



Sunday, December 20, 2020

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

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

Question from Ch. 1-3: “What it is to be a Christian?”

In the first 3 chapters we learn why we should have an unparalleled DEVOTION TO GOD. In chapter 1 we see our RICHES in Christ. Then in chapter 2 Paul explains our RECONCILIATION to Christ. Finally, in chapter 3, Paul speaks of the REVELATION of Christ’s love for us.

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

Question from Ch. 4-6: “How to live as a Christian?”

We see how a transforming understanding of these DOCTRINAL TRUTHS lead to a lifestyle of DEVOTION to God as we pursue this DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTLIKENESS through our diligent study of His Word. This is followed by the DISPLAY OF CHRISTLIKENESS as we put into practice these truths of God in both our walk and warfare.



III. The **Warfare** of the Believer (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Question from Ch. 6: “How to continue forward as a Christian?”

In Ephesians 6 Paul commands us to CONTINUE FORWARD as we consider the WARFARE of the believer. We are to take PRAYERFUL STEPS OF FAITH engaging in battle as we employ the armor of God. We noted that SUFFICIENT PREPARATION is followed by SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE.

IV. The **Walk** of the Believer **Continuing FORWARD** (Eph. 6:21-24)

John 8:31 Then said **Jesus** to those Jews which believed on **Him**, “If ye continue [*abide*] in **My** Word, *then* are ye **My** disciples indeed;

John 14:23-24 **Jesus** answered and said unto him, “If a man love **Me**, he will keep **My** words: and **My** Father will love him, and **We** will come unto him, and make **Our** abode with him. **24** He that loveth **Me** not keepeth not **My** sayings: and the word which ye hear is not **Mine**, but the **Father’s** which sent **Me**.”

A. Paul’s Ministry **Partner** (Ephesians 6:21-22)

1. Tychicus was **Beneficial** (Eph. 6:21)

- a. He was a **beloved** colleague—“*a beloved brother*”
 - b. He was a **trusted** colleague —“*a faithful minister*”
-

As a “*faithful minister*,” Tychicus was responsive to the needs of others.

2. Tychicus was a **Blessing** (Eph. 6:22)

Colossians 4:7-8 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow-servant in the Lord: **8** Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

B. Paul’s Meaningful **Prayer** (Ephesians 6:23-24)

1. Our **Expression** of Dynamic Faith is **Peace & Love** (Eph. 6:23)

This “faith” is our belief in God—what we believe to be true about God.

Therefore, dynamic/ **active** “faith” is stepping out into the light of Christ based upon the truths of God’s Word.



a. **Pursue** Peace with others

Throughout this letter to the saints in Ephesus, Paul repeatedly speaks of how peace with God is to lead to peace with others (Ephesians 2:14-17).

b. Practice **Sacrificial** Love for others

Ephesians 4:2-3 [*Walk worthy (v. 1)*] With all lowliness [*humility*] and meekness, with longsuffering [*bearing patiently*], forbearing one another in love; **3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the **Spirit** in the bond of peace.

Throughout this letter to the saints in Ephesus, Paul repeatedly calls for the saints to display sacrificial love in their relationships (Ephesians 4:15-16).

John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another."

2. God's **Enablement** of Dynamic Faith is **Grace** (Eph. 6:24)

God's "*grace*" enables the believer to express their faith and display this "*sincere*" or imperishable "*love*" for the "*Lord Jesus Christ*."

Obedience is the expression of our unfaithing love for our Savior (John 14:15). This is enabled by the "*grace*" of God (1 Peter 5:5-6).

To "*humble yourself*" is to submit to God's way. It is a condition of the heart whereby one stops demanding their own way.

The Christian's submission to Christ's ruling will be revealed in loving stability as illustrated by a well-rooted tree and a well-built house (Ephesians 3:17-18).

Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of **Christ**, which [*sur*]passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with [*unto the measure of*] all the fullness of **God**.



The WALK of the Believer CONTINUES FORWARD in faith and faithfulness through GOD'S ENABLING GRACE. God uses the faithful ministry of other to encourage us to continue forward pursuing peace with and love for others.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!