regarding the Glorious Work The Spirit was doing through the Apostle and the others that were in Rome.

Ephesians 6:22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

In the early stages of the church the Apostles were indeed major upholders of The Truth. Paul sent Tychicus to encourage the Ephesians of such Truth. Hence the reason he states **"I am a prisoner of Christ"** not a Roman captive! In reading Paul's letter they would sense his strong and unbending Faith, as we should also be picking up on.

Ephesians 6:23 Peace to the brethren, and love with, from God The Father and The Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul closes his letter with a testament of Faith, he believes they shall have The Lord's Peace and Love. Meaning those that believe shall abide by what he has written! He puts the heavy weight onto the ending of this letter by stating God The Father and God The Son are indeed The One's that have directed such a letter. Remember Paul could not jump onto the internet and see how they were going, he lived and acted by Faith, this letter such as all the others came about due to The Spirits guidance.

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

The final farewell, you either believe or you don't, The Grace of God shall be seen in those that obey and the others shall be exposed and noted as false. Let us pray for a sincere love and faith for our Lord seen in and by our obedience towards His Word and Church. Amen

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