

# Paul's Letter to the EPHESIANS

*Dear Ones In Ephesus:*

**T**his is from Paul, chosen by God to be a messenger of Jesus Christ.

Greetings to all of you there in Ephesus<sup>a</sup> who have truly dedicated yourselves to God and are faithful followers of Christ Jesus!

<sup>2</sup>May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ continue to give you peace of mind and heart.<sup>a</sup> And in undeserved supernatural ways, may They take care of all your needs, and enable you to live the Christian life day by day.<sup>b</sup>

## ***We Are So Rich Thru Christ***

<sup>3</sup>Praise and thanksgiving should literally flow from our hearts to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because God has given us every spiritual blessing He has in Heaven,<sup>a</sup> all because of who and where we now are in union with Christ.

<sup>4</sup>Even before He made the world,<sup>a</sup> He loved and chose as His very own those of us who would come to Him thru Jesus<sup>b</sup> so that we might be holy and

blameless, both in our standing with Him and in the way we would live before Him.

<sup>5</sup>And because of His great love for us,<sup>a</sup> He decided even then that because of what Jesus Christ would do for us, He would bring us right into His family as His very own adopted children.<sup>b</sup> And He made all these plans concerning us for no other reason than His own great delight in doing so.

<sup>6</sup>So let us indeed praise God for His most marvelous undeserved mercy and kindness, and for making us the objects of His kindness by forgiving us and receiving us to Himself by means of His Son who is so dear to Him<sup>a</sup>!

<sup>7</sup>We have been delivered from sin's guilt and penalty by means of the blood Jesus shed for us. As a result, God is now able to offer us forgiveness for all our wrongdoings. All that He did for us shows how overwhelmingly great His undeserved kindness and mercy is toward us.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>8</sup>He is acting in perfect wisdom and understanding<sup>a</sup> as He offers us His superabounding kindness, and then waiting until now to reveal to

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**1:1a** Ephesus was a hub city for commerce, and pagan religion centered around the worship of Artemis (Acts 19:23-41), whose temple in Ephesus was said to be one of the seven wonders of the world. It was in itself "big business". For background material on this letter, read Acts 18:19-21; 19:1-41; 20:17-38; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9.

**1:2a** God gives wonderful peace of mind and heart to those who turn from living in sin to living to please Him. They have the wonderful assurance from God's word and in their own spirits (Romans 8:16-17) that they are forgiven and will have God's blessing in this life and a glorious future with Him forever.

**1:2b** See Philippians 2:13 note.

**1:3a** Pardon, peace, redemption, adoption, the first payment of the Spirit, etc.

**1:4a** 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8.

**1:4b** Romans 8:28-30; 1 Peter 1:2.

**1:5a** What does God's love have to do with helping you succeed in living a Christian life and reaching Heaven? See Appendix 215, page 480.

**1:5b** Are God's children already chosen? God has decided that all who come to Him thru Jesus Christ will become members of His family, adopted by Him

as His children. But who will become a child of God is left up to each individual. God has given each of us a free will. It is we who will decide whether we will receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, or reject Him. Romans 8:28-30; Revelation 22:17; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9.

**1:6a** But God loves you just as much as He loves His Son Jesus. Jesus said so. See John 17:23.

**1:7a** God's great desire is to grant you forgiveness and bring you into His presence as one of His children, to live with Him forever. He has such great things planned for you! 1 Corinthians 2:9.

However, although God's great love has caused Him to do all this for you thru Jesus, His wisdom and righteousness keep Him from forgiving you and giving you eternal life unless you willingly turn from your sinning and ask Him to forgive you and make a new person out of you thru a born-again experience by His Holy Spirit. Do it now! Ask God to come into your life and take full charge, and really mean it.

**1:8a** ... as seen by the way He devised a plan by which He could save us, still honor His own law, and then conceal that plan until the right time to reveal it ...

us the secret of what He had been planning all along.

<sup>9</sup>As we said,<sup>a</sup> He decided upon this plan to fulfill His own great desire. And the plan and purpose originated in His own mind, without any outside help or counsel.

<sup>10</sup>God has determined that when the destined time arrives, a single Ruler will have charge of all that is in Heaven and on earth. And that Ruler will be Christ<sup>a</sup>!

<sup>11</sup>Because of our relationship to Christ, we also have obtained an incredible inheritance.<sup>a</sup> And God has already decided what that inheritance will be for each of us,<sup>b</sup> in accordance with His own foreknowledge, plan, and purpose, which is always to fulfill His own desire and will.

<sup>12</sup>So those of us who were the first to put our hope in Christ, have now been sent out to glorify and praise our God as we tell others about His now-revealed, amazing plan.

<sup>13</sup>And when you people heard the true message, the Great News about how you could be saved,<sup>a</sup> you also believed in Jesus. And when you believed in Him, God put His seal of ownership upon you by giving you the Holy Spirit whom He had promised.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>14</sup>The Holy Spirit is given to us<sup>a</sup> as a kind of small down payment on our inheritance, until Christ comes back and takes full possession of what He purchased. Truly, the conclusion of our redemption will be the crowning tribute to God's glory.

### Paul's Prayer

<sup>15</sup>So after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all who truly love God,

<sup>16</sup>I haven't stopped yet in my thanks to God for

you.

<sup>17</sup>I'm always praying for you, asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, our most glorious Father, that He will give you the spiritual gifts of wisdom and deep understanding, so that your knowledge of Him will be greatly increased.

<sup>18</sup>I'm also praying that the eyes of both your minds and hearts<sup>a</sup> will be able to clearly see and understand how utterly brilliant our future is since He called us into fellowship with Himself, and how utterly great the magnitude is of the gloriously rich inheritance that God has planned for those who are truly dedicated to Him.

<sup>19</sup>May you also realize how extremely great God's power is. He is already using His great power on behalf of those of us who believe in Him,

<sup>20</sup>in the same powerful way that He worked on behalf of Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him right next to Himself at His right hand in Heaven.

<sup>21</sup>When He placed Him there, He elevated Him to the highest conceivable dignity and honor, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion among both men and angels, and above every title of authority that can be named, not only in the present order of things but also in that which is to come.

<sup>22</sup>He has put everyone and everything, including all in the Church, under Christ's authority.

<sup>23</sup>The Church<sup>a</sup> is His body. He completely fills it, which He does in regard to everything else as well.

### We Are Now Alive Thru Christ

**2**As for you, you were spiritually dead because of your disobedience and other sins.

<sup>2</sup>At that time, you lived just like the people of the world live today. You were under the control of the

1:9a ...verse 5...

1:10a 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16.

1:11a Romans 8:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:10; 20:6; 22:5.

1:11b And just consider the incredible greatness of that incredible inheritance—what great plans God must have for each of us when you think of the fact that *He loves each of us in the same way and to the same extent that he loves His Son Jesus!* John 17:23. How incredibly rich we are in Christ! Shout for joy, and sing praises to our wonderful God and Father!

1:13a ... saved from God's judgment because of your sin, ...

1:13b John 14:15-17; 16:5-15; Acts 19:1-7.

1:14a Luke 11:13.

1:18a The message of the Great News needs to make a terrific impact on both our minds and hearts in regard to the utter greatness of the inheritance we have in God. Some Greek texts use *minds* here, and others use *hearts*. Both are right.

1:23a The Church is the people, not a building. Christ lives within His people.

2:2a Satan.

2:3a ... *who continue to ignore God and His message to them.*

2:6a Revelation 3:21.

2:8a Many teach that even our faith is a gift from God, and is not from ourselves. And they use this verse as one of their proof texts. But the Greek word *touto*, which translated is *that*, is a neuter pronoun, which must refer back to the previous verb, which is the word *saved*. So it's our *salvation* that is a gift

prince of the power of the air,<sup>a</sup> the spirit who even now is at work in the hearts of all who refuse to obey God.

<sup>3</sup>All of us at one time lived for the same purpose as they, living to satisfy the cravings of our depraved nature. Our whole concern was to fulfill the desires of our mind and body. Because of our evil nature, we were doomed to experience God's awful wrath in judgment, just like all others.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>4</sup>But God is so merciful! And because of His great love for us, even when we were spiritually dead because of our sins,

<sup>5</sup>He has now made it possible for us to become alive, when He raised Christ from the dead. You are saved by God's freely given, undeserved mercy.

<sup>6</sup>So He has raised us up together with Christ from the dead, and has given us a place of honor in Heaven right along with Christ Jesus.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>He did all this so that in the ages to come He might point to us as examples of how extremely generous He was in granting us undeserved mercy when He showed His kindness toward us because of what Christ Jesus had done for us.

<sup>8</sup>So it is only because of God's undeserved kindness that you have been saved by your faith in Christ. And that salvation<sup>a</sup> is not something you can work out for yourself. It is a gift from God!

<sup>9</sup>You can't work for it, so no one can brag about what he did to save himself.

<sup>10</sup>Because God is the One who worked for us<sup>a</sup> and now continues to work in us.<sup>b</sup> Thru Christ Jesus He made new people of us, so that we would now do what is right and good. God's plan from the very beginning was that when He forgave us, we would obey Him and do what is honorable and right.<sup>c</sup>

### *Jew and Gentile Now One in Christ*

<sup>11</sup>And remember, that you were Gentiles<sup>a</sup> by birth. You were ridiculed as *the uncircumcised* by the Jews, who take great pride in calling themselves *the circumcised* (referring to what human hands do to the body).

<sup>12</sup>At that time you had no connection at all with Christ. You had no citizenship in Israel, no share in the promises God had made to them. You were lost in the world, without hope and without God.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>13</sup>But now, you who once were so far from God have been brought near by means of what Christ Jesus did when He shed His blood as a sacrifice to God for you.

<sup>14</sup>Christ Himself is the One who has now brought us together in peace, making Jews and Gentiles one people, one family. He broke down the hate between us, the wall that separated us.

<sup>15</sup>By the sacrifice of His own body He did away with the Jewish Law with its rules, regulations, and ceremonies, which had caused both Jews and Gentiles to treat each other with such scorn and hatred. His purpose was to create from the two people one new body of people in union with Himself, thereby making peace.

<sup>16</sup>By means of His death on the cross, Christ made it possible for everyone—Jew or Gentile—to be restored to friendship with God, and become a part of His one new body of people. So their hatred for each other is put to death when they discover they must now come to God by the same Savior.

<sup>17</sup>And our Savior came and announced the Great News about peace with God, both to you Gentiles, who were far away from God, and also to the Jews, who were near Him.

from God, not our faith! It is we who must exercise faith in God's promises. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes when we read the word of God and as we listen to the word of God being read and explained. Only in this way do verses 8-10 here make any sense together. (See *The Science of Biblical Hermeneutics* by Dr. R. T. Chafer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, page 75, paragraph 4).

Our part in our salvation is to *turn from our sinning and obey God, and believe in our Lord Jesus—the Messiah, as our Savior*, as Paul taught in Acts 20:21. God has done His part, and we are now to both *believe* and *obey*. See Romans 2:1-10; 6:16, and Hebrews 5:9 note.

This is not to be confused with the gift of *special faith* (1 Corinthians 12:9), which God gives to certain followers of His to be used in His service.

How does one receive faith? See Romans 10:11, and the note there.

**2:10a** ... *thru the sacrifice of Christ* ...

**2:10b** See Philippians 2:13 note.

**2:10c** John 15:1-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 4:21-24.

**2:11a** All who are not Jews.

**2:12a** "The ungodly person lives and feels and acts as if there were no God ... He makes decisions with no concern about God's will ... He puts no confidence in God's promises, and doesn't fear when He threatens. He's a traveler to eternity without a God! ... He has no Father in times of trial, no counselor in perplexity, no hope at the time of death."—*Albert Barnes' Notes*. But he must stand before God at The Judgment and answer to Him for his worthless life.

<sup>18</sup>Because it's thru Him that both of us are now able to enter into the presence of the Father, with the help of the one and the same Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners! You are fellow citizens of Heaven along with all others who are dedicated to God. You are members of God's Royal Family!

<sup>20</sup>*Your very hope of eternal life and amazing destiny*<sup>a</sup> is like a building that's been built on the solid foundation laid down by the apostles and prophets,<sup>b</sup> with Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

<sup>21</sup>So the whole building is being put together by and upon Christ. And it's continuing to grow into a house that is holy and is totally dedicated to the Lord God.

<sup>22</sup>And you also are being built and knit together with all others in union with Christ as a place of residence in which God is living by His Spirit.

### *God's Revelation to Paul*

**3** In fact, I'm now a prisoner because I obeyed the command of Jesus the Messiah to tell you Gentiles the Great News.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Surely you've all heard about the assignment God gave me to tell you about the undeserved favor He is now offering all mankind.

<sup>3</sup>I have already written you briefly about how, by special revelation, God revealed truth to me that was before unknown.

<sup>4</sup>By reading it, you will understand what I know about this previously hidden truth about Christ.

<sup>5</sup>It had not been revealed to man in previous generations in the clear way it has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to God's dedicated apostles and prophets.

<sup>6</sup>The truth now revealed is that the Gentiles can be fellow heirs of God with Israel. They are eligible to be united in the same body—Christ's Church. They can all now receive all the blessings God promises in the Great News about Christ.

<sup>7</sup>And thru favor I certainly did not deserve, God

gave me the privilege of being His messenger of this Great News, with His power working so effectively thru me.

<sup>8</sup>I'm the least worthy of all the followers of Christ, but God was so very kind in sending me out to tell people everywhere about the riches we have because of Christ, riches so unsearchable that one can't even begin to fully explore them.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>9</sup>My assignment is to make all people see what common interest and fellowship all of us now can enjoy because of the truth that has now been revealed. God has always had this plan hidden away in His own mind, even before the beginning of the ages when He created all things thru Jesus Christ.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup>His plan from the very beginning was that now, by means of His invitation to people of all nations to become His people, He might reveal to the authorities and rulers in heavenly realms the inexhaustible features of His wisdom.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>11</sup>They can see that God's great plan and firm intention thruout the ages has now been accomplished thru Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup>And thru our faith in the Lord Jesus, we can now approach God and come boldly into His very presence and be assured of His warm welcome!

<sup>13</sup>So for that reason alone, I don't want you to lose courage and give up because of all the sufferings I've gone thru for you. Instead, you should feel encouraged and honored that you have a friend who is willing to suffer for you so that you also might fearlessly remain faithful, whatever the cost.<sup>a</sup>

### *Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians*

<sup>14</sup>Because of all I have just said, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup>Because from the Father comes every true concept of fatherhood, both in Heaven and on earth.

<sup>16</sup>My prayer to Him for you is that from the abundance of His glorious power, that can never be exhausted, He will powerfully strengthen each of

**2:20a** Implied.

**2:20b** ... upon their teachings and revelations, received from God ...

**3:1a** Acts 9:1-19; 21:27 to 22:22.

**3:8a** 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 12:4; Ephesians 1:11.

**3:9a** John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2.

**3:10a** The angels in Heaven may have wondered for many centuries why God had taken such interest in the Jews when all people were His creation.

**3:13a** Acts 14:22.

**3:16a** The body needs to be strengthened every day. The same is true of the soul. It needs a constant supply of God's grace, or it withers and decays. The soul is fed by meeting with God in prayer (and by times of fasting and prayer), and by reading His word. You will then be strengthened to bear trials, to perform your duties, to glorify His name.

**3:17a** It is not enough that you think about Him, and even talk about Him. He must be invited to come into your heart, by His Spirit, to take absolute control of your life.

**3:19a** See 4:13.

you from the center of your being to the very depths of your soul with His Holy Spirit.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>17</sup>I also pray that by faith you will throw the doors to your hearts wide open to receive Christ to live within you.<sup>a</sup> And may you be deeply rooted in your love for Him, firm and unwavering.

<sup>18</sup>Then you will be able to begin to fully realize, together with all others who are dedicated to God, just how immeasurably wide and long and deep and high Christ's love for you really is.

<sup>19</sup>May you indeed come to know and experience His love, although the love He has for us goes far beyond our ability to presently understand. As a result of such love, may you be full of God and filled with all that God desires for your life.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>20</sup>May God be praised, as we consider the fact that He is able to do extremely and abundantly more than we can ever ask<sup>a</sup> or even imagine, by His power that's already at work within us.

<sup>21</sup>Because of all He has done and continues to do, may He be glorified in the Church thru Christ Jesus thruout all generations, for all ages to come! So be it!

### **One Church, Many Parts**

**4** Therefore,<sup>a</sup> as a prisoner because of preaching the message the Lord gave me, I plead with all of you to live your lives in a manner worthy of the great-hearted invitation God has extended to you.

<sup>2</sup>In a gentle and humble spirit of love,<sup>a</sup> always be patient and understanding toward each other.

<sup>3</sup>Always be careful not to lose the spirit of unity. Let the peace you all enjoy because of Christ be the glue that binds you together.

<sup>4</sup>Remember, you are all members of the one and only true family of God. And there is only one Holy Spirit, just as we have all been called<sup>a</sup> to the one sure hope of the same glorious future.

<sup>5</sup>There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

<sup>6</sup>Above all else, there is only one God, who is the Father<sup>a</sup> of all of us. He is the Ruler over all, by whose wisdom and power all things exist and are

sustained. Think of it, He, the greatest of all, has chosen to live within each of us!

<sup>7</sup>But while that's true, each of us have received different gifts. And Christ is the One who has decided what gifts each will receive, and the magnitude of each gift.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>8</sup>That's why David prophesied:

**When Christ went up to Heaven, He brought with Him many who had been captives of Satan, and gave gifts to His followers who were still on earth.<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>9</sup>Now what do the words "Christ went up to Heaven" mean, except that He first came down to earth and experienced the lowest state of humiliation here?

<sup>10</sup>So the One who came down is also the One who went back up, far above all the heavens, in order that He might fill all of God's creation with His presence.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Then He appointed some of us as apostles, others as prophets, others evangelists, and others as pastors and teachers.

<sup>12</sup>He appointed these to their various positions for the purpose of perfecting God's people for the work He has for each of us to do, so that everyone in the Church body might be built up and strengthened in their faith and unconditional surrender to Christ.

<sup>13</sup>God's ultimate purpose in all of this is that we may all become united in our understanding and acceptance of the truth about our salvation, and in our knowledge of the Son of God. He wants us to become fully mature, developing in faith and moral character until we become wholly and altogether like Christ.

<sup>14</sup>He wants us to stop acting like little children, continually being carried about by every wave that comes along by the shifting wind of every teaching that scheming men put forth, who in their craftiness even systematize their false teachings.

<sup>15</sup>Instead, if we continue to share the truth with each other<sup>a</sup> with loving concern, each of us will mature in every way that is pleasing to Christ, who

**3:20a** We can never ask too much if we ask with the honest goal that only God will be glorified in the answer.

**4:1a** Therefore, *since God has done so much for you, revealing His glorious plan which includes you Gentiles, calling you into His Kingdom, ...*

**4:2a** ... *as you think of all that God has put up with regarding you, ...*

**4:4a** Romans 8:28-30.

**4:6a** 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5.

**4:7a** 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. By experience we

know that by earnest prayer, and by using and exercising our talents and gifts, we can increase their magnitude and effectiveness.

**4:8a** Psalm 68:18.

**4:10a** Which means—that He might fill all things by His influence, and overrule all by His wisdom and power. Christ, as God, is present everywhere. See 1:23. Christ ascended so that He might pervade and energize the universe, exercise regal sovereignty, and provide His Church with the necessary things to grow, mature, and evangelize.

is our Head.

<sup>16</sup>From Him the whole body of His followers receives the ability to grow and become all that it should be, as it works together unselfishly in true love for one another. And all the parts must be connected and knit together at every joint so that each part is able to strengthen the others. Because each part is able to function properly and be fully effective only as it receives full cooperation, with all the other parts putting forth the full measure of strength and energy of which each is capable. In that way, the body of Christ will cause itself to grow by means of love.

***Throw the Old Life Overboard!***

<sup>17</sup>That's why, as a follower of the Lord, I challenge you to stop living like the other Gentiles do, in the stupidity of their empty understanding!

<sup>18</sup>Their minds have become utterly darkened in regard to their understanding of what life is all about.<sup>a</sup> They have no idea of the incredibly great rewards<sup>b</sup> that can be theirs when one lives for and with God, because in their ignorance they have stubbornly hardened their hearts toward Him.

<sup>19</sup>Most of them have gone past the point of feeling any guilt at all about their evil lives. Having totally given themselves over to impure and corrupt living, they go all the way in their rebellion, and are forever craving new ways to satisfy the lusts of their flesh and mind that are never truly satisfied.

<sup>20</sup>But Christ didn't teach you to live like that.

<sup>21</sup>If you have indeed listened carefully to what Jesus taught, if you have learned the true meaning of what He said, you know that the truth He taught was this:

<sup>22</sup>You are to rebel against your old way of living. Throw it overboard! Be done with it! Utterly abandon your old self, which is constantly being corrupted and ruined by its deceitful desires!<sup>a</sup>

***Rules for the New Life***

<sup>23</sup>Only when you have an entirely new attitude toward the awful rebellion against God that sin really is, and realize the sure judgment of God upon every sinner, can you live in the state of being the new person that God demands that you be.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>24</sup>So take upon your person the new self. After all, you were created to be like God! So live a life of genuine honesty, purity, faithfulness, goodness, and holiness, resulting from sincere obedience to all the truth to be found in God's word.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>25</sup>So put all lying out of your lives. Always speak the truth to one another, because we are all members of the one body of Christ.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>26</sup>Be angry in a just cause, but don't sin as a result of your anger. Don't go to bed angry, without getting rid of it.

<sup>27</sup>Don't let the devil get a toehold in your life!<sup>a</sup>

<sup>28</sup>The one who has been stealing must no longer steal! Instead, he must get an honest job and put his hands to work at doing something useful. Then he will have something to give to those in need.

<sup>29</sup>Stop taking part in foul, critical gossiping, or foolish talk. Speak only that which will encourage or build others up, according to their needs, for in that way you will benefit instead of harm those who listen.

<sup>30</sup>Don't say or do anything that will cause grief to the Holy Spirit of God. After all, He is the One who has placed His seal on you,<sup>a</sup> looking forward to the Day when you will finally be reclaimed.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>31</sup>You must also rid yourselves of all bitterness, all violent outbursts of anger, all slander, and shouting accusations, along with every other form of malice.

<sup>32</sup>Instead, you must always be kind to one another, tenderhearted, always forgiving one another in

4:15a Romans 10:9-10.

4:18a Insisting on indulging in sin is what has caused this darkness of understanding.

4:18b 1 Corinthians 2:9.

4:22a 2 Corinthians 5:17.

4:23a 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:1-7.

4:24a Jesus never taught that He would make allowance for mere selective obedience on the part of His followers. Mark 8:34-38.

4:25a Everything you say or do at any time or in any place affects the rest of the Church, for good or evil.

4:27a ... *by letting your anger continue to eat*

*away at you.*

4:30a See note on 2 Corinthians 1:22.

4:30b ... *from death and corruption.*

4:32a Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35.

5:3a The Greek word means voluntary sexual intercourse between persons of the opposite sex who are not lawfully married to each other. The meaning of the word also includes homosexuality, bestiality, and all other sexual immorality.

5:3b Romans 1:24-30; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-6.

5:5a No matter how much faith a person may claim to have in Christ as Savior, living in sin will

the same great-hearted and generous way that God has forgiven you<sup>a</sup> because of Christ.

**5** So always do what God would do in your situation, just as a much-loved child imitates his father.

<sup>2</sup> Live a life in which every decision is made by love, in the same way that Christ's great love for us caused Him to be willing to offer up Himself in death on our behalf, as a sacrifice that was like fragrant incense to God.

<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality,<sup>a</sup> or any other kind of impurity,<sup>b</sup> or greed, must never be mentioned among you in such a way as to imply that such practices are natural for one who claims to be dedicated to God.

<sup>4</sup> Also, you must not indulge in shameful or foolish talk, or dirty jokes, which are not at all proper for those who are to be like Jesus. Instead, talk about the many things for which you are truly thankful.

<sup>5</sup> Because you can be sure of this: No one who indulges in sexual immorality, or is impure in any other way, or is a covetous person—that is, anyone who loves and worships money and the things of this world more than he loves God—will ever enter Heaven or have any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.<sup>a</sup>

### *Live as People Who Have the Light*

<sup>6</sup> Don't let anyone fool you by false arguments when they encourage you to take part in such sinning, for it's because of just such sinning that God's anger in judgment continues to fall on those who are disobedient to Him.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup> So don't have any part at all in any of their sins!

<sup>8</sup> At one time you lived in darkness, but then the Lord turned the light on for you! So now you must live like children of God, who have God's light by which to walk.

<sup>9</sup> Because the kind of fruit the Holy Spirit wants

to produce in your lives, now that you have received light, includes all that is good and right and truthful.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup> So always carefully and prayerfully examine whatever action you are considering, to make sure that the Lord would be happy to have you go ahead with it.

<sup>11</sup> But have nothing to do with those evil deeds of darkness, which don't benefit you or anyone else in any way. Instead, you must make a practice of warning everyone of how deadly and destructive those sins really are.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Because it would be shameful to even describe here or talk about the things those people are doing in secret.

<sup>13</sup> But everything that's being exposed for what it really is, is being exposed by means of the light.<sup>a</sup> Because only the light<sup>a</sup> can cause things to be seen as they really are.

<sup>14</sup> That's why God's man continues to shout the warning:

*Wake up, you who are asleep! Get up from among those who are dead, and Christ will shine on you!*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>15</sup> So you must be very careful how you live. Don't live like the foolish do, but as those who are wise.

<sup>16</sup> Be aggressive and seize every opportunity to act and speak out for God, because there are so many charms and temptations that would lead you away from the proper use of your time, and that would draw you away into sin.

<sup>17</sup> That's enough reason not to be foolish, but to always try hard to understand and know exactly what the Lord wants you to do and say.

<sup>18</sup> You must stop getting drunk on wine, which is the ruin of so many lives. But do be in a state of continually drinking in and being filled with the Holy Spirit.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Then you will be a constant inspiration to each other thru songs of praise and hymns and other spiritual songs, while from your hearts you are

earn him a place in Hell with the unbelievers of every stripe. Luke 12:46.

**5:6a** See Colossians 3:6, and the note there regarding the same warning; also Galatians 6:7; Hebrews 12:5-8; Revelation 3:19.

**5:9a** Galatians 5:22-23.

**5:11a** Participation in them leads to Hell! 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21. It is likewise a gross sin to fail to warn others of the deadliness of such sins.

**5:13a** People need the light of God's truth to shine

into their souls to reveal to them how wicked they really are, the consequences of that wickedness, and the remedy thru faith in Christ as their Savior and in surrender to His will.

**5:14a** ... with His blessings, with the end result that you will live with Him eternally.

**5:18a** You receive the continual filling of the Holy Spirit only by daily communion with God thru prayer and meditation, and by daily reading His word and rejoicing in all that it reveals of God—His glory, His promises, teachings, warnings, and com-

joyfully singing and praising the Lord.

<sup>20</sup>And several times a day, give thanks to our God and Father for everything you have received from Him thru our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>a</sup>

### ***Wives and Husbands***

<sup>21</sup>Always be submissive to one another, as this is so pleasing to God.

<sup>22</sup>Wives, always submit yourselves to your own husbands in the same way that you do to the Lord,<sup>a</sup>

<sup>23</sup>because your husband has authority over you just as Christ has authority over His Church, which is His body, of which He is the Savior and Protector.

<sup>24</sup>So just as the Church is under the authority of Christ, in the same way wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>25</sup>And husbands, you must always love your wives in the same sacrificial way that Christ loved the Church.<sup>a</sup> He gave His very life for her!

<sup>26</sup>Then, in order that He might make the people of His Church pure, He used His words as water to wash and cleanse them.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>27</sup>He did this so that He might present to Himself a glorious Church, one having no stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, being pure and unpolluted.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>28</sup>So husbands should love their wives in the same way that they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife is really loving himself.

<sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he cherishes and takes care of it, in the same way that Christ takes care of the Church.

<sup>30</sup>Because we are the various parts of His body. We are His “flesh” and “bones”.

<sup>31</sup>**That's why a man is to leave his father and mother and be united to his wife. The two are then to become as one person.<sup>a</sup>**

mands.

**5:20a** Thru His Son, God created us, saved us, and sustains us.

**5:22a** The wife's submission is a demonstration of her obedience to Christ. Obedience offered to the husband is obedience offered to Christ.

**5:24a** In everything that is not contrary to the will of God.

**5:25a** Just as Christ practiced self-denial and gave His life to save His Church and now lives to protect and preserve her, in the same way the husband is to be the savior and protector of his wife. When a wife has such a loving, sacrificing and protecting husband, she doesn't find it hard to obey him.

**5:26a** We are *justified* by faith that Christ died for us, and rose again. We are *regenerated* (born

<sup>32</sup>There's a great secret truth in that Scripture. I see it as applying to the relationship between Christ and His Church.

<sup>33</sup>But it also applies to you. Each of you men must love your wife in a very special way. You must always love her in the same way that you love yourself. And wives, you should always highly revere your husband.

### ***Children and Parents***

**6** Children, you must always obey your parents in a way that will honor the Lord, because this is the right thing to do.

<sup>2</sup>**Always honor your father and mother.** This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that's given with a promise.

<sup>3</sup>And the promise is: **If you honor your father and mother, things will go well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth.<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>4</sup>And, parents, you must never be severe, demanding and expecting so much from your children that they rebel against you in anger; instead, you must always discipline and instruct them in the loving, considerate, and wise way that Jesus would if He were in your place.<sup>a</sup>

### ***Employees and Employers***

<sup>5</sup>Employees, always obey your human employer.<sup>a</sup> Respect and fear him, and have real heart-concern to serve him well. Work as if you were working for Christ.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Don't be faithful only when the boss is watching, as some do who are only concerned about making a good impression. But work as servants of Christ, working from the heart in the way you believe God would have you work.

<sup>7</sup>In other words: Put your whole heart into your work, as if you were serving the Lord, and not men,

again) by allowing His words to cleanse and renew our minds and hearts. Both justification and regeneration are necessary for us to be saved. Luke 24:47; Acts 20:20-21; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 16:15.

**5:27a** Not all members of the visible church are members of Christ's true Church. It is in this life that all of this purification is to take place, because Christ will not present to Himself any who have not been *made pure by allowing God's words to cleanse and purify them.* v 26. Don't judge yourself by others who claim Christ, but by what the word of God says.

**5:31a** Genesis 2:24.

**6:3a** Deuteronomy 5:16

**6:4a** Love spoken and love shown are the greatest



<sup>8</sup>because you know it's the Lord who will reward you for the good you have done, whether you're working for others or serving others in your own business or profession.

<sup>9</sup>And employers, always treat your employees with the same heart-concern that you expect from them. Don't threaten them, because you know that the One who is both your Lord and theirs is watching from Heaven, and He has no favorites.<sup>a</sup>

### ***Serve and Fight from Strength***

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brothers and sisters, you must continue to draw your strength from the mighty arsenal of the Lord's power.

<sup>11</sup>You must put on all the armor that God provides, if you are to be able to stand up against all the skill and cunning snares of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>Because we are not fighting against beings made of flesh and blood, but against the rulers of evil spirits, against powerful forces, against the rulers that have produced the present evil darkness of this world, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

<sup>13</sup>So you will need to put on all the armor that God provides, if you are to be able to stand and fight against these enemies in these evil times. And after you've made every preparation for battle, take your position and effectively resist every attack.

<sup>14</sup>In order to successfully stand against these evil forces you will need to buckle the wide belt of truth<sup>a</sup> around your waist. Then you will need the breastplate of always aiming to please the Lord.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>15</sup>And your feet will require the shoes of eagerness to prepare and run with the message—the Great News that everyone can now have peace with God.

<sup>16</sup>In addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to deflect all the

flaming arrows your evil enemy will hurl at you.

<sup>17</sup>And for a helmet, be sure you have well-founded reasons for the assurance you have of your salvation.<sup>a</sup> For a sword, you will need to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray about every situation by means of all kinds of prayer and earnest pleading.<sup>a</sup> Pray in the Spirit, and especially be watchful and vigilant in earnest and persevering prayer for all who are dedicated to God.

<sup>19</sup>And pray for me. Pray that as I open my mouth to speak I will be given the words to use and boldness to speak them, as I share the secret about the Great News.

<sup>20</sup>Although I'm Christ's authorized messenger, I'm in chains because of preaching that Great News. So, pray that I may continue to be fearless when I speak, which is the way I should always be.

### ***Final Greetings***

<sup>21</sup>But so you may also know my true situation and how I'm doing, I'm sending Tychicus to you for the special purpose of giving you a full report. He's a dear brother and a faithful servant of the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>Besides bringing you the news from here, I want you to receive the encouragement he will be to you.

<sup>23</sup>May the peace that Christ purchased for you both fill you and thrill you. And may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ grant to all you dear friends true love to accompany your faith.

<sup>24</sup>May God in a most special way bless all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love that is unfading, indestructible, and imperishable. So be it!

Most sincerely,  
Paul

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powers on earth, aside from the power of God.

**6:5a** ... or the one he has appointed to supervise your work.

**6:5b** ... for in reality you are.

**6:9a** The same applies to all business and professional people. The quality of goods or service, the prices charged your customers, patients, or clients, the heart-concern you have for your customers, patients, clients, employees and their families—all of this is observed by God and judged by Him. 2 Chronicles 16:9a; Proverbs 5:21; 15:3; Matthew 7:12.

**6:14a** You must have strong convictions as to what the truth really is before you can convince others. And the truth is available only as you are

willing to spend time in reading and studying God's message. Only as you arm yourself with the truth will you have bold and boundless confidence in your stand. *Truth* here can also include your own sincerity and honesty.

**6:14b** Integrity, holiness, purity of life, sincerity of purpose to obey all of Christ's commands (never choosing the deceitful and fatal low road of selective obedience).

**6:17a** No soldier can fight well unless he has the sure hope that he will win. See Romans 8:16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

**6:18a** James 5:16.

**F**inally, my brothers and sisters, you must continue to draw your strength from the mighty arsenal of the Lord's power.

<sup>11</sup>You must put on all the armor that God provides, if you are to be able to stand up against all the skill and cunning snares of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>Because we are not fighting against beings made of flesh and blood, but against the rulers of evil spirits, against powerful forces, against the rulers that have produced the present evil darkness of this world, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

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<sup>16</sup>In addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to deflect all the flaming arrows your evil enemy will hurl at you.

<sup>17</sup>And for a helmet, be sure you have well-founded reasons for the assurance you have of your salvation. For a sword, you will need to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray about every situation by means of all kinds of prayer and earnest pleading. Pray in the Spirit, and especially be watchful and vigilant in earnest and persevering prayer for all who are dedicated to God.

—Ephesians 6:10-18