

## **Introduction and Overview for the Ephesians: The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Believer**

It is a privilege and honor to deliver these lessons at the BCC in Seoul, South Korea. As we study, we embark on a transformative journey through the book of Ephesians, a letter penned by the Apostle Paul that speaks profoundly to our identity in Christ and our calling as His church. Ephesians is a treasure trove of theological insights and practical exhortations that are as relevant today as they were in the first century. Over the two weeks of class, we will delve deeply into this epistle, uncovering the riches of God's grace, the mystery of the church, and the practical implications of living out our faith in a world that desperately needs the light of Christ.

### **Overview of the Series**

Our series is titled "Ephesians: The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Believer." This title encapsulates the three main themes of the letter: the spiritual wealth we have in Christ, the walk or lifestyle that reflects our new identity, and the spiritual warfare we engage in as we live out our faith.

### **1. The Wealth of the Believer (Ephesians 1:1-3:21)**

In the first section, Paul focuses on the spiritual blessings we have in Christ. This section is rich with theological truths that lay the foundation for our identity and security in Christ.

- **Greetings and Introduction (Ephesians 1:1-2):** We begin with Paul's warm greeting and introduction, setting the tone for the letter.
- **Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Part 1) (Ephesians 1:3-6):** Exploring the blessings of being chosen and predestined in Christ.
- **Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Part 2) (Ephesians 1:7-10):** Delving into redemption and the mystery of God's will.
- **Inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:11-14):** Understanding our inheritance as God's children.
- **Thanksgiving and Prayer (Part 1) (Ephesians 1:15-17):** Paul's prayer for spiritual wisdom and revelation.
- **Thanksgiving and Prayer (Part 2) (Ephesians 1:18-19):** Continuing Paul's prayer, focusing on the hope and power available to believers.
- **Christ's Power and Authority (Ephesians 1:20-23):** Highlighting Christ's exalted position and authority.

## 2. The Walk of the Believer (Ephesians 4:1-6:9)

The second section transitions from theology to practice, exhorting believers to live in a manner worthy of their calling.

- **Unity in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-18):** The unity of Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ.
- **Members of God's Household (Ephesians 2:19-22):** The imagery of believers as part of God's family and temple.
- **Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (Part 1) (Ephesians 3:1-6):** Paul's role in revealing the mystery of Christ to the Gentiles.
- **Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (Part 2) (Ephesians 3:7-13):** The purpose and suffering in Paul's ministry.
- **Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-19):** A powerful prayer for spiritual strength and understanding.
- **Doxology (Ephesians 3:20-21):** A glorious doxology praising God's power and glory.
- **Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16):** The call to unity and maturity within the church.
- **The New Life in Christ (Part 1) (Ephesians 4:17-24):** Exhortations to live a transformed life.
- **The New Life in Christ (Part 2) (Ephesians 4:25-32):** Practical instructions on Christian conduct.
- **Imitating God (Part 1) (Ephesians 5:1-7):** The call to imitate God by walking in love.
- **Imitating God (Part 2) (Ephesians 5:8-14):** Living as children of light.
- **Living by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-20):** Instructions on wise living and being filled with the Spirit.
- **Christian Households: Wives and Husbands (Ephesians 5:21-33):** Guidelines for marital relationships.
- **Christian Households: Children and Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4):** Instructions for family dynamics.

- **Christian Households: Slaves and Masters (Ephesians 6:5-9):** Principles for workplace relationships.

### **3. The Warfare of the Believer (Ephesians 6:10-24)**

The final section addresses the spiritual warfare believers face and the armor of God provided for their defense and victory.

- **The Armor of God (Part 1) (Ephesians 6:10-13):** An introduction to the spiritual battle and the need for God's armor.
- **The Armor of God (Part 2) (Ephesians 6:14-17):** Detailed exploration of each piece of the armor.
- **Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18-20):** The importance of prayer in spiritual warfare.
- **Final Greetings and Benediction (Ephesians 6:21-24):** Paul's closing words of encouragement and blessing.

As we journey through the book of Ephesians, let us open our hearts and minds to the profound truths and practical instructions contained within this epistle. May we be encouraged and equipped to live out our faith with boldness and love, standing firm in the spiritual wealth, walking worthy of our calling, and engaging in the spiritual warfare with the full armor of God. Let us embark on this journey together, seeking to grow deeper in our understanding and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Lecture One: Introduction to the Book of Ephesians

### Overview

Ephesians is a powerful epistle attributed to the Apostle Paul, written during his imprisonment in Rome around A.D. 60-62. It serves not only as a theological cornerstone but also as a practical guide, detailing the unity and ethical conduct expected within the body of Christ.

### Structure and Outline

#### 1. Salutation (Ephesians 1:1-2)

- **Greeting:** "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:1-2)

#### 2. Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14)

- **Praise for Blessings in Christ:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..." (Ephesians 1:3)
- **Predestination and Adoption:** "...he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will..." (Ephesians 1:5)

#### 3. Paul's Prayer for Wisdom and Revelation (Ephesians 1:15-23)

- **Prayer for Enlightenment:** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him..." (Ephesians 1:17)
- **Understanding Christ's Authority:** "...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might..." (Ephesians 1:19)

#### 4. From Death to Life (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- **Salvation by Grace:** "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved..." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

- **Purpose of Salvation:** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

#### 5. **Unity of Jew and Gentile in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22)**

- **Breaking Down Barriers:** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)
- **One New Humanity:** "...that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace..." (Ephesians 2:15)

#### 6. **Mystery of the Gospel Revealed (Ephesians 3:1-13)**

- **Revelation of the Mystery:** "This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (Ephesians 3:6)
- **Purpose of the Mystery:** "...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 3:10)

#### 7. **Prayer for Spiritual Empowerment (Ephesians 3:14-21)**

- **Prayer for Inner Strength:** "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." (Ephesians 3:16)
- **Comprehending the Love of Christ:** "...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth..." (Ephesians 3:17-18)

#### 8. **Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16)**

- **Call to Unity:** "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called..." (Ephesians 4:1)
- **Diversity of Gifts:** "...he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

## 9. New Standards for Christian Life (Ephesians 4:17-5:21)

- **New Life in Christ:** "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds..." (Ephesians 4:22-23)
- **Guidelines for Living:** "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2)

## 10. Christian Relationships (Ephesians 5:22-6:9)

- **Marriage:** "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church..." (Ephesians 5:22-23)
- **Parent-Child Relationships:** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

## 11. The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)

- **Call to Spiritual Warfare:** "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might." (Ephesians 6:10)
- **Description of the Armor:** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)

## 12. Conclusion and Blessings (Ephesians 6:21-24)

- **Final Greetings:** "Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 6:23)

## Overview of the Life and Work of the Apostle Paul

### Early Life and Conversion

- **Background:** Born into a Jewish family in Tarsus; a Roman citizen by birth.
- **Education and Early Zeal:** Trained as a Pharisee; initially persecuted the early Christian church.
- **Conversion on the Damascus Road:** "And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'" (Acts 9:4)

## Missionary Journeys

- **Spreading the Gospel:** Traveled extensively across the Roman Empire, spreading the Christian message and establishing churches.
- **Hardships and Challenges:** Faced imprisonment, beatings, and opposition both from Jews and Gentiles.

## Theological Contributions

- **Doctrine of Justification:** Emphasized salvation as a gift of grace through faith, apart from works of the law.
- **Christ and the Church:** Explored the mystical union between Christ and the church, presenting the church as the body of Christ.

## Legacy

- **Writings:** Authored numerous letters that form a substantial part of the New Testament.
- **Impact on Christianity:** His theological insights and missionary work shaped the development of Christian theology and church structure.

## Lecture 2: Greetings and Introduction (Ephesians 1:1-2)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To delve into the nuances of Paul's initial greetings in Ephesians and their theological implications.
- **Contextual Backdrop:**
  - *Who is Paul?:* Exploring Paul's identity as an apostle, his conversion experience, and his mission.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me" (Galatians 1:15-16).
  - *Audience:* Insights into the demographic, cultural, and spiritual background of the Ephesian believers.
    - *Scripture Reference:* Acts 19:1-10 describes Paul's ministry in Ephesus, providing insights into the spiritual landscape.

### Main Point 1: Paul's Apostolic Authority

- **Subpoint A: Paul as an Apostle by the Will of God**
  - *Divine Appointment:* Discussing how Paul's role is by divine will, not by human appointment or personal ambition.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:1).
  - *Unique Role Among Apostles:* Comparing Paul's apostleship to that of the other apostles to highlight its unique aspects.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" (1 Corinthians 9:1).
- **Subpoint B: Implications of Divine Commissioning**
  - *Authority and Responsibility:* Discussing the weight of responsibility that comes with divine commissioning.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1).

- *Expectations of Apostleship*: What being an apostle entails—challenges, duties, and spiritual oversight.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

## **Main Point 2: The Recipients—Saints and Faithful**

### **• Subpoint A: Identity as Saints**

- *Sanctification and Calling*: Explores the theological concept of being set apart for a holy purpose.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- *Collective and Individual Holiness*: How sainthood applies both to the community and the individual believer.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession” (1 Peter 2:9).

### **• Subpoint B: Description as Faithful**

- *Definition and Importance of Faithfulness*: Discussing what it means to be faithful in the context of early Christianity.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).
- *Examples of Faithfulness in Scripture*: Instances of faithfulness among believers and their impact.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me” (2 Timothy 4:17).

## **Main Point 3: Geographical and Spiritual Significance of Ephesus**

### **• Subpoint A: Ephesus as a Center of Commerce and Religion**

- *Impact of Ephesus on Early Christianity*: Analysis of how Ephesus' role as a trade and religious center affected the spread of Christianity.

- *Scripture Reference:* Acts 19 details the riot in Ephesus, reflecting the tension between Christianity and local commerce.
  - *Religious Syncretism in Ephesus:* The challenge posed by the blend of various religious practices in Ephesus.
    - *Scripture Reference:* Acts 19:27 discusses the temple of Artemis and its significance in Ephesus.
- **Subpoint B: Spiritual Warfare and Challenges**
  - *Detailed Analysis of Spiritual Opposition:* Exploring specific instances of spiritual opposition faced by the Ephesian church.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Corinthians 16:9).
  - *Tools for Spiritual Warfare:* Biblical principles for dealing with spiritual challenges.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

#### **Main Point 4: The Blessing of Peace and Grace**

- **Subpoint A: Grace as God’s Enabling Power**
  - *Transformative Nature of Grace:* Discussing how grace transforms lives beyond simple forgiveness.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11).
  - *Sustaining Power of Grace:* How grace sustains believers in their spiritual journey.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- **Subpoint B: Peace as a Result of Reconciliation**
  - *Peace with God and Others:* Exploring the dual aspect of peace—vertical with God and horizontal with others.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).
- *The Role of Peace in the Church:* The importance of peace in maintaining unity within the church.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body” (Colossians 3:15).

## **Main Point 5: Apostolic Greeting as a Theological Foundation**

- **Subpoint A: Greetings in Paul’s Epistles as Customary and Theological**
  - *Consistency and Purpose of Pauline Greetings:* Examining the standard elements of Paul’s greetings across his epistles.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7).
  - *Theological Significance of Greetings:* Unpacking the deep theological implications of terms like grace and peace in Paul’s theology.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you” (2 Timothy 4:22).
- **Subpoint B: Establishing Key Themes Early**
  - *Introduction of Core Ephesian Themes:* Identifying and discussing key themes like unity, grace, and spiritual warfare introduced in the greeting.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being” (Ephesians 3:16).
  - *Foreshadowing and Preparation for Deeper Teaching:* How the greeting prepares readers for the deeper theological teachings to come.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you” (Romans 1:11).

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Recapping the depth and breadth of theological and practical teachings derived from just the first two verses of Ephesians.

- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging attendees to reflect on their identity as saints, the importance of faithfulness, and how to embody the grace and peace of God in daily life.

## Lecture 3: Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Part 1) (Ephesians 1:3-6)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the richness of the spiritual blessings bestowed upon believers as described in the opening doxology of Ephesians.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:3-6, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Concept of Blessing

- **Subpoint A: Biblical Concept of Blessing**
  - *Old Testament Foundations.* Exploring how blessings were perceived and granted in the Old Testament.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you” (Numbers 6:24-25).
  - *Continuity in the New Testament.* How Jesus Christ transforms and fulfills the concept of blessing.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3).
- **Subpoint B: Spiritual Versus Material Blessings**
  - *Defining Spiritual Blessings.* The nature and significance of blessings not tied to material wealth.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36).
  - *The Superiority of Spiritual Blessings.* Why spiritual blessings are considered superior in the Christian life.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

## Main Point 2: Chosen by God

- **Subpoint A: The Doctrine of Election**

- *Biblical Doctrine of Being Chosen*: Exploring the scriptural basis for being chosen by God.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6).
- *Purpose of Election*: Understanding the purpose behind God choosing individuals.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" (John 15:16).

- **Subpoint B: Holiness and Blamelessness as Goals**

- *Called to Be Holy*: What it means to be called to holiness in a New Testament context.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15).
- *Living Blamelessly*: The implications of living a blameless life before God.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him" (Colossians 1:21-22).

## Main Point 3: Adopted as Sons through Christ

- **Subpoint A: The Concept of Adoption in Scripture**

- *Jewish and Roman Adoption Practices*: Contextualizing biblical adoption within ancient practices.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "To redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:5).

- *Spiritual Adoption*: Understanding adoption as a spiritual reality that changes our relationship with God.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).
- **Subpoint B: Implications of Divine Sonship**
  - *Privileges of Being God’s Children*: Exploring the privileges that come with being adopted into God’s family.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17).
  - *Responsibilities of Divine Sonship*: What being a child of God entails in terms of lifestyle and mission.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14-15).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Summarizing how the blessings described in Ephesians 1:3-6 are foundational to our identity and mission as Christians.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging attendees to live out their chosen status, embrace their identity as God’s adopted children, and seek the spiritual blessings that empower Christian living.

## Lecture 4: Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Part 2) (Ephesians 1:7-10)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To continue exploring the profound spiritual blessings detailed in Ephesians, focusing on redemption and the unfolding plan of God.
- **Text for Consideration:** “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” (Ephesians 1:7-10, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Redemption Through Christ

- **Subpoint A: The Concept of Redemption**
  - *Old Testament Roots.* Understanding redemption in the context of Israelite practices such as the year of Jubilee.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you” (Leviticus 25:10).
  - *New Testament Fulfillment.* How Christ fulfills and transcends Old Testament concepts of redemption.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).
- **Subpoint B: Forgiveness of Trespasses**
  - *The Need for Forgiveness.* Exploring why forgiveness is central to the Christian message.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9).
  - *The Extent of Forgiveness.* The completeness and permanence of the forgiveness offered through Christ.

- *Scripture Reference:* "As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

## **Main Point 2: The Riches of His Grace**

### **• Subpoint A: Defining Divine Grace**

- *Grace as Undeserved Favor:* Exploring the concept of grace as unmerited favor bestowed by God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
- *Grace as Empowering Presence:* Understanding grace not only as a gift but also as a power that enables believers to live godly lives.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

### **• Subpoint B: Lavishing of Grace**

- *Abundance and Generosity of God's Grace:* The lavish nature of God's grace as described in the New Testament.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14).
- *Personal and Cosmic Implications:* How this grace affects individuals and the entire creation.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

## **Main Point 3: Unveiling the Mystery of His Will**

### **• Subpoint A: The Mystery Revealed in Christ**

- *The Concept of Mystery in Scripture:* Biblical understanding of mystery as something previously hidden but now revealed.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints" (Colossians 1:26).
- *Christ as the Fulfillment of the Mystery:* How Christ embodies and reveals the deepest mysteries of God's plan.

- *Scripture Reference:* “This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).
- **Subpoint B: The Cosmic Plan of God**
  - *Scope of God’s Plan:* Exploring the breadth and depth of God’s redemptive plan as it encompasses all of creation.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:19-20).
  - *The Fullness of Time:* Understanding the timing and unfolding of God’s plan in history.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Recapitulating how Ephesians 1:7-10 deepens our understanding of redemption, grace, and God’s cosmic plan.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging participants to reflect on the depth of their redemption, the richness of God’s grace, and their place within God’s grand narrative.

## Lecture 5: Inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:11-14)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the theme of inheritance in Christ, focusing on its spiritual significance and implications for believers.
- **Text for Consideration:** “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:11-14, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Concept of Inheritance

- **Subpoint A: Biblical Understanding of Inheritance**
  - *Old Testament Context:* The promise of land and nationhood as forms of inheritance.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you” (Genesis 17:7).
  - *New Testament Expansion:* Transition from physical to spiritual inheritance.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:29).
- **Subpoint B: Characteristics of Our Inheritance**
  - *Imperishable and Eternal:* Differentiating spiritual inheritance from earthly, perishable inheritances.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4).
  - *Shared with Christ:* The concept of co-heirs with Christ and what this entails.

- *Scripture Reference:* “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17).

## **Main Point 2: Predestination and Divine Will**

### **• Subpoint A: The Role of Predestination**

- *Understanding Predestination:* Exploring the theological concept and its implications for believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29).
- *Purpose of Predestination:* Discussing the ultimate goal of predestination in God's plan.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will” (Ephesians 1:5, quoted from user's previous outline request).

### **• Subpoint B: Sovereignty and Human Responsibility**

- *God's Sovereign Will:* Examining how God's sovereignty operates in the context of predestination.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?” (Lamentations 3:37).
- *Human Response to Divine Will:* How believers are to respond to the realization of being part of God's sovereign plan.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

## **Main Point 3: The Seal of the Holy Spirit**

### **• Subpoint A: The Sealing of the Holy Spirit**

- *Meaning and Significance of Being Sealed:* What it means to be sealed by the Holy Spirit in a biblical context.

- *Scripture Reference:* “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30).
  - *Implications of the Seal:* Security, authentication, and ownership.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- **Subpoint B: The Holy Spirit as a Guarantee**
  - *The Concept of Earnest/Guarantee:* Understanding the Holy Spirit as the earnest or down payment of our inheritance.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Who has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 1:22).
  - *Experiencing the Holy Spirit Today:* Practical ways in which the Holy Spirit works in believers as a foretaste of the inheritance.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Summarizing the profound spiritual realities of our inheritance in Christ as taught in Ephesians 1:11-14.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to live in the light of their glorious inheritance, understanding their secure position in Christ, and experiencing the daily ministry of the Holy Spirit.

## Lecture 6: Thanksgiving and Prayer (Part 1) (Ephesians 1:15-17)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To examine the themes of thanksgiving and intercessory prayer as modeled by Paul, focusing on their significance for the Ephesian believers and for us today.
- **Text for Consideration:** “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,” (Ephesians 1:15-17, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Grounds for Thanksgiving

- **Subpoint A: Faith in the Lord Jesus**
  - *Defining Faith:* What it means to have faith in the Lord Jesus.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).
  - *Faith as the Basis for Communal Unity and Strength:* How faith serves as the foundation for community and spiritual vitality.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- **Subpoint B: Love Toward All the Saints**
  - *The Importance of Love in the Christian Life:* Exploring why love is a central Christian virtue.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34).
  - *Love as a Testimony of Faith:* Discussing how love acts as a visible testimony of one’s faith.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

## Main Point 2: Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

### • Subpoint A: The Spirit of Wisdom

- *Understanding Spiritual Wisdom:* Defining what is meant by spiritual wisdom and why it is essential.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).
- *Wisdom's Role in Understanding God's Will:* How wisdom aids in discerning and applying God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17).

### • Subpoint B: Revelation in the Knowledge of Him

- *Concept of Revelation:* Exploring how God reveals Himself and His purposes to believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- *Practical Implications of Divine Revelation:* How understanding divine revelation impacts Christian living and ministry.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ" (Colossians 2:2).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Recapping the importance of faith and love as the basis for Paul's thanksgiving and the significance of his prayers for spiritual wisdom and revelation.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging attendees to cultivate a life of faith and love, actively seeking spiritual wisdom and greater knowledge of God through prayer and study.



## Lecture 7: Thanksgiving and Prayer (Part 2) (Ephesians 1:18-19)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To continue exploring Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, focusing on the enlightenment of the heart and the immeasurable greatness of God's power towards believers.
- **Text for Consideration:** "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might" (Ephesians 1:18-19, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Enlightenment of the Heart

- **Subpoint A: The Eyes of Your Heart**
  - *Metaphorical Understanding.* Exploring the metaphor of the 'eyes of the heart' and its implications for spiritual perception.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).
  - *Spiritual Insight and Understanding.* How spiritual enlightenment affects one's understanding of God and His purposes.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).
- **Subpoint B: The Hope of His Calling**
  - *Defining Christian Hope.* What Christian hope entails and its foundations.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "But we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain" (Hebrews 6:19).
  - *Living in the Light of Hope.* How this hope influences daily living and decision-making.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13).



## Main Point 2: The Riches of the Inheritance

### • Subpoint A: Riches of His Glorious Inheritance

- *Exploring the Riches*: What constitutes the riches of God's inheritance for the saints.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).
- *Inheritance Among the Saints*: How this inheritance is shared and experienced within the community of believers.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth" (Ephesians 3:18).

### • Subpoint B: The Immeasurable Greatness of His Power

- *Understanding Divine Power*: Exploring the dimensions and manifestations of God's power in the believer's life.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).
- *Practical Outcomes of Divine Power*: How the power of God transforms lives and enables ministry.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Summarizing the profound spiritual realities discussed in this section of Ephesians about enlightenment, hope, inheritance, and power.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to seek deeper understanding and enlightenment, to live in the hope of their calling, and to rely on the immeasurable power of God in their lives.



## Lecture 8: Christ's Power and Authority (Ephesians 1:20-23)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the themes of Christ's exalted power and authority as depicted in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
- **Text for Consideration:** "that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:20-23, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Christ's Resurrection and Exaltation

- **Subpoint A: The Power of the Resurrection**
  - *Significance of the Resurrection.* Understanding the theological and historical importance of Christ's resurrection.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" (Acts 2:24).
  - *Resurrection as a Display of Divine Power.* How the resurrection serves as a testament to the immense power of God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "He was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 1:4).
- **Subpoint B: Ascension and Seating at God's Right Hand**
  - *Theological Implications of the Ascension.* What Christ's ascension signifies in Christian doctrine.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him" (1 Peter 3:22).
  - *Symbolism of the Right Hand.* What it means to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

- *Scripture Reference:* “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool’” (Psalm 110:1).

## Main Point 2: Supremacy Over All Powers

### • Subpoint A: Christ Above All Rule and Authority

- *Comparison to Earthly Powers:* How Christ's authority compares and contrasts with earthly rulers and authorities.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly” (Proverbs 8:15-16).
- *Eternal Supremacy:* Christ's authority extends beyond temporal, earthly bounds.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).

### • Subpoint B: Names and Titles of Christ

- *Exploration of Christ's Titles:* Discussing various biblical titles of Christ that reflect his authority and power.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16).
- *Significance of Names in Jewish and Greco-Roman Contexts:* How names and titles bore significant meanings and conveyed authority.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).

## Main Point 3: Christ as Head of the Church

### • Subpoint A: Christ and the Church

- *Christ as Head:* What it means for Christ to be the head of the church.

- *Scripture Reference:* “And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent” (Colossians 1:18).
  - *The Church as His Body.* Exploring the metaphor of the church as the body of Christ and its implications.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- **Subpoint B: Fullness of Christ in the Church**
  - *Theological Implications of Fullness.* What it means for the church to be the fullness of Christ who fills all in all.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority” (Colossians 2:9-10).
  - *Practical Outcomes for Believers.* How this theological truth affects the life and mission of the church.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Recapitulating Christ’s unparalleled power and authority and his role as the head of the church.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to recognize and respond to the authority of Christ in their personal lives and in the life of the church.

## Lecture 9: From Death to Life (Part 1) (Ephesians 2:1-3)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To discuss the spiritual condition of humanity without Christ, focusing on the themes of death and sin.
- **Text for Consideration:** “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (Ephesians 2:1-3, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Spiritual Death

- **Subpoint A: Definition and Nature of Spiritual Death**
  - *Understanding Spiritual Death:* Exploring what it means to be spiritually dead and its implications.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).
  - *Contrast Between Spiritual and Physical Death:* Differentiating the impact and outcomes of spiritual versus physical death.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- **Subpoint B: The Result of Trespasses and Sins**
  - *The Consequences of Sin:* Examining how sin affects individuals and their relationship with God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
  - *Life Characterized by Sin:* Describing the lifestyle and mindset that accompany a life separated from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire” (James 1:14).

## Main Point 2: Following the World and Its Ruler

### • Subpoint A: The Course of This World

- *Worldly Influences and Pressures*: How the world influences individuals to live in ways contrary to God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).
- *Resisting Worldly Trends*: Strategies and reasons for Christians to resist being shaped by worldly values.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:14).

### • Subpoint B: The Prince of the Power of the Air

- *Identity and Role of Satan*: Exploring who the "prince of the power of the air" is and his influence over the world.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- *Spiritual Warfare*: Discussing the reality of spiritual warfare and the believer's role in it.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

## Main Point 3: Nature of Humanity as Children of Wrath

### • Subpoint A: Inherent Sinfulness

- *Biblical Doctrine of Original Sin*: Understanding the concept of original sin and its relevance today.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5).

- *Humanity's Predicament without Christ*: The bleak outlook for humanity without the intervention of Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).
- **Subpoint B: Living in the Flesh**
  - *Desires of the Body and Mind*: Analyzing the desires that drive human behavior apart from Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5).
  - *Transformation through Christ*: How Christ transforms the desires of the heart and mind.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Recapping the sobering reality of spiritual death and the influences that perpetuate this state.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging participants to assess their lives in light of these truths and to seek transformation through Christ, resisting worldly influences and the devil's schemes.

## Lecture 10: From Death to Life (Part 2) (Ephesians 2:4-7)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To discuss the transformative work of God in bringing believers from a state of spiritual death to spiritual life in Christ.
- **Text for Consideration:** “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:4-7, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Rich Mercy of God

- **Subpoint A: Defining Divine Mercy**
  - *Understanding Mercy:* Exploring the concept of mercy in the biblical context.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:9).
  - *Mercy Contrasted with Justice:* How mercy differs from justice and why it is essential for salvation.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:13).
- **Subpoint B: God’s Love in Action**
  - *The Nature of God’s Love:* Characteristics of divine love and how it manifests towards humanity.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9).
  - *Historical and Cosmic Love:* The historical acts and ongoing expressions of God’s love.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).



## Main Point 2: Made Alive Together with Christ

### • Subpoint A: Spiritual Resurrection

- *Concept of Being Made Alive*: What it means to be made alive together with Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses” (Colossians 2:13).
- *Union with Christ in Resurrection*: How believers participate in Christ's resurrection.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

### • Subpoint B: Grace as the Mechanism of Salvation

- *Defining Grace*: Understanding the biblical concept of grace as it relates to salvation.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11).
- *Grace in Action*: How grace operates practically in the life of a believer.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

## Main Point 3: Raised and Seated with Christ

### • Subpoint A: Raised with Christ

- *Theological Significance of Being Raised with Christ*: What it means for believers to be spiritually raised.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

- *Living a Resurrected Life*: Practical implications of living as one raised with Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2).
- **Subpoint B: Seated with Christ in the Heavenly Realms**
  - *Symbolic and Literal Meanings*: Exploring the symbolism and literal aspects of being seated with Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).
  - *Current and Future Realities*: How this positioning affects both current spiritual life and future hope.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reviewing the profound transformation from death to life through Christ's mercy, love, and grace.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging participants to live out their new life in Christ, emphasizing the practical outworking of being raised and seated with Him in daily life and ministry.

## Lecture 11: Saved by Grace Through Faith (Ephesians 2:8-10)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To delve into the foundational Christian doctrine of salvation by grace through faith, emphasizing its implications for good works.
- **Text for Consideration:** “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Nature of Grace

- **Subpoint A: Grace Defined**
  - *Exploring the Concept of Grace:* Discussing grace as unmerited favor and divine assistance.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).
  - *Grace versus Human Effort:* Clarifying why grace is essential and cannot be earned through human effort.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness” (Romans 4:4-5).
- **Subpoint B: The Gift of Salvation**
  - *Salvation as a Gift:* Understanding salvation as a gift and not something one can earn.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

- *Implications of Salvation Being a Gift*. Discussing the humility and gratitude that should result from recognizing salvation as a gift.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

## **Main Point 2: Faith as the Means of Salvation**

### **• Subpoint A: Defining Faith**

- *Biblical Understanding of Faith*. Exploring the nature of biblical faith as trust in God and reliance on Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).
- *Faith as Relationship, Not Transaction*. Emphasizing faith as a relationship with Christ rather than a mere transaction for salvation.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” (Romans 4:3).

### **• Subpoint B: Faith and Works**

- *The Relationship Between Faith and Works*. Clarifying how faith leads to good works, not the other way around.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17).
- *Works as Evidence of Faith*. Discussing how good works naturally flow from a life transformed by faith.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

## Main Point 3: Created for Good Works

- **Subpoint A: Divine Workmanship**

- *Understanding Our Identity as God's Workmanship*: What it means to be created anew in Christ as God's workmanship.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).
- *Craftsmanship and Purpose*: How being God's workmanship relates to living out His purposes.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands" (Psalm 138:8).

- **Subpoint B: Preordained Path of Good Works**

- *God's Sovereignty in Good Works*: Exploring how God has prepared specific good works for believers to do.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).
- *Walking in Prepared Works*: Practical advice on discovering and fulfilling the good works God has prepared.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13).

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Summarizing the profound truth of being saved by grace through faith and the believer's calling to live out good works.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging participants to embrace their identity in Christ, relying entirely on grace for salvation, and actively engaging in the good works God has set before them.

## Lecture 12: Unity in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-18)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the transformative power of Christ in reconciling Jews and Gentiles into one unified body, transcending historical divisions and creating a new community in Christ.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:11-18, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Historical Division

- **Subpoint A: Identification of Division**
  - *Jews and Gentiles.* Historically, Jews were circumcised, while Gentiles were not.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.” (1 Corinthians 7:19)
  - *Separation by the Law.* The Law distinguished Jews from Gentiles.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.’” (Galatians 3:10)
- **Subpoint B: Consequences of Division**
  - *Alienation from Christ.* The division left Gentiles separated from Christ.

- *Scripture Reference:* "At that time you were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12)
- *Spiritual Exclusion:* Gentiles were excluded from the spiritual promises given to Israel.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?" (Deuteronomy 4:7)

## **Main Point 2: Christ the Peacemaker**

### **• Subpoint A: Breaking Down Barriers**

- *Dividing Wall of Hostility:* Christ broke down the wall dividing Jews and Gentiles.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility," (Ephesians 2:14)
- *Abolishing the Law of Commandments:* By abolishing the legal code that separated them.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Romans 10:4)

### **• Subpoint B: Creation of One New Humanity**

- *One New Man:* Christ created one new man from Jews and Gentiles.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "...that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace," (Ephesians 2:15)
- *Unity in Diversity:* This unity does not erase distinct identities but transcends them.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

### **Main Point 3: Reconciliation through the Cross**

- **Subpoint A: The Cross as the Means of Peace**

- *Reconciliation to God.* The cross reconciles both groups to God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more,

now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” (Romans 5:10)

- *Vertical and Horizontal Reconciliation.* It not only reconciles humanity to God but also people to each other.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

- **Subpoint B: Killing Hostility**

- *Destroying Hostility.* The cross eliminates hostility between different groups.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.” (Ephesians 2:14)
- *Creating Peace.* Establishing peace as a central aspect of Christian identity.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

### **Main Point 4: The Preaching of Peace**

- **Subpoint A: Message to Both Groups**

- *Universal Offer of Peace.* Christ preached peace to both Jews and Gentiles.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.” (Ephesians 2:17)
- *Gospel of Peace.* The gospel is characterized by peace.

- *Scripture Reference:* “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7)
- **Subpoint B: Ongoing Ministry of Reconciliation**
  - *Role of the Church:* The church continues this ministry of peace today.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18)
  - *Global and Local Implications:* Practical ways this preaching impacts current societal divisions.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (Romans 12:18)

## **Main Point 5: Unified Access to the Father**

- **Subpoint A: Through Christ**
  - *Shared Spiritual Access:* Both Jews and Gentiles have access to God through Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:18)
  - *Mediator of the New Covenant:* Jesus as the mediator gives all believers access to God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)
- **Subpoint B: In One Spirit**
  - *Role of the Holy Spirit:* The Spirit facilitates this access and fosters ongoing unity.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

- *Practical Outcomes:* Ways this spiritual access should influence church life and individual believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reviewing Christ’s revolutionary work in breaking down barriers and fostering unity.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging active participation in maintaining and promoting unity within the diverse body of Christ, reflecting on how individual and communal actions contribute to or hinder this unity.

## Lecture 13: Members of God's Household (Ephesians 2:19-22)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To examine the implications of believers' new identity as members of God's household, emphasizing the transformation from strangers to family members and the architectural metaphor of the church as a spiritual building.
- **Text for Consideration:** "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22, ESV)

### Main Point 1: New Identity as Citizens and Family

- **Subpoint A: Citizenship in Heaven**
  - *Implications of Citizenship:* Responsibilities and privileges of heavenly citizenship.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)
  - *New Community:* Believers are now part of a new, divine community.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." (Ephesians 2:19)
- **Subpoint B: Family Membership**
  - *Meaning of Household Membership:* What it means to be part of God's family.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)
  - *Practical Family Dynamics:* How this should change relationships within the church.

- *Scripture Reference:* "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

## **Main Point 2: Architectural Metaphors of the Church**

### **• Subpoint A: Foundation of Apostles and Prophets**

- *Role of the Foundation:* Stability and direction provided by the teachings of the apostles and prophets.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:14)
- *Continuity and Legacy:* How the church builds upon this foundation.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11)

### **• Subpoint B: Christ as the Cornerstone**

- *Significance of the Cornerstone:* How Christ aligns and holds together the entire structure.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (Psalm 118:22)
- *Centrality of Christ:* The cornerstone ensures the integrity and unity of the building.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone." (Ephesians 2:20)

## **Main Point 3: Growth into a Holy Temple**

### **• Subpoint A: Construction Process**

- *Building the Temple:* How individual believers and communities contribute to the growth of this temple.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5)

- *Ongoing Growth*: The process of spiritual growth and maturation in the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)
- **Subpoint B: Characteristics of a Holy Temple**
  - *Holiness in Structure*: What it means for the church to be a holy temple in the Lord.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
  - *Sacredness and Purpose*: The temple is set apart for divine purposes.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.'" (2 Corinthians 6:16)

#### **Main Point 4: A Dwelling Place for God**

- **Subpoint A: Indwelling of God's Spirit**
  - *God Living Among Us*: The significance of God's presence in the church.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17)
  - *Transformative Effects*: How God's presence transforms the church and its members.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- **Subpoint B: Implications for Worship and Community**
  - *Worship in Spirit and Truth*: True worship stems from the indwelling presence of God.

- *Scripture Reference:* "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

- *Community Life*: How the reality of God’s indwelling affects community life.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

## **Main Point 5: The Living Stones**

### **• Subpoint A: Individual Contributions**

- *Role of Each Believer*: How individual lives and actions contribute to the building of this spiritual structure.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)
- *Diversity in Unity*: Each believer brings unique gifts and roles to the community.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)

### **• Subpoint B: Collective Growth**

- *Cooperative Effort*: The importance of collaborative growth and mutual support in the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)
- *Building Up in Love*: Emphasizing love as the cornerstone of the community’s growth.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:14)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Summarizing the transformation from strangers to an intimately connected family and a spiritually significant structure.

- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to live out their new identities, to contribute to the building up of the church, and to foster the presence of God through their lives and relationships.

## Lecture 14: Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (Part 1) (Ephesians 3:1-6)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore Paul's divinely appointed role as the apostle to the Gentiles, emphasizing the mystery of Christ that was revealed to him and its implications for the Gentiles being integrated into God's family.
- **Text for Consideration:** "For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (Ephesians 3:1-6, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Paul's Apostolic Authority and Mission

- **Subpoint A: Divine Appointment**
  - *Stewardship of Grace:* How Paul views his role and mission as given by God's grace.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power." (Colossians 1:25)
  - *Divine Calling:* Paul's calling was unique and directly from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- **Subpoint B: Prisoner for the Gospel**
  - *Suffering for a Purpose:* Understanding the significance of Paul's imprisonment in the context of his mission.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them." (Hebrews 13:3)



- *Imprisonment as Part of Ministry*. How Paul's imprisonment serves the gospel.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!" (2 Timothy 2:9)

## **Main Point 2: The Mystery Revealed**

### **• Subpoint A: Revelation of the Mystery**

- *Historical Secrecy and Sudden Revelation*: The contrast between the previous hidden state of the mystery and its revelation to Paul.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints." (Colossians 1:26)
- *God's Timing in Revelation*: Understanding why the mystery was revealed at this specific time.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law." (Galatians 4:4)

### **• Subpoint B: Contents of the Mystery**

- *Inclusivity of the Gospel*: Details of the mystery involving the inclusion of the Gentiles as co-heirs.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)
- *Partakers of the Promise*: The promises made to Israel are now shared with the Gentiles.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." (Galatians 3:29)

## **Main Point 3: Impact on the Gentiles**

### **• Subpoint A: Equal Standing in Christ**

- *Fellow Heirs*: Implications of Gentiles being fellow heirs with the Jews.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him." (Romans 8:17)

- *Shared Inheritance*: Gentiles are included in the inheritance promised to Israel.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." (Colossians 1:12)
- **Subpoint B: Unified Body of Christ**
  - *One Body in Christ*: How this unity challenges previous religious and cultural divisions.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)
  - *Living Out Unity*: Practical implications for living as one unified body.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

#### **Main Point 4: The Role of the Spirit in Revelation**

- **Subpoint A: Spirit as Revealer**
  - *Mechanics of Revelation*: How the Holy Spirit played a crucial role in revealing the mystery to Paul.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10)
  - *Guidance in Truth*: The Spirit guides believers into all truth.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (John 16:13)

- **Subpoint B: Broader Implications for Apostolic Ministry**
  - *Empowerment for Ministry:* How the Spirit's role extends beyond revelation to empowering Paul's ministry.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
  - *Continuation of Apostolic Mission:* The ongoing work of the Spirit in the church's mission.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" (Acts 13:2)

## **Main Point 5: Theological and Practical Implications**

- **Subpoint A: Theology of Inclusion**
  - *New Understanding of God's People:* The shift in theological understanding about who constitutes the people of God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh, but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." (Romans 2:28-29)
  - *Equality Before God:* All are equal before God through faith in Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:22-23)
- **Subpoint B: Practical Outworking**
  - *Changes in Church Practice:* How this revelation affected the early church's practice and acceptance of Gentiles.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)

- *Living in Unity*. Practical steps for living out this unity in the church today.
  - *Scripture Reference*. “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reviewing the pivotal revelations given to Paul and their transformative effects on the early Christian community.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging a deeper appreciation of the inclusivity of the gospel and active engagement in fostering unity within the diverse body of Christ.

## Lecture 15: Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles (Part 2) (Ephesians 3:7-13)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To continue examining Paul's ministry to the Gentiles, focusing on his role as a preacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ and the sufferings he endured for the sake of the Ephesian believers.
- **Text for Consideration:** "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory." (Ephesians 3:7-13, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Ministry Grounded in Grace

- **Subpoint A: Grace as the Basis of Ministry**
  - *Unmerited Favor.* How Paul attributes his ministry and its effectiveness entirely to God's grace.
    - *Scripture Reference.* "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)
  - *Divine Commissioning.* Paul's understanding of his commission as rooted in grace.
    - *Scripture Reference.* "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God." (Romans 1:1)
- **Subpoint B: Empowered by Divine Power**
  - *Divine Empowerment.* Discussing how the power of God worked in and through Paul to accomplish his ministry.
    - *Scripture Reference.* "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." (Colossians 1:29)



- *Living by the Spirit's Power*. How Paul relied on the Holy Spirit for his ministry.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." (John 14:26)

## **Main Point 2: Preaching the Riches of Christ**

### **• Subpoint A: Content of Paul's Preaching**

- *Unsearchable Riches of Christ*. Exploring the depths and implications of what Paul preached.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:3)
- *Christ as the Treasure*. The centrality of Christ in Paul's message.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)

### **• Subpoint B: Target Audience**

- *Focus on the Gentiles*. The significance of this message specifically directed to Gentiles.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Acts 13:47)
- *Universal Reach*. The gospel's reach extends to all peoples.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

## **Main Point 3: Revealing God's Eternal Plan**

### **• Subpoint A: The Mystery of Christ**

- *Plan Hidden Now Revealed*. How the mystery was hidden through ages but now revealed through Christ.

- *Scripture Reference:* “The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.” (Colossians 1:26)
- *God’s Eternal Purpose:* The purpose of God in revealing this mystery.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.” (Ephesians 1:11)
- **Subpoint B: Universal Implications**
  - *Cosmic Revelation:* Discussing the implications of this revelation for the heavenly realms and earthly rulers.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)
  - *Demonstration of God’s Wisdom:* How the inclusion of the Gentiles showcases God’s wisdom.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “To bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things.” (Ephesians 3:9)

## Main Point 4: Suffering and Glory

- **Subpoint A: Paul’s Sufferings**
  - *The Nature of Paul’s Sufferings:* Discussing the types of sufferings Paul endured for the sake of his ministry.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea.” (2 Corinthians 11:24-25)
  - *Purpose Behind the Sufferings:* Understanding why Paul’s sufferings were necessary and beneficial for the church.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.” (Colossians 1:24)



- **Subpoint B: Encouragement to the Ephesians**

- *Do Not Lose Heart.* Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians not to be discouraged by his trials.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- *Glory Through Suffering.* How Paul's sufferings were ultimately for the glory of the Ephesians and the church at large.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." (2 Corinthians 4:17)

## **Main Point 5: Boldness and Access Through Faith**

- **Subpoint A: Confidence in Christ**

- *Bold Approach to God.* How faith in Christ enables a bold and confident approach to God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)
- *Freedom and Assurance.* The freedom and assurance we have in approaching God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him." (Ephesians 3:12)

- **Subpoint B: Shared Access for All Believers**

- *Implications for Prayer and Fellowship.* How this access affects the believers' prayer life and their relationship with God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father." (Ephesians 2:18)

- *Unified Fellowship*: The unity and fellowship that result from shared access to God.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reflecting on Paul’s profound role in unfolding the mystery of the gospel and the personal cost it entailed.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to draw on the same grace and power in their ministry efforts, to embrace the richness of the gospel in their lives, and to find encouragement in the midst of suffering.

## Lecture 16: Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-19)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To examine the depth and significance of Paul's intercessory prayer for the Ephesians, focusing on spiritual strength, love, and fullness in Christ.
- **Text for Consideration:** "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Posture and Address in Prayer

- **Subpoint A: Posture of Humility**
  - *Bowing the Knees.* Paul's physical posture reflects his humility and earnestness in prayer.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." (Psalm 95:6)
  - *Humility Before God.* Importance of humility in approaching God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." (James 4:10)
- **Subpoint B: Addressing the Father**
  - *Acknowledging God's Fatherhood.* Recognizing God as the Father of all.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." (Matthew 6:9)
  - *Universal Family.* God as the source and head of every family in heaven and on earth.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10)



## Main Point 2: Prayer for Spiritual Strength

### • Subpoint A: Strengthened with Power

- *Inner Strength*: Prayer for strength in the inner being through the Holy Spirit.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)
- *Empowerment by the Spirit*: The role of the Holy Spirit in empowering believers.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." (Acts 1:8)

### • Subpoint B: Christ Dwelling in Hearts

- *Indwelling Christ*: Prayer for Christ to dwell in believers' hearts through faith.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23)
- *Faith as the Means*: Emphasis on faith as the means for Christ's indwelling.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love." (Ephesians 3:17)

## Main Point 3: Rooted and Grounded in Love

### • Subpoint A: Foundations of Love

- *Rooted in Love*: Metaphor of being rooted, indicating stability and nourishment in love.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." (Psalm 1:3)

- *Grounded in Love*: Architectural metaphor of being grounded, indicating a firm foundation.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)
- **Subpoint B: Comprehending Christ’s Love**
  - *Dimensions of Love*: Prayer to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ’s love.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.” (Psalm 36:5)
  - *Knowing Surpassing Love*: Encouragement to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:19)

#### **Main Point 4: Being Filled with God’s Fullness**

- **Subpoint A: Fullness of God**
  - *Divine Fullness*: Prayer for believers to be filled with all the fullness of God.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him.” (Colossians 2:9-10)
  - *Living Out Fullness*: The practical implications of being filled with God’s fullness.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)
- **Subpoint B: Overflow of God’s Presence**
  - *Manifesting God’s Character*: How being filled with God’s fullness manifests in character and action.

- *Scripture Reference:* “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)
- *Impact on the Community.* The collective impact on the church and community when believers are filled with God’s fullness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

## Main Point 5: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Prayer

- **Subpoint A: Intercession of the Spirit**

- *Holy Spirit's Help in Prayer*: The Spirit's role in helping believers pray according to God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)
- *Aligning with God's Will*: The Spirit aligns our prayers with God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:27)

- **Subpoint B: Empowerment through Prayer**

- *Strengthened in Prayer*: How prayer strengthens believers for spiritual battles and daily living.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)
- *Continual Growth*: The role of persistent prayer in spiritual growth.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Recapping the profound aspects of Paul's prayer for spiritual strength, deep love, and fullness in Christ.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to adopt Paul's model of prayer, seeking spiritual empowerment, deeper love, and the fullness of God in their lives.

## Lecture 17: Doxology (Ephesians 3:20-21)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To delve into the doxology at the end of Ephesians 3, exploring its significance in the context of worship, praise, and the acknowledgment of God's power and glory.
- **Text for Consideration:** "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, ESV)

### Main Point 1: God's Unlimited Power

- **Subpoint A: Abundance Beyond Imagination**
  - *Exceeding Expectations.* God's power surpasses anything we can ask or imagine.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure." (Psalm 147:5)
  - *Limitless Possibilities.* The limitless scope of what God can accomplish.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)
- **Subpoint B: Divine Power at Work**
  - *Power Within Believers.* The same power that raised Christ is at work in us.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "That you may know...what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might." (Ephesians 1:19)
  - *Transformative Impact.* How God's power transforms lives.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power." (1 Corinthians 4:20)

## Main Point 2: Glory in the Church

### • Subpoint A: Purpose of the Church

- *Manifesting God's Glory.* The church exists to glorify God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 3:10)
- *Reflecting God's Character.* The church as a reflection of God's character.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

### • Subpoint B: Corporate Worship

- *Unified Praise.* The importance of corporate worship in glorifying God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:3)
- *Expressions of Worship.* Various expressions of worship that bring glory to God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." (Hebrews 13:15)

## Main Point 3: Glory in Christ Jesus

### • Subpoint A: Christ as the Revelation of God's Glory

- *Incarnation and Glory.* Christ reveals the fullness of God's glory.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)
- *Redemption and Glory.* The glory of God displayed in Christ's redemptive work.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)



- **Subpoint B: Christ's Exaltation**

- *Christ's Sovereign Rule.* The exaltation of Christ to the highest place.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name." (Philippians 2:9)
- *Worship of Christ.* Every knee will bow to Christ's glory.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." (Philippians 2:10)

#### **Main Point 4: Eternal Praise**

- **Subpoint A: Praise Throughout Generations**

- *Continuity of Praise.* God's glory is praised throughout all generations.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)
- *Legacy of Worship.* The impact of faithful worship on future generations.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." (Psalm 78:4)

- **Subpoint B: Forever and Ever**

- *Eternal Nature of Praise.* The unending praise due to God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen." (Psalm 41:13)
- *Vision of Eternal Worship.* The eternal worship described in Revelation.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

## Main Point 5: Affirmation and Amen

### • Subpoint A: Affirmation of God's Power

- *Acknowledging God's Ability*: Affirming belief in God's power to do more than we ask or think.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ." (Romans 16:25)
- *Confidence in God's Work*: Trusting in God's ongoing work within us.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

### • Subpoint B: Amen as an Expression of Agreement

- *Meaning of Amen*: The significance of "Amen" as an affirmation of truth.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory." (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- *Corporate Affirmation*: The communal aspect of affirming God's glory.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.'" (Revelation 19:1)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reflecting on the importance of acknowledging God's unlimited power, giving glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus, and the eternal nature of our praise.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to continually offer praise to God, recognizing His power at work within us and the eternal significance of worship.

## Lecture 18: Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the call to unity and maturity in the body of Christ, focusing on the practical aspects of living out this unity and growing together in spiritual maturity.
- **Text for Consideration:** “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, ‘When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.’ (In saying, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:1-16, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Walking Worthy of the Calling

- **Subpoint A: Characteristics of a Worthy Walk**
  - *Humility and Gentleness.* The importance of humility and gentleness in Christian conduct.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)

- *Patience and Forbearance*: Patience and bearing with one another as essential qualities.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:12-13)
- **Subpoint B: Unity of the Spirit**
  - *Maintaining Unity*. The effort required to maintain unity in the Spirit.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)
  - *Bond of Peace*: The bond of peace as the glue that holds the body together.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

## Main Point 2: Theological Basis for Unity

- **Subpoint A: One Body and One Spirit**
  - *Unity in the Body*. The church as one body united by one Spirit.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)
  - *Unified Calling*: One hope that unites believers in their calling.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.” (Ephesians 4:4)
- **Subpoint B: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism**
  - *Common Faith and Baptism*: Shared faith and baptism as foundational to unity.

- *Scripture Reference:* “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

- *One God and Father.* The unifying presence of one God and Father over all.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

### **Main Point 3: Diversity of Gifts within Unity**

- **Subpoint A: Distribution of Gifts**

- *Gifts Given by Christ.* The diversity of gifts given to the church by Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Ephesians 4:7)
- *Purpose of Gifts.* Equipping the saints for ministry and building up the body.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

- **Subpoint B: Equipping the Saints**

- *Role of Church Leaders.* Apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers equipping the saints.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- *Building Up the Body.* The ultimate goal of ministry is the edification of the church.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church." (1 Corinthians 14:12)

### **Main Point 4: Attaining Unity and Maturity**

- **Subpoint A: Unity of the Faith**

- *Common Faith and Knowledge.* Striving for unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” (Ephesians 4:13)

- *Mature Manhood*. The goal of maturity in Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "That we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Ephesians 4:14)
- **Subpoint B: The Stature of Christ**
  - *Fullness of Christ*. Growing to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." (Ephesians 4:15)
  - *Christ as the Head*. The headship of Christ in the body's growth.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent." (Colossians 1:18)

## Main Point 5: Speaking the Truth in Love

- **Subpoint A: Communication and Growth**
  - *Truth and Love*. The balance of truth and love in communication.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:6)
  - *Promoting Growth*. Speaking the truth in love to promote spiritual growth.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)
- **Subpoint B: The Body's Growth in Love**
  - *Mutual Edification*. Building each other up in love.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
  - *Love as the Bond of Perfection*. Love as the key to unity and maturity.

- *Scripture Reference:* “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:14)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the call to unity and maturity in the body of Christ, the theological basis for unity, the diversity of gifts within the body, and the importance of speaking the truth in love.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to strive for unity and maturity, using their gifts for the edification of the church, and fostering a community marked by truth and love.

## Lecture 19: The New Life in Christ (Part 1) (Ephesians 4:17-24)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the transformation from the old life to the new life in Christ, focusing on the renewal of mind and putting on the new self.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:17-24, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Futility of the Old Life

- **Subpoint A: Walking in Futility**
  - *Mindset of the Gentiles.* The futility of their thinking and understanding.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness.’” (1 Corinthians 3:19)
  - *Darkened Understanding.* The spiritual blindness and alienation from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- **Subpoint B: Alienation from the Life of God**
  - *Ignorance and Hardness of Heart.* The cause of separation from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:21)



- *Callousness and Sensuality*: The lifestyle resulting from alienation.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it." (Hosea 8:7)

## **Main Point 2: Learning Christ**

### **• Subpoint A: The Way of Christ**

- *Contrast with Gentile Life*: Learning Christ is contrary to the old way of life.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29)
- *Truth in Jesus*: The essence of the teaching that comes from Jesus.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

### **• Subpoint B: Putting Off the Old Self**

- *Former Manner of Life*: The necessity of abandoning the old, corrupt self.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices." (Colossians 3:9)
- *Deceitful Desires*: The corruption caused by deceitful desires.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." (James 1:14)

## **Main Point 3: Renewal of the Mind**

### **• Subpoint A: Transformative Renewal**

- *Renewal in the Spirit of Your Minds*: The process of spiritual renewal.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)



- *Mindset of Christ*: Adopting the mindset of Jesus.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)
- **Subpoint B: Continuous Renewal**
  - *Daily Renewal*: The importance of daily spiritual renewal.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16)
  - *Renewal Through the Word*: The role of scripture in renewing the mind.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

#### **Main Point 4: Putting on the New Self**

- **Subpoint A: Created in God's Likeness**
  - *New Creation*: The new self is created in the likeness of God.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - *Righteousness and Holiness*: Characteristics of the new self.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24)
- **Subpoint B: Living Out the New Identity**
  - *Practical Outworking*: How to live out the new life in practical ways.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)
  - *Continual Growth*: The ongoing process of growing into the new self.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same

image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

## **Main Point 5: Implications for Community Life**

- **Subpoint A: Building Up the Community**

- *Encouragement and Edification:* The new life builds up the church community.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Mutual Support:* The importance of supporting one another in the new life.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

- **Subpoint B: Witness to the World**

- *Testimony of Transformation:* The transformed life as a witness to the world.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)
- *Impact on Society:* The broader impact of believers living out their new identity.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the transition from the old life to the new life in Christ, focusing on the renewal of the mind and putting on the new self.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to embrace their new identity in Christ, continually renew their minds, and live out their new life in practical, community-building ways.



## Lecture 20: The New Life in Christ (Part 2) (Ephesians 4:25-32)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To delve deeper into the practical aspects of living the new life in Christ, focusing on specific behaviors and attitudes that reflect this transformation.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:25-32, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Speaking the Truth

- **Subpoint A: Putting Away Falsehood**
  - *Commitment to Truth:* The importance of honesty in the Christian life.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)
  - *Transparency in Relationships:* Building trust through truthful communication.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25)
- **Subpoint B: The Power of Words**
  - *Constructive Communication:* Using words to build up and encourage.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:6)

- *Avoiding Corrupt Speech*: Refraining from harmful and corrupting talk.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29)

## **Main Point 2: Managing Anger**

### **• Subpoint A: Righteous Anger**

- *Being Angry Without Sinning*: How to handle anger in a godly manner.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger." (Ephesians 4:26)
- *Quick Reconciliation*: The importance of resolving anger promptly.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." (Ephesians 4:26-27)

### **• Subpoint B: Avoiding Bitterness**

- *Letting Go of Wrath and Bitterness*: The call to release negative emotions.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31)
- *Cultivating a Tender Heart*: Developing a heart that is kind and forgiving.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

## **Main Point 3: Working Honestly**

### **• Subpoint A: Transformation from Theft**

- *No Longer Stealing*: The call to stop dishonest gain.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)
- *Laboring Honestly*: Encouragement to engage in honest work.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands.” (Ephesians 4:28)

- **Subpoint B: Sharing with Others**

- *Generosity with Earnings*: Using honest earnings to help those in need.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "So that he may have something to share with anyone in need." (Ephesians 4:28)
- *Community Support*: The role of generosity in building a supportive community.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

## Main Point 4: Edifying Speech

- **Subpoint A: Constructive Communication**

- *Building Up Others*: Using speech to edify and encourage others.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Grace-Filled Speech*: Ensuring that our words impart grace to listeners.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:6)

- **Subpoint B: Avoiding Corrupt Speech**

- *Guarding the Tongue*: Avoiding speech that corrupts or harms others.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless." (James 1:26)
- *Speech Reflecting Christ*: Ensuring our words reflect the character of Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29)

## Main Point 5: Living by the Spirit

- **Subpoint A: Not Grieving the Spirit**

- *Sensitivity to the Spirit:* Living in a way that does not grieve the Holy Spirit.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)
- *Living in the Spirit’s Power:* Allowing the Spirit to guide and empower our lives.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

- **Subpoint B: Sealed for Redemption**

- *Assurance of Salvation:* The Spirit as a seal guaranteeing our redemption.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.” (Ephesians 1:13)
- *Living in the Light of Redemption:* Living lives that reflect our redeemed status.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the practical aspects of the new life in Christ, including truthful speech, managing anger, honest work, edifying speech, and living by the Spirit.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to live out these practical teachings, demonstrating their new life in Christ through their actions and attitudes.

## Lecture 21: Imitating God (Part 1) (Ephesians 5:1-7)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the call to imitate God, focusing on walking in love, avoiding immorality, and living as children of light.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them.” (Ephesians 5:1-7, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Imitating God

- **Subpoint A: As Beloved Children**
  - *Relationship with God:* The basis of imitation is our status as God’s beloved children.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)
  - *Living as God’s Children:* Reflecting our identity as children of God in our behavior.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)
- **Subpoint B: Walking in Love**
  - *Example of Christ:* Walking in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

- *Love as a Fragrant Offering.* Love expressed as a sacrificial offering to God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

## **Main Point 2: Avoiding Immorality and Impurity**

### **• Subpoint A: Rejecting Sexual Immorality**

- *Purity Among Saints.* Sexual immorality and impurity should not be named among believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.” (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- *Proper Conduct.* Proper conduct for saints involves purity and holiness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” (1 Peter 1:15)

### **• Subpoint B: Avoiding Covetousness**

- *Covetousness as Idolatry.* Understanding covetousness as a form of idolatry.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5)
- *Contentment in Christ.* Cultivating contentment to counteract covetousness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5)

## **Main Point 3: Pure Speech**

### **• Subpoint A: Guarding Against Filthiness**

- *Speech Reflects Heart.* Filthy and foolish talk reveals the condition of the heart.

- *Scripture Reference:* "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34)

- *Replacing Crude Joking*: Replacing inappropriate speech with thanksgiving.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.” (Ephesians 5:4)
- **Subpoint B: Speaking with Thanksgiving**
  - *Cultivating Gratitude*: Thanksgiving should characterize Christian speech.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
  - *Impact of Thankful Speech*: The positive impact of gratitude on our relationships and witness.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

#### **Main Point 4: Inheritance in the Kingdom of God**

- **Subpoint A: Warning Against Deception**
  - *Empty Words*: Warning against being deceived by empty words that justify sin.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)
  - *Consequences of Sin*: The wrath of God comes upon those who are disobedient.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 5:6)
- **Subpoint B: No Inheritance for the Disobedient**
  - *Exclusion from the Kingdom*: Those who practice immorality and idolatry have no inheritance in the kingdom of God.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality.” (1 Corinthians 6:9)
- *Call to Holiness:* The call to live holy lives in anticipation of our inheritance.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13)

## **Main Point 5: Separation from the World**

### **• Subpoint A: Avoiding Partnership with Darkness**

- *Do Not Partner with Sinners:* Avoiding close association with those who live in disobedience.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- *Living as Light:* Living distinctively as children of light.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)

### **• Subpoint B: Influence and Example**

- *Being Salt and Light:* The influence of believers as salt and light in the world.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.” (Matthew 5:13)
- *Witness Through Lifestyle:* The power of a godly lifestyle in witnessing to others.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers,

they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the call to imitate God by walking in love, avoiding immorality, and living as children of light.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to pursue a life of love, purity, and light, reflecting God’s character in their daily lives.

## Lecture 22: Imitating God (Part 2) (Ephesians 5:8-14)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To continue exploring the call to imitate God, focusing on living as children of light, exposing darkness, and understanding the will of the Lord.
- **Text for Consideration:** “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’” (Ephesians 5:8-14, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Transformation from Darkness to Light

- **Subpoint A: Identity as Light in the Lord**
  - *From Darkness to Light.* The transformation believers undergo from darkness to light.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)
  - *Living in the Light.* The implications of living as children of light.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)
- **Subpoint B: The Fruit of Light**
  - *Goodness, Righteousness, and Truth.* Characteristics of the fruit of light.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.” (Ephesians 5:9)
  - *Living Out These Qualities.* Practical ways to exhibit goodness, righteousness, and truth.

- *Scripture Reference:* “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

## **Main Point 2: Discerning What Pleases the Lord**

### **• Subpoint A: Seeking God’s Will**

- *Understanding God’s Will:* The importance of discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:17)
- *Prayer and Scripture:* Using prayer and scripture to discern God’s will.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5)

### **• Subpoint B: Practical Application**

- *Walking in Wisdom:* Applying God’s will in everyday decisions and actions.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.” (Ephesians 5:15)
- *Living Sacrificially:* Offering our lives as living sacrifices to please God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)

## **Main Point 3: Exposing the Works of Darkness**

### **• Subpoint A: Rejecting Unfruitful Works**

- *Avoiding Darkness:* Taking no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- *Living Pure Lives:* The call to purity and holiness in all aspects of life.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

- **Subpoint B: Exposing Darkness**

- *Bringing Light to Darkness.* The role of light in exposing and transforming darkness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light." (Ephesians 5:13-14)
- *The Power of Light.* The transformative power of living as children of light.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

#### **Main Point 4: Awakening to Righteousness**

- **Subpoint A: Spiritual Awakening**

- *Call to Wake Up.* The call to wake up from spiritual slumber.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (Ephesians 5:14)
- *Living Vigilantly.* The importance of spiritual vigilance and alertness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

- **Subpoint B: Shining with Christ's Light**

- *Reflecting Christ's Glory.* Reflecting the light of Christ in our lives.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- *Influence Through Light.* Our influence as bearers of Christ's light in the world.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

## Main Point 5: Understanding the Will of the Lord

### • Subpoint A: Living Wisely

- *Making the Most of Every Opportunity.* Understanding the times and living wisely.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:16)
- *Walking Circumspectly.* Living carefully and thoughtfully in accordance with God’s will.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.” (Ephesians 5:15)

### • Subpoint B: Filled with the Spirit

- *Spirit-Filled Living.* Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)
- *Living in Step with the Spirit.* Keeping in step with the Spirit’s guidance.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the call to live as children of light, exposing darkness, and understanding the will of the Lord.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to embrace their identity as light in the Lord, seek to discern God’s will, and live lives that reflect the light and love of Christ.

## Lecture 23: Living by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-20)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore what it means to live by the Spirit, focusing on wise living, understanding the will of the Lord, and expressing joy and thanksgiving through the Spirit.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:15-20, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Walking Wisely

- **Subpoint A: The Call to Wisdom**
  - *Living Wisely.* The importance of wisdom in the Christian walk.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” (Psalm 111:10)
  - *Contrast with Folly.* The dangers of living foolishly.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15)
- **Subpoint B: Making the Best Use of Time**
  - *Redeeming the Time.* The urgency of making the most of every opportunity.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.” (Colossians 4:5)
  - *Awareness of Evil Days.* Recognizing the challenges of living in evil times.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.” (2 Timothy 3:1)



## Main Point 2: Understanding the Will of the Lord

### • Subpoint A: Seeking God's Will

- *Discerning God's Will*: The importance of seeking and understanding God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!" (Psalm 143:10)
- *Avoiding Foolishness*: The necessity of avoiding foolish behavior.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

### • Subpoint B: Living According to God's Will

- *Obedience to God*: The call to live obediently according to God's will.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- *Spiritual Insight*: Gaining insight into God's will through the Spirit.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." (James 1:5)

## Main Point 3: Being Filled with the Spirit

### • Subpoint A: Contrast with Drunkenness

- *Avoiding Debauchery*: The warning against drunkenness and its effects.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Proverbs 20:1)
- *Seeking Spiritual Fulfillment*: Finding fulfillment in the Spirit rather than in substances.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18)

### • Subpoint B: Evidence of Spirit-Filled Living

- *Fruit of the Spirit*: The characteristics of a Spirit-filled life.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)
- *Spiritual Gifts*: The role of spiritual gifts in the life of a believer.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5)

#### **Main Point 4: Expressing Joy through Worship**

- **Subpoint A: Addressing One Another in Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

- *Corporate Worship*: The importance of communal worship and encouragement.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16)
- *Variety in Worship*: Different forms of worship songs and their significance.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.” (Psalm 104:33)

- **Subpoint B: Singing and Making Melody to the Lord**

- *Heartfelt Worship*: The role of the heart in genuine worship.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.” (Psalm 96:2)
- *Continuous Praise*: A lifestyle of continuous worship and praise.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

## Main Point 5: Giving Thanks Always and for Everything

- **Subpoint A: Attitude of Gratitude**

- *Thankfulness in All Circumstances.* The call to be thankful in every situation.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- *Recognizing God's Sovereignty.* Acknowledging God's control and goodness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

- **Subpoint B: Expressing Thanks to God the Father**

- *Giving Thanks in Jesus' Name.* The importance of directing our thanks to God through Jesus.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)
- *Continual Gratitude.* Maintaining an attitude of thankfulness continually.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on living by the Spirit, including walking wisely, understanding God's will, being filled with the Spirit, expressing joy through worship, and giving thanks.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to live by the Spirit, seeking wisdom, discerning God's will, engaging in heartfelt worship, and maintaining a thankful heart.

## Lecture 24: Christian Households: Wives and Husbands (Ephesians 5:21-33)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the biblical model for marriage, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of wives and husbands in a Christian household.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (Ephesians 5:21-33, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Mutual Submission

- **Subpoint A: Submitting to One Another**
  - *Mutual Respect.* The principle of mutual submission in the fear of Christ
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
  - *Living in Harmony.* The importance of harmony and unity in relationships.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8)
- **Subpoint B: Reverence for Christ**

- *Christ-Centered Relationships*: Submission rooted in reverence for Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)
- *Model of Christ’s Humility*: Following Christ’s example of humility and service.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:5-7)

## **Main Point 2: Wives Submit to Husbands**

### **• Subpoint A: The Role of Submission**

- *Respect and Honor*: Wives are called to respect and submit to their husbands as to the Lord.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)
- *Submission as Strength*: Understanding submission as a strength, not weakness.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.” (1 Peter 3:1)

### **• Subpoint B: Reflecting the Church’s Submission to Christ**

- *Church and Christ*: The relationship between the church and Christ as a model.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” (Ephesians 5:24)
- *Submission in Love*: Submission that stems from love and respect.

- *Scripture Reference:* "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil." (2 Timothy 2:24)

### **Main Point 3: Husbands Love Your Wives**

- **Subpoint A: Christ's Love for the Church**

- *Sacrificial Love*: Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25)
- *Sanctifying Love*: Love that seeks to sanctify and uplift the wife.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "That he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word." (Ephesians 5:26)

- **Subpoint B: Loving as Their Own Bodies**

- *Nourishing and Cherishing*: Husbands should nourish and cherish their wives.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5:28)
- *One Flesh Union*: The concept of becoming one flesh in marriage.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

### **Main Point 4: The Mystery of Marriage**

- **Subpoint A: Marriage Reflects Christ and the Church**

- *Profound Mystery*: The profound nature of marriage reflecting Christ and the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32)
- *Union with Christ*: The spiritual significance of marriage in relation to Christ's union with the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones." (Ephesians 5:30)

- **Subpoint B: Practical Implications**

- *Living Out the Mystery.* Practical ways to reflect the mystery in daily married life.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:6)
- *Honor and Respect.* The call for mutual honor and respect in marriage.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7)

## **Main Point 5: Practical Advice for Marriage**

- **Subpoint A: Communication and Understanding**

- *Effective Communication.* The importance of open and honest communication.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)
- *Understanding Each Other.* The role of empathy and understanding in marriage.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:6)

- **Subpoint B: Mutual Support and Growth**

- *Supporting Each Other.* The need for mutual support and encouragement.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Growing Together in Christ.* The importance of spiritual growth as a couple.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)



## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the biblical model for marriage, focusing on mutual submission, the roles of wives and husbands, and the profound mystery of marriage.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging couples to live out these principles in their marriages, reflecting Christ's love and the church's submission in their relationship.

## Lecture 25: Christian Households: Children and Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To examine the biblical instructions for children and parents, focusing on obedience, honor, and godly parenting.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:1-4, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Obedience of Children

- **Subpoint A: Command to Obey**
  - *Obedience in the Lord:* Children are called to obey their parents as an act of obedience to the Lord.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.” (Colossians 3:20)
  - *The Rightness of Obedience:* Obedience to parents is inherently right and pleasing to God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.” (Proverbs 6:20)
- **Subpoint B: The Promise of Obedience**
  - *First Commandment with a Promise:* Obedience to parents comes with a promise of well-being and longevity.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12)
  - *Blessings of Obedience:* The promise of blessings for obedient children.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.” (Proverbs 1:8-9)

## Main Point 2: Honor Your Parents

### • Subpoint A: Meaning of Honor

- *Respect and Esteem*: Honoring parents involves respecting and esteeming them.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.” (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
- *Gratitude and Care*: Honoring parents includes expressing gratitude and caring for them in their old age.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.” (1 Timothy 5:4)

### • Subpoint B: The Importance of Honor

- *Foundational to Society*: The role of honoring parents as foundational to a stable society.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8)
- *Reflection of God’s Order*: Honoring parents reflects God’s order and authority structure.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Every person should be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

## Main Point 3: Parental Responsibility

### • Subpoint A: Do Not Provoke to Anger

- *Avoiding Provocation*: Fathers are warned not to provoke their children to anger.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” (Colossians 3:21)

- *Creating a Positive Environment*. The importance of creating a nurturing and supportive home environment.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." (James 3:17)
- **Subpoint B: Bringing Up in Discipline and Instruction**
  - *Godly Discipline*. The role of discipline in guiding children towards godliness.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." (Proverbs 13:24)
  - *Teaching God's Word*. The importance of instructing children in the ways of the Lord.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

#### **Main Point 4: The Goal of Parenting**

- **Subpoint A: Raising Godly Offspring**
  - *Godly Legacy*. The ultimate goal of parenting is to raise children who love and serve God.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:14-15)
  - *Impact on Future Generations*. The long-term impact of godly parenting on future generations.
    - *Scripture Reference*: "For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:19)



- **Subpoint B: Reflecting God’s Character**

- *Parental Example:* Parents are to reflect God’s character in their actions and attitudes.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)
- *Teaching by Example:* The importance of living out the faith in front of children.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity.” (Titus 2:7)

## **Main Point 5: Practical Tips for Parenting**

- **Subpoint A: Consistent Discipline**

- *Consistency in Discipline:* The importance of being consistent in discipline.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.” (Proverbs 19:18)
- *Balance of Love and Discipline:* Balancing discipline with love and understanding.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” (Hebrews 12:6)

- **Subpoint B: Encouragement and Support**

- *Encouraging Words:* The power of words to build up and encourage children.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Supportive Environment:* Creating an environment where children feel supported and valued.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the biblical instructions for children and parents, focusing on obedience, honor, and godly parenting.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging parents and children to live out these principles in their families, fostering homes that honor God and reflect His love and discipline.

## Lecture 26: Christian Households: Slaves and Masters (Ephesians 6:5-9)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the biblical instructions for slaves and masters, focusing on mutual respect, service, and the implications for modern employer-employee relationships.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.” (Ephesians 6:5-9, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Instructions for Slaves

- **Subpoint A: Obedience with Respect**
  - *Obey with Sincerity.* Slaves are instructed to obey their masters sincerely, as they would obey Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ.” (Ephesians 6:5)
  - *Service as to the Lord.* Viewing service to earthly masters as service to the Lord.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)
- **Subpoint B: Avoiding Eye-Service**
  - *Integrity in Service.* Serving with integrity, not only when being watched
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.” (Colossians 3:22)
  - *Heartfelt Service.* Serving from the heart, with a good attitude.

- *Scripture Reference:* "Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man." (Ephesians 6:7)

## **Main Point 2: Instructions for Masters**

### **• Subpoint A: Mutual Respect**

- *Treat Slaves Well:* Masters are to treat their slaves with respect and fairness.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven." (Colossians 4:1)
- *Avoid Threatening:* Masters are warned against using threats and harsh treatment.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven." (Ephesians 6:9)

### **• Subpoint B: Recognition of God's Authority**

- *God as Ultimate Master:* Recognizing that both slaves and masters have the same Master in heaven.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For he who is called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who is free when called is a bondservant of Christ." (1 Corinthians 7:22)
- *No Partiality with God:* God shows no partiality between slaves and masters.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality." (Colossians 3:25)

## **Main Point 3: Service with Good Will**

### **• Subpoint A: Working for the Lord**

- *Service as Worship:* Viewing work and service as acts of worship to the Lord.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- *Wholehearted Service*: Encouraging a wholehearted approach to work and service.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

- **Subpoint B: Assurance of Reward**

- *Heavenly Reward*: Assurance that God will reward faithful service.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:24)
- *Eternal Perspective*: Maintaining an eternal perspective in all aspects of work and service.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." (2 Corinthians 4:17)

## **Main Point 4: Modern Implications**

- **Subpoint A: Employer-Employee Relationships**

- *Respect and Fairness*: Applying principles of respect and fairness in modern workplaces.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
- *Integrity and Diligence*: Encouraging integrity and diligence in work relationships.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

- **Subpoint B: Mutual Accountability**

- *Mutual Respect*: Fostering mutual respect between employers and employees.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)
- *Shared Accountability to God*: Recognizing shared accountability to God in all relationships.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is

due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

## Main Point 5: Transformative Power of the Gospel

### • Subpoint A: Changing Social Norms

- *Impact of the Gospel.* How the gospel transforms social norms and relationships.
  - *Scripture Reference.* “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)
- *Promoting Justice and Equality.* The role of the gospel in promoting justice and equality.
  - *Scripture Reference.* “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:14)

### • Subpoint B: Living Out the Gospel

- *Witness Through Relationships.* The power of godly relationships as a witness to the world.
  - *Scripture Reference.* “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
- *Demonstrating Christ’s Love.* Demonstrating Christ’s love in all interactions.
  - *Scripture Reference.* “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:14)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the biblical instructions for slaves and masters, focusing on mutual respect, service, and the transformative power of the gospel.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to apply these principles in modern workplaces, fostering relationships that honor God and reflect His justice and love.

## Lecture 27: The Armor of God (Part 1) (Ephesians 6:10-13)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the concept of spiritual warfare and the necessity of the armor of God, focusing on the context and introduction of the armor in Ephesians 6:10-13.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:10-13, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Be Strong in the Lord

- **Subpoint A: Source of Strength**
  - *Strength in the Lord:* Emphasizing reliance on God's strength, not our own.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” (Psalm 28:7)
  - *Empowerment by God:* Understanding that our strength comes from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)
- **Subpoint B: Strength of His Might**
  - *God's Mighty Power:* Recognizing the magnitude of God's power available to us.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17)
  - *Applying God's Power:* How to apply God's strength in our daily lives.

- *Scripture Reference:* "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

## **Main Point 2: Putting on the Whole Armor of God**

### **• Subpoint A: Comprehensive Protection**

- *The Whole Armor.* The necessity of putting on the full armor, not just parts of it.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)
- *Spiritual Preparedness.* The importance of being fully prepared for spiritual battles.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13)

### **• Subpoint B: Standing Against the Devil's Schemes**

- *Awareness of Schemes.* Recognizing and understanding the strategies of the enemy.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs." (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- *Resistance through Armor.* Using the armor of God to resist and stand firm.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

## **Main Point 3: The Nature of Our Battle**

### **• Subpoint A: Not Against Flesh and Blood**

- *Spiritual Warfare.* Understanding that our battle is not against human opponents.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:4)

- *Focus on Spiritual Forces*: Recognizing the true nature of our adversaries.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Do not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 20:1)
- **Subpoint B: Against Spiritual Forces of Evil**
  - *Hierarchy of Evil*: Exploring the hierarchy and organization of spiritual evil.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:1-2)
  - *Strategies of Darkness*: The schemes and strategies employed by these forces.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

#### **Main Point 4: The Command to Stand Firm**

- **Subpoint A: Withstanding in the Evil Day**
  - *Preparation for Adversity*: Being prepared to withstand attacks during difficult times.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)
  - *Holding Ground*: The importance of holding our ground against spiritual attacks.
    - *Scripture Reference*: “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:12)
- **Subpoint B: Having Done All, to Stand Firm**
  - *Completeness of Preparation*: Ensuring we have done everything possible to stand firm.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- *Steadfastness in Faith.* The call to remain steadfast in our faith and commitment.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

## **Main Point 5: Practical Application of the Armor of God**

### **• Subpoint A: Daily Spiritual Discipline**

- *Prayer and Study.* The role of daily prayer and Bible study in equipping ourselves with the armor.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
- *Fellowship and Accountability.* The importance of Christian fellowship and accountability.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

### **• Subpoint B: Mindset of Victory**

- *Living Victoriously.* Embracing a mindset of victory through Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)
- *Overcoming Fear.* Overcoming fear and doubt by relying on God’s promises.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

## **Conclusion**

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the need to be strong in the Lord, the nature of our spiritual battle, and the importance of standing firm by putting on the whole armor of God.

- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to daily equip themselves with the armor of God, understand the true nature of their spiritual battles, and stand firm in the strength of the Lord.

## Lecture 28: The Armor of God (Part 2) (Ephesians 6:14-17)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To delve deeper into the specific components of the armor of God, exploring their significance and application in spiritual warfare.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:14-17, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Belt of Truth

- **Subpoint A: Truth as Foundation**
  - *Foundational Integrity.* Truth as the foundation of the Christian’s armor.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)
  - *Stability in Truth.* How the belt of truth provides stability and readiness.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25)
- **Subpoint B: Living in Truth**
  - *Honesty and Integrity.* Embracing a lifestyle of honesty and integrity.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)
  - *Defensive and Offensive Use.* Truth as both a defensive and offensive weapon in spiritual warfare.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.” (Psalm 33:4)



## Main Point 2: The Breastplate of Righteousness

### • Subpoint A: Imputed Righteousness

- *Righteousness Through Christ.* Understanding righteousness as given through faith in Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- *Protection of Righteousness.* How righteousness protects the believer's heart.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love." (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

### • Subpoint B: Living Righteously

- *Practical Righteousness.* The call to live out righteousness in daily life.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face." (Psalm 11:7)
- *Defense Against Accusation.* Righteous living as a defense against accusations.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

## Main Point 3: The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

### • Subpoint A: Readiness of the Gospel

- *Preparedness for Battle.* Being ready to stand firm with the gospel.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)
- *Peace and Stability.* The peace that comes from the gospel provides stability.

- *Scripture Reference:* “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

- **Subpoint B: Proclaiming the Gospel**

- *Spreading the Good News.* The importance of being active in spreading the gospel.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Romans 10:15)
- *Living Out the Gospel.* Demonstrating the gospel through our actions.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

#### **Main Point 4: The Shield of Faith**

- **Subpoint A: Faith as Protection**

- *Extinguishing Darts.* Using faith to extinguish the fiery darts of the enemy.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4)
- *Active Defense.* Faith as an active defense against spiritual attacks.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

- **Subpoint B: Strengthening Faith**

- *Growing in Faith.* Ways to strengthen and grow our faith.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)
- *Living by Faith.* Living a life characterized by faith in God.
  - *Scripture Reference:* “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)



## Main Point 5: The Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

### • Subpoint A: The Helmet of Salvation

- *Assurance of Salvation*: The helmet provides assurance and protection for our minds.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17)
- *Mindset of Salvation*: Keeping our thoughts focused on our salvation and hope in Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." (Colossians 3:2)

### • Subpoint B: The Sword of the Spirit

- *Word of God as Weapon*: Using Scripture as an offensive weapon against the enemy.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)
- *Practical Use of Scripture*: Applying Scripture in daily life and spiritual battles.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reflecting on the significance of each piece of the armor of God and how they equip believers for spiritual warfare.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to put on the full armor of God daily, understanding the purpose of each piece, and using them effectively in their spiritual journey.

## Lecture 29: Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18-20)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To explore the concept and practice of praying in the Spirit, focusing on its role in spiritual warfare and the life of a believer.
- **Text for Consideration:** “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:18-20, ESV)

### Main Point 1: Praying at All Times in the Spirit

- **Subpoint A: Constant Prayer**
  - *Continual Communication:* The importance of maintaining a constant communication with God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)
  - *Prayer as a Lifeline:* Viewing prayer as an essential part of our spiritual lifeline.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- **Subpoint B: Praying in the Spirit**
  - *Spirit-Aided Prayer:* Understanding what it means to pray in the Spirit.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26)
  - *Dependence on the Spirit:* Relying on the Holy Spirit in our prayers.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:18)

## Main Point 2: With All Prayer and Supplication

### • Subpoint A: Types of Prayer

- *Variety in Prayer*: Utilizing different types of prayer such as adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)
- *Balance in Prayer*: Balancing our prayers between personal needs and the needs of others.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” (1 Timothy 2:1)

### • Subpoint B: Specific Supplications

- *Making Specific Requests*: The importance of making specific requests in our prayers.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)
- *Intercessory Prayer*: Praying specifically for the needs of others.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16)

## Main Point 3: Keeping Alert with All Perseverance

### • Subpoint A: Spiritual Vigilance

- *Staying Spiritually Alert*: The call to remain vigilant in our spiritual lives.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- *Watchfulness in Prayer*: The importance of being watchful and alert in prayer.
  - *Scripture Reference*: “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2)



- **Subpoint B: Perseverance in Prayer**

- *Persistence in Prayer.* The necessity of perseverance in our prayer life.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1)
- *Overcoming Discouragement.* How to overcome discouragement and maintain a persistent prayer life.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

#### **Main Point 4: Making Supplication for All the Saints**

- **Subpoint A: Praying for Fellow Believers**

- *Interceding for the Saints.* The call to pray for fellow believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf." (Romans 15:30)
- *Building Up the Body.* How intercessory prayer builds up the body of Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

- **Subpoint B: Global Perspective**

- *Praying for the Global Church.* Extending our prayers to the global church.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1)
- *Unity in Prayer.* Promoting unity through shared prayer for all believers.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21)

## Main Point 5: Praying for Boldness in Proclaiming the Gospel

- **Subpoint A: Boldness for Gospel Proclamation**

- *Request for Boldness:* Paul's request for prayer to boldly proclaim the gospel.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Pray also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel." (Ephesians 6:19)
- *Courage in Witnessing:* The importance of boldness and courage in witnessing.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness." (Acts 4:29)

- **Subpoint B: Ambassadors for Christ**

- *Representing Christ:* Understanding our role as ambassadors for Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- *Proclaiming the Mystery of the Gospel:* The privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the gospel.
  - *Scripture Reference:* "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:8)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights:** Reflecting on the importance of praying in the Spirit, the various types of prayer, and the necessity of perseverance and vigilance in prayer.
- **Application to Modern Believers:** Encouraging believers to embrace a lifestyle of constant prayer, interceding for others, and seeking boldness in proclaiming the gospel.

## Lecture 30: Final Greetings and Benediction (Ephesians 6:21-24)

### Introduction

- **Purpose of this Session:** To examine Paul's final greetings and benediction in Ephesians, focusing on the themes of love, faith, and grace.
- **Text for Consideration:** "So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible." (Ephesians 6:21-24, ESV)

### Main Point 1: The Role of Tychicus

- **Subpoint A: Beloved Brother and Faithful Minister**
  - *Character of Tychicus.* Highlighting the qualities of Tychicus as a beloved brother and faithful minister.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord." (Colossians 4:7)
  - *Faithfulness in Ministry.* The importance of faithfulness in ministry.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- **Subpoint B: Messenger of Encouragement**
  - *Purpose of Sending Tychicus.* To inform and encourage the Ephesian believers.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts." (Ephesians 6:22)
  - *Role of Encouragement.* The critical role of encouragement in the body of Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference:* "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



## Main Point 2: Paul's Benediction of Peace

### • Subpoint A: Peace to the Brothers

- *Peace from God*: The source of peace is God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)
- *Living in Peace*: Encouraging believers to live in the peace of God.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

### • Subpoint B: Unity in Peace

- *Peace Among Believers*: The importance of peace within the Christian community.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:18)
- *Peace as a Witness*: How living in peace serves as a witness to the world.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

## Main Point 3: Love with Faith

### • Subpoint A: Love and Faith Together

- *Connection Between Love and Faith*: Exploring the relationship between love and faith.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us." (1 John 3:23)
- *Love as the Fulfillment of Faith*: How love fulfills the law and is an expression of faith.

- *Scripture Reference:* “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” (Galatians 5:6)
- **Subpoint B: Source of Love and Faith**
  - *Divine Origin:* Both love and faith come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)
  - *Living in Love and Faith:* Practical ways to live out love and faith in daily life.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” (Jude 1:20-21)

#### **Main Point 4: Grace to All Who Love Jesus**

- **Subpoint A: Grace as a Gift**
  - *Understanding Grace:* Grace is an unmerited favor from God.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)
  - *Experiencing Grace Daily:* Living in the daily reality of God’s grace.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- **Subpoint B: Loving Jesus with an Incorruptible Love**
  - *Unfading Love for Christ:* The call to love Jesus with an incorruptible and enduring love.
    - *Scripture Reference:* “Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.” (Ephesians 6:24)

- *Expressing Love for Christ*: How to express our love for Jesus in practical ways.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

## Main Point 5: The Importance of Final Greetings

### • Subpoint A: Personal Connections

- *Paul's Personal Touch*: The significance of personal greetings and connections in Paul's letters.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you." (Romans 16:16)
- *Building Relationships*: The importance of building and maintaining relationships within the church.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:9-10)

### • Subpoint B: Encouragement and Support

- *Encouragement in Greetings*: The role of encouragement in the final greetings.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Support Through Communication*: How communication and greetings foster support and unity.
  - *Scripture Reference*: "So that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts." (Colossians 4:8)

## Conclusion

- **Summary of Key Insights**: Reflecting on Paul's final greetings and benediction, focusing on the themes of peace, love, faith, and grace.
- **Application to Modern Believers**: Encouraging believers to embrace these themes in their daily lives, fostering peace, love, faith, and grace within their communities and in their relationship with God.