

The Writings of Paul

Chapter 9

Paul Preaches Morality

Formally in Trespass

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

And you hath he quickened:

The word **quicken**, as used in the above verse, is defined as:

1. To begin to move and be felt moving,
2. To return life to that which was dead,
3. To stimulate something such as interest or enthusiasm.

Who were dead in trespasses and sins, refers to we who were barred from heaven, and therefore dead in eternal damnation, God has **quicken**, or given cause to be stimulated in the interest of learning God's True Word.

Paul is writing this letter to those who lived in his day, but this is also true of we who live in these the End of Days. Before we began to look for God's Truth, we had no interest in scripture or religion, we were too caught up in what life through at us, but God has looked upon you and I with love and has given us a curiosity and has made us desire to learn more. I know this is true of you because you are reading these words.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world: The Course of this world is all the temptations both of the flesh and of the mind and wealth of the Earth. Before we began to study scripture, we lived day by day running around trying to stay ahead, but never seeming to get anywhere.

According to the prince of the power of the air; is a reference to Satan, who is the prince of the Earth, or he thinks he is, God disputes that claim. It is because of Satan's influence upon you and those around you that made you more concerned with the needs of this life rather than the needs of Life Eternal.

The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; the **children of disobedience** are **all of us who ignore God the Father and his commandments, and devote our energy in pursuit of worldly temptations.**

The "**Spirit,**" being spoken of is **Satan and the immoral behavior promoted by Satan.**

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind is a reference to sexual pursuits and the wealth of the world, and the accumulation of it.

And were by nature the children of wrath. As I have mentioned before, Man is an animal of the Earth, established by God along with all the other animals on the Sixth Day of Creation. As such, we have within us the animalistic desires as do the other animals.

God made Man greater than the other animals in that God made Man a living soul. What this means is that Man has the ability of living on the Earth but also has it in him to rise up to be perfect as is God. This is because, unlike any other animal, Man has the ability to understand right from wrong, and has in him the ability to choose between the two.

By nature, Man prefers those things that are in opposition to the Ways of God. Man would much rather not have a conscience concerning morality, and many will deny God so as to allow themselves the freedom to act immorally as they choose.

In God's Love

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:4-7***

But God, who is rich in mercy: Even though we who are of Man have for all but a few each generation, denied God and his morality, preferring to live as we saw fit, ignoring or refusing God's morality, yet even so, God in his powerful love for us, offers to you and I the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Even when we were dead in sins. **Remember:** those who live in sinfulness will never enter into heaven, and therefore have only eternal death to look forward to. But God says, that if we repent our sinfulness, forgiveness is possible.

Hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **Remember:** God raised Jesus Christ up from the grave into eternal life, and because of Jesus and all that he taught; we too can be resurrected into eternal life.

By Grace

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace are ye saved through faith, is simply this: If you believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that he then was lifted up into the heavens, and that Jesus is God in the flesh of a man, and all that Jesus taught is the morality of God and that as the children of God we must also live in God's Morality, then you are of the Faith, and because of this, you can be saved, because God loves his children who love him.

I Love those who love me, and those who seek me early, (diligently), shall find me. **Proverbs 8:17**

It is the gift of God refers to the fact that God is not obligated to offer a way to forgiveness which leads to redemption which leads to salvation; the offer is a **gift** from God to those who show that they love God. To Love God is to be moral as is God and to be obedient to your father in Heaven, as was Jesus.

If you are disobedient to the Word and Law of God, then why would he have any reason to allow you to enter into Heaven, only those who show their love for God will be given entry?

Not of works, lest any man should boast is reference to the work that you do in your effort to be righteous before God. It is true that only the Righteous shall enter Heaven, but the gift of forgiveness isn't given because you succeed in your works, but because of the Grace of God. The gift is given because of God's Mercy, not because of anything that we might do. Let me give you an example so as to make this clear.

Two Crucified

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done

nothing amiss.” And he said unto Jesus, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” **Luke 23:39-42**

And Jesus said unto him. “Verily I say unto thee, “To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” **Luke 23:43**

What I am pointing out, is God gives his gift of forgiveness to whom he chooses, and though it is important that we obey God’s Commandments and live by the Teachings of Jesus, it is not always those who God will choose to give his gift of forgiveness to.

The above malefactor, who was crucified alongside Jesus, repented his sin, when he admitted that he deserved to be executed, then he asked God for forgiveness, when he acknowledged Jesus as “Lord” and asked that Jesus “remember me.”

Even though this man undoubtedly lived a life-time in sin and evil ways, when he looked to Jesus, God in the flesh of a man, and asked God for forgiveness, God in his mercy granted him the gift of forgiveness.

You see, this man did not receive the gift because of his works, on the contrary, his works would have condemned him, but by the Grace of God and his powerful love for his children, God forgave this man.

Do not think that you are likewise forgiven and therefore do not need to keep the Commandments of God. The “Gift of Forgiveness,” is at God’s own discretion, so it is foolish to think that God will extend it to you if you live in sin and corruption. This can be shown as true in the following verse.

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. **Deuteronomy 5:10**

It is true, that this verse couples the act of loving God with the keeping of God’s Commandments, but if you notice, there is a comma separating the two qualifiers. This means that God shows mercy upon those who love him, as well as those who keep his commandments.

Even though the malefactor who was crucified with Jesus probably failed to keep the Commandments of God, he still showed that he loved God, when he repented his sins to Jesus and then asked that he be forgiven.

Created in good works

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

When you make something, from your skill and knowledge, it is an example of your workmanship. When God created Man, it is also an example of his workmanship; therefore, **Man is the workmanship of God.**

When you build something, it is for a purpose that you desire, else why would you build it? Whatever the reason is that you take the time and effort to build it, you want that it be of **the best quality** that you can accomplish, so that when you have finished building it you can look at it with pride and a sense of accomplishment.

This is how God feels concerning the universe he created in general, but specifically his greatest accomplishment is taking that which had no life, and giving it a living soul. In Man, God has created life and more than life, he has created life with the potential of godliness.

Because God also wants that his creation is of the **best of quality**, he wants that we, whom he calls his children, be pure and moral as is he. Something all **good fathers** desire of their children, someone who the father can look to with pride and love.

It is in this way that God looks at Man. When we fall short of perfection, due to our own mischief, or because of Satan's deceptions, then God is made sad, when we strive for the perfection of God, then God is filled with joy.

Were you aware of just how much you mean to God? Now that you know, are you given an even greater desire to give God reason to be joyous?

Written to the Gentiles

*Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. **Ephesians 2:11-13***

That ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh; is a reference to the Gentiles of the time of Paul, but also to those today who are without Christ, as well as those who though they call themselves Christian, fail to obey the Commandments of God, which is as it was with the Jews in the days of Paul.

Circumcision in the flesh made by hands is a reference to the fact that to circumcise someone it requires another person to use the knife that cuts off the excess skin. This circumcision is done by men to men, and not by God.

Ye were without Christ which is the same as without hope of eternal life. In Christ Jesus, we are taught how to achieve Righteousness, without the teacher, we are left in ignorance. Only those who are Righteous in the Eyes of God shall receive the gift of eternal life.

Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel: This refers to Israel the man who overcame his sins, and not to Israel the nation. To be **alien**, is **to not be a part of something**. The Faith that is Israel is that which part of the Faith that is Abraham is. In Abraham you have belief in the Word of God as being truth, in Israel, you were one of sin but who has overcome his sins and repented those sins, and has asked God for forgiveness. In these two Faiths, is the commonwealth of Israel built.

Strangers from the covenants of promise refer to all the covenants between God and Man. In each covenant, God made promises, that if Man would up hold his part of the contract, God would fulfill his promise as well. Even though Man has not as of yet kept his part of the covenant, God is intent that all promises he has ever made will be kept even so.

To be a **“Stranger” from those covenants**, means that **you were never a party to the contract**. With the covenants of God, only his chosen people were party to his promises, not mankind in general. With the Third or New Covenant, all men, be they Jew or Gentile are given hope of receiving those promises given by God.

Without God in the world refers to the fact that God is not of this world, God created it, so therefore, God does not live in this world, and is therefore unseen. You **cannot** look up and see a physical thing, a being or a thing, and say, there is God, and I will give worship to him.

But God is in you and me, in that the body that we have is a temple of God, and as such God is present within us. Only those who listen for God to speak to them, through prayer and study of scripture, will hear God. All others, will not hear, and will not see.

A partition removed

For he (Jesus) is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in the ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that he might reconcile both

unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. Ephesians 2:14-17

For he (Jesus) is our peace, who hath made both one, the two are those who are Israel the faith, and those who do not have the faith of Israel.

Hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us refers to the division between the two. In Jesus, all of Man are one with Israel, in faith and commonwealth. No longer are those of the Nation of Israel exclusive to the Faith of Israel, all who come will be welcomed.

Abolished the Enmity

The Words, “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity,” refers to the unwillingness of the Nation of Israel for anyone but Jews to be a part of that faith. Even though it is clear to me, from reading the books of the Old Testament, that God had intended that the people of the Nation of Israel were to be a nation of priests. This I interpret to mean that they were supposed to be Evangelists and encourage others not blood descendent of Jacob to convert to God’s True Faith.

This they failed at completely, but they went so far as to go in the opposite direction making it that if you were not born into a Jewish family or married into a Jewish family, you could not convert to their faith, even if the men agreed to be circumcised.

It is this establishment of themselves as the restrictive chosen people that is the **enmity** that kept separate the Gentiles from the Nation of Israel.

With the Teachings of Jesus and the establishment of the Third or New Covenant, and because Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross, all who will are now welcome into the Commonwealth of the Faith of Israel.

The words, **“Even the law of commandments contained in the ordinances,”** are commonly misunderstood. I have spoken to many Christians, who think that these words, **“The law of commandments,”** refer to the Ten Commandments, but Paul places a qualifier, **(Ordinances)**, to indicate that this is not true.

The Law of Ordinances is those laws written not by God but by the hand of a man, Moses. The word **“Ordinance”** is defined as: **a law or rule mode by an authority such as a city government.** This is not a Commandment of God, written in stone to indicate that it is to last forever, but an ordinance, a locally legislated law, written by Man, that is changeable or can be amended as needed.

What Paul is saying is that Jesus, with his blood, abolished the “**enmity**,” not the law. Jesus abolished the schism that kept those of Israel apart from the Gentiles, not the law. It is not the Ten Commandments that have been abolished, but the reason, (Enmity), that the Jews practiced that prevented the Gentiles from converting to the true worship of God.

The words, “***for to make in himself of twain one new man,***” refers to the two, those of the Jews and those of the Gentiles, which can now come together in unity, as one in the faith of God.

That he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross. Through Jesus’ actions of sacrificing himself on the cross, it is now possible for both Jew and Gentile to become one in the spirit of God, by the Grace of Jesus Christ.

The words, “***came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh,***” refers to those of the Gentiles, **fare off**, and those of the Jews, who are **nigh**.

One Church, One God, One gospel

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. **Ephesians 2:18**

Jesus established a single Church, which includes people from both the Jew and the Gentile. In this One Church, all who are part of it give worship to the same God and the same Spirit, which is of God. If you belong to the true Church of Christ, you can enter into a congregation anywhere in the world and the words preached will be the same, One Church, One God, One gospel.

Today, there are several different churches all calling themselves the Church of Christ, but enter into different churches even in the same city and there is a stark difference in the gospel preached and the practices and traditions established.

In that Paul is telling us there is only One Church, then which one of all those to be found today, is the True Church of Christ.

Based upon this intensive Bible study we are engaged in, I am convinced that none of the current day churches preach the gospel as taught by Jesus, which is to say that there is not at this time in history a church that is truly the Church of Christ.

Remember However: a church is not a brick and mortar building; it is a congregation of people coming together in common prayer and worship of God, those of you who come to this Web Page and read that which God has given me to publish in these pages, is a church as a church can be defined.

Even though you do not enter into a building with other people, you are entering into a church with thousands of others, like you, looking for God's True Word.

When a church preaches the gospel as taught by Jesus and keeps all ten of the Ten Commandments, including the Seventh Day Sabbath, then it is a Church of Christ, otherwise it is a false church preaching a false gospel.

Strangers No Longer

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:19-22***

There are several thousand people that come to this Web Page every month from all over the world, speaking different languages, yet, we are all one in Christ, for what we all read and study, is the same, we are therefore fellow-citizens in the Church of Christ.

Ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. I want to point these words out to make certain that you understand what Paul is speaking of.

Remember: we each have our own bodies, yet, the body does not belong to us; it is in fact a temple to God. What Paul is telling us, is that God lives in or is **in habitation** of our bodies, as are we. When we bring ourselves into the Church of Christ, in truth and in spirit, we are inviting God to become a part of our lives, both of the Earth and of the Spirit. In this way our bodies are a **co-habitation** of you and God.

Walk in Worthiness to God

*I Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:1-3***

I ask you the reader, "**How do you define, being worthy of God?**" From the beginning of my service to God, it has been my understanding that to be worthy of God I must put his wants and desires above my own and that of my family and loved ones.

Jesus tells us: *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* **Matthew 10:37**

What then do you and I need to do to make ourselves worthy of God? What has been the theme all through this Bible Study, which over-rides all other subjects and themes? It is my assessment that the primary theme has been to Love God, to Worship God, and to be obedient to the Word and Commandments of God.

If you want to be worthy of God you must obey and keep all ten of the Ten Commandments, as God has spelled them out, neither adding to nor subtracting from that which God has spoken, and understand and live by all that Jesus taught. In short, we need to achieve the high status of being a Saint of God.

Saint of God Defined

Jesus defines who the Saints of God are in the following verse.

A Saint of God is “*Those which keep the Commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” **Revelation 12:17**

Achieve this, and you will be a Saint of God, to be a Saint of God is to be worthy of God.

The Many Made into One

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. **Ephesians 4:4-6**

A Measure of Grace

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, “When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” **Ephesians 4:7-8**

The words, “**according to the measure of the gift of Christ**” are telling me, that there is not one fits all when it comes to being in the Grace of Christ. We each are given grace as is our worthiness to receive it.

I was a sinner for the first 50+ years of my life before I found God. The grace given to me will be determined on how fully I have repented my sinful ways and how thoroughly I have embraced the Worship of God.

If God gives me entry into Heaven and eternal life, then God will have deemed me worthy of him. If on the other hand, God finds me still lacking, then whatever grace, if any at all, that God blesses me with, will be determined by him at his own discretion.

What I am saying, we, you and I have no idea if we have shown ourselves to be worthy of God, only God can determine that, but this should not stop us from doing everything in our power to prove to God that we are worthy. If you do not even try, then you are already showing yourself to be unworthy.

*Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. **Ephesians 4:9-10***

Our own Strengths

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets, and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: **Ephesians 4:11-13***

As part of fulfilling the Second Commandment of Jesus, that we continue in the work that Jesus began, we are each called to service based upon our own strengths and God given gifts. It was my gift that God gave me education in the sciences, an interest in history, and the ability to gain understanding of abstract concepts. This has all led me to be best suited to study, research and explain the words of the verses in the books of the Bible, as is evidenced in this Web Page.

On the other hand, I have, on occasion, attempted to preach my understanding to others verbally. In this I have thus far failed, it not being one of my gifts to be an orator.

If, after you having read these words on this Web Page you are moved to preach them to others as a pastor, then that is one of your strengths, as given to you by God.

No Longer ignorant children

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **Ephesians 4:14-15***

The words, “**no more children**,” are a reference to our ignorance of God’s True Word. That once we have taken the time and effort to study and learn God’s True Word, as opposed to Satan’s lies, we will no longer be foolish children but adults.

To be “**tossed to and fro**,” is a reference to the ability of Satan, through his lies, to manipulate our minds and through that our actions.

To be, “**carried about with every wind of doctrine**,” is a reference to how an ignorant person will accept as being the truth, what is told to us by others, especially if they are a pastor or Pope, even though that which they preach is false gospel. Whereas, we who are now educated in God’s True Word, will know the lies and deceptions for the lies that they are.

By the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, is a reference to Satan, and how he uses other men to get you to believe his lies through Satan’s cunning craftiness in Satan’s manipulation of men.

The words: “**Whereby they lie in wait to deceive**,” are best explained by me as follows: As a child, you were ignorant of God and were able to learn only that which others around you spoke to you. If others said to you that Sunday was the Lords Sabbath, and you not having any other source or knowledge to doubt that, then you will believe what was told to you, and would for the rest of your life observe the Sabbath on Sunday.

With the knowledge of God’s True Word, you will now know better, and if you remove yourself from the error of your life worship and begin to observe the Sabbath on the Seventh day of the week, then you will no longer be at the mercy of Satan’s lies, and will be on the path to Righteousness.

One Body

*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. **Ephesians 4:16***

Each one of us, which are many, are each a part of the Body of the Church of Christ, and each part, as is our gifts given, fits together in harmony with all other parts forming a unified whole of One Body.

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **Ephesians 4:17-19***

Even though Paul is directing these words towards the Gentiles of his day, they are true as it relates to those of today who think that they worship God in truth, but whose worship is in error. Once you have realized this error and convert to the True Word of God, then you must also give up all error filled practices and customs that are not spoken by God-Jesus.

Now that you know what sin is, you must no longer engage in sinful acts, you must raise above the ways of the old you and live in a new you, washed clean in the blood of Jesus Christ.

*But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. **Ephesians 4:20-23***

The “Old Man,” is the former you. As Jesus said, “we must go through a rebirth,” therefore, the Old Man is the former you, and the New Man is you reborn in Christ Jesus.

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

*Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. **Ephesians 4:25***

Temperate in Spirit

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:26-27

If you are brought to anger by someone and allow anger to enter your heart, then as a New Man born in Christ, you must repent your anger and attempt accommodation with those who angered you, before the sun goes down. Do not allow anger, which is the Way of Satan, to have a hold on your heart. Once entered into, Satan is unwilling to be removed easily.

Remove yourself from Sin

*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **Ephesians 4:28***

In general, those who are thieves are that because they reject doing the work required to obtain that which they stole legally. What Paul is saying is that work is good, and I can attest that when you work, you are

content and happy, whereas, when you reject the work ethic, your heart is cold and hard, and true happiness eludes you.

Speak Not Obscenities

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **Ephesians 4:29***

When you use curse words, or obscenities to express yourself, not only are you showing yourself to be of low education and intelligence, you also offend God by your evil words. When you only can find curse words to speak, then your heart is filled with blackness and evil.

In my family, it is more of a form of English that every other word spoken is a curse word, but it doesn't matter if you use such words without thought, or through natural reflects, you still offend God with such words. It has taken me an effort to refrain from such words, and to keep my communications civil and inoffensive to God and I still slip up on occasion, but I do make the effort, and that is as you should do as well.

*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30***

To "*Grieve the Holy Spirit of God*," is to offend God.

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:31-32***

Followers of God-Jesus

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. **Ephesians 5:1-2***

*But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **Ephesians 5:3-4***

So as to insure that there is no question as to his meaning Paul gives a partial listing of sins some of which are listed in the Ten Commandments and the others are examples given to us by Jesus.

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

As you can see, if you engage in any of these activities, then you should have no expectation of being a part of any inheritance that the Saints of God will benefit from.

*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. **Ephesians 5:6-7***

In this verse Paul is giving warning, “Do not accept those who give instruction that increases or diminishes that what is verifiable in Holy Scripture.” If what they tell you cannot be verified with what God has told us as it is written in the Bible, then remember God’s Truism.

God’s Truism

If God spoke it, then you will find it in the Holy Gospel,

If God spoke it, then it is the truth,

It is the truth, because it is of God,

It is of God, because God spoke it.

If God did not speak it, then you will not find it in the Holy Gospel,

If God did not speak it, then it is a lie,

It is a lie, because it is not of God,

It is not of God, because God did not speak it.

If you remember God’s Truism and always use it when determining if what someone tells you or something you read is of God or a lie, you will find this a valuable tool.

Be Diligent in your Study

On top of this however, you need to be diligent in your study of the Bible. When the books of the Bible were translated from the original Hebrew and Greek, Satan managed to influence those doing the translations so that the words used do not have the full meaning as those being translated. This caused the meaning of what God intended to be distorted and changed to the point they are no longer the word of God. Do not then think that the Bible is a lie, the truth is still in the Bible, it just requires an effort and time for you to research and learn the meaning as God intended. In these writing that I have provided in this web page, by the will of God, I have made this research easier for you.

Walk in the Light of the Lord

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10

*And have no fellow ship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. **Ephesians 5:11-13***

The words reprove means: to speak to somebody in a way that shows your disapproval of something they have said or done, to scold or correct usually gently or with kindly intent.

Be Bold in your Faith

For me this means that when someone says something that you know is not spoken of by God, that you should challenge them, do not allow them to pollute the minds of others with false gospel. Challenge them to show in scripture where what they are saying is given support. As a Saint of God do not be passive in your faith, but be bold and know the scripture as one who is an expert, so when you hear Satan's lies you can with knowledge reveal them for the lies that they are.

*Wherefore he saith, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." **Ephesians 5:14***

Paul is telling all of us to become aware of ourselves and others around us. Open your eyes and see God's truth and glory. If you seek out the Lord your God with diligent intent, then God will shine his light of understanding upon you. God tells us, "I love those who love me." If you take the time and effort to learn for yourself God's Holy Gospel, then God will enwrap you with his love and mercy. When God tells us to do good works, it is to this effort of learning and understanding that he speaks.

Study and Learn

*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. **Ephesians 5:15-17***

The word **“Circumspectly”** means: to take into consideration all possible circumstances and consequences before acting. Which is another way of saying, study, learn, and educate yourself in the True Word of God. Do not rely on what others say or have written; but know the truth for yourself with reliance on God for your direction of study, through prayer to your Father in Heaven. With knowledge you gain wisdom, in ignorance you remain a fool.

Live in Respect for God

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **Ephesians 5:18-21***

God by speaking through Paul implores us to look to him for guidance, not just in our study and research of God’s Holy Gospel, but also in our everyday lives. Do not be a drunkard, and a party hearty kind of a person. Do not partake of the pleasures of the earth or of the flesh, but allow yourself to be filled with the spirit of the Lord. Instead of listening to the songs of others that may be corrupt and ungodly, sing songs from your heart of the glory of God and your happiness in the mercies that he has shown you. Always giving thanks to God and living your life as a shining example to the glory of God.

A Personal Prayer I Love

One of my personal pleasures is to think about the words of a prayer from the Bible and imagine myself there.

Psalm 23: My Soul Restored

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

I love this prayer because it could just as easily have been me who wrote these words, for they speak about me. The words of this prayer also cause a vivid graphic in my mind.

The Lord is my shepherd; when you place your life in the hands of God, you make him your guide, which is the role of a shepherd.

I shall not want. When I finally gave myself to God in June of 2009, he has seen to my needs ever since and I no longer want for things of the Earth, but look to things of my soul.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. I am not a sheep that needs to have green pastures for me to graze in, but think of the symbolism and consider what you would like in your life that would give you the same kind of pleasure that a green pasture would give to a sheep. For me that is being free to work in my office and study and write about what God has shown me, so that others might know the truth and the joy I have from this knowledge. To be in a green pasture is symbolic of having plenty, and not being without.

He leadeth me beside the still waters. I think about me laying in a field of tall grass, on the side of a hill with a tall oak tree giving its shade over me, and at the base of the hill is a fast flowing creek, with a deep spot where I can climb in to bath and sit in its cool waters and relax.

Still waters also represent being given the sustenance required of the body.

He restoreth my soul. For the first 55 years of my life I went through in ignorance without direction or purpose. God has given me this and much more, he has restored my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. The name of God is defined by the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus Christ, by leading me in my study of his Holy Scripture, he shows me the path of righteousness, and this he does is **for his names sake**, that I may be one with God, in name and spirit.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The shadow of death is sin, and though I have in my life walked in sin, God has shown me a new way, a way without sin.

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. Because God now walks with me as I navigate this new path, I **fear no evil**, for with the support of God I know I will not fall back into the sins of my past.

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. The rod and staff of God are the books of the Bible, for they are tools that teach me and chasten and admonish me when I error.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. God provide nourishment for my body and soul even though all about me are the forces of Satan trying to dissuade me from God's True Word.

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. In the times of the Nation of Israel, when you have oil poured upon your head it was to signify that you were cleansed of your sins and made new in God. In this my cup truly does run over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. I know that so long as I remain true to the worship of God, as he commands that he be worshiped, and live my life in the morality listed in the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus, that what remains of my mortal life will be filled with goodness and mercy from God.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. To dwell in the house of the Lord is to live my life as the morality of God as God teaches me to live. Now that I have found God and he has bestowed such blessing upon me, I will for the rest of my mortal life and the rest of any immortal life, live under God's morality and give praise and glory to my Father in Heaven, forever and ever. Amen.

Husbands and Wives

*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **Ephesians 5:22-23***

Servitude

As you may recall, Paul gave instruction to this subject earlier in his writings, and as you may recall I took issue with him. Since then I have given prayer to God to give me instruction as to whether I am correct or if it is in fact the will of God that women be reduced to virtual slaves to their fathers and then their husbands. As of this time, I have not received any definitive instruction from God, so I am left to believe that my distaste for this concept is correct.

I consider Paul's instruction, concerning the servitude of women, to be founded not on anything in scripture but on the customs and traditions of the Jewish people established over hundreds of years. This

custom is mirrored in many of the other peoples in the area that had influence upon the Jews, and like many other customs, as pointed out by Jesus, they were contrary to God's will.

I also consider Paul's instruction to be based upon his personal choice of celibacy and his otherwise obvious prejudices concerning women which manifest themselves throughout his writings.

So I feel I have to leave this aspect of the Writings of Paul up to you each to decide for yourselves. The arguments that I gave earlier, I feel are compelling and have scripture to give them support, whereas I have seen nothing in scripture where God gives command or instruction that women should be treated as subservient to men, except as personal prejudices of the prophets who wrote such things.

Exclusivity

There is one aspect of the above two verses that give a different meaning than what I have thus far considered. The words, "**submit yourselves unto your own husbands,**" could also be referring to sexual submission, in other words, that **a wife is to give herself sexually, only to her husband, and not to any other man.** This of course is true of husbands to their wives as well, and all relates to the commandment against adultery and fornication.

Church Subject to Christ

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:24

It is therefore up to these above words that determines what Paul is in fact talking about. In what way is the Church of Christ subject to Christ who is God? The Church of Christ is only that if it upholds and preaches the Commandments of God and the Teachings of Christ. If the church that you belong to preaches anything other than this, then it is not a Church of Christ, but a false church preaching false gospel.

In this aspect, a wife is subject to her husband just as a husband is subject to his wife. If either one fails to keep and uphold the Commandments of God especially that which encompasses sexual behavior, then that marriage falls short of a union of God and becomes polluted in sin.

Love one another as yourself

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious

*church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. **Ephesians 5:25-28***

This goes along with the Commandment of Jesus, “Love your brother as you would have your brother love you.” This is true of all people towards all people. It is better to love and be loved than to hate and be hated, for one is the Way of God the other is the Way of Satan.

Do you hate yourself

*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. **Ephesians 5:29-30***

In the world that Paul lived in, perhaps he never met anyone who actually hated themselves, but in this world today, under the strong influence of Satan, there are many self-loathing people. But what Paul is saying, if you would not deliberately cut yourself and give yourself pain, then as you love yourself not to do this, love your spouse and not cause them pain either.

Paul is establishing this concept of two being joined and making one flesh from the following verse, which is from the first marriage of a man to a woman and overseen by God and not a human pastor.

*And Adam said, “this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” **Genesis 2:23***

One Flesh in Marriage

*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **Ephesians 5:31***

Once more, Paul is giving reinforcement to the fact that once there were two individuals, **a man and a woman**, but once married to each other they stop being two but are now One Family, one flesh, and indivisible one from the other. Once more Paul uses this fact based upon the first marriage from the following verse.

*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. **Genesis 2:24***

A Great Mystery

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Ephesians 5:32-

33

Once again I see this as Paul revealing his true thoughts; here he is talking about men showing love and kindness to their wives, only to say, **“This is a great mystery.”** I see no mystery in giving the same kind of love to my wife as I give to myself, that Paul finds this a mystery, is baffling to me, but it also gives explanation why he considers women to be nothing more than slaves to men.

Because I disagree with Paul on this issue does not void everything else that he writes about. Whenever Paul uses Holy Scripture to give support to what he writes, then I see it as coming from God, but as in this case, his words are of his own prejudices, then I have to voice my disagreement.

In scripture, God has given that those who enter into marriage go from being two to being one, this translates out to me as that God sees them as being equal one to the other, and a partnership in life, as in any partnership, there can be no ruler and no servant, they are both equal, one to the other, only with different duties that contribute to the betterment of the whole.

Children and Parents

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandments with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:1-3

This is an expansion to the Fifth Commandment and as such means that it is a Commandment of God that children are to obey and honor their parents. Paul has not been given a similar commandment, from God, regarding his instructions concerning women however, and I know of none.

Honor your Mother and Father

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12

In my copy of the King James Version of the Bible, it says that this is the foundation for family life. This is true enough, but I feel it is too simplistic an explanation. The following verse expands upon this commandment.

Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:3

Remember: I gave definition to the word “**Fear**” as it is used in the phrase, “**To Fear God?**” In the above verse, we are told to “**Fear**” our parents, and as with God the word “**Fear**,” means to love, respect, and to give honor to them. Not to be afraid of them.

Parents are responsible to their Children

This Commandment and these subsequent verses, also puts a responsibility, on the Father and Mother, to raise their children in the laws of the Commandments of God, as well as the laws of the nation they abode in.

For a parent to shirk this responsibility is the same as breaking this commandment themselves. For how can a child honor a parent, when the parent does not honor his or her responsibility to their children?

As a child grows, they learn much of the kind of person that they will become from their parents, their sense of morality, a.k.a., what’s right and wrong, etc. If a parent has an iniquity, then the chances are, so too will the child develop that same iniquity.

If the parent keeps and practices in the faith of The Christ Jesus, then so to generally will the child. But if the parent gives lip service to the faith, but is wayward in that faith, the child will pick up this and unless they develop a foundation of faith on their own, will become wayward themselves.

Such is the responsibility of the parent, for God commands that we live within his Commandments, and each generation after us, as well. If we as parents are lacks in the upbringing of our children, then we show our disrespect for God, and therefore fail to show Honor to him. It is one thing to do your best and fail, it is another to shirk your responsibility altogether.

Authority from God

Children, your parents have authority over you. Even though you feel your parents are wrong, or don’t understand you, you must obey them, for God has given them authority to decide what is right and what is wrong, for you.

By obeying your parents, you show honor to them. When you show honor to those who have given life to you on Earth, then you are telling God that you will give honor to him if he gives you eternal life in heaven.

When a child obeys their parents, and lives within the parameters of the rules set down by them, then that child will be happier and better centered to deal with the difficulties that life will dish out to them when they become adults. Thus, they will live happier and healthier lives.

When a child is given no rules or guidelines to follow, and the parents allow the child to make his or her own decisions, then more often than not, the child will choose poorly. The problem is that without parental guidelines to compare with, the child will not know that they have chosen poorly, and this will escalate through life. This will in turn cause frustration, anger, and unhappiness for the child. This can all be prevented by the parent by simply fulfilling his/her obligation to God, and to the child.

Provoke Not the Children

*And, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4***

This verse is the foundation for the authority of the parent to discipline their children, but it is also a warning to the parents. Do not abuse your authority over your children. To discipline is one thing to beat them or otherwise abuse them, is not condoned by God. You are to nurture them with love, and teach them.

Discipline should be tempered by the infraction done by the child. God is our father in Heaven. If God treats us with love and understanding, even when we sin, then so too must the parents treat their children with love and understanding when they disobey?

When a parent disciplines their child without a reason, where no infraction has occurred, or the discipline is greater than the infraction warrants, then the child will become resentful of the parent, and lose respect for them. In order to honor someone you need to be able to respect him or her first. God wants the parents to know, that discipline has to be tempered by love. For when you love someone, you are incapable of doing harm to him or her, or being unjust.

How to Discipline Children

I have always believed that God has a sense of humor, and in his creation of Man, he provided the perfect attribute on which to discipline our children. It is known as the buttocks. When a parent strikes their open hand on the buttock, both the child and the parent feels the pain. When a parent is forced to discipline a child, it is as much the parent's short comings in teaching the child, as it is the willfulness of the child. So therefore both should be subjected to the pain.

A child should never be struck with a stick, a belt, a rod or any other form of weapon, only the open hand of the parent should be used, and only on the buttocks, for pain will be felt but no permanent damage or

injury will occur. If a parent hits so hard as to cause real injury to the child then they too will have injured their own hand. Paul then continues this admonishment in the following verses.

As Sons

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Hebrews 12:7

If you endure being disciplined by your parents, then God will deal with you as a father treats his son as well.

Paul then asks the question, “**What kind of a child will be the result that has never been disciplined by their parents?**” This is to say, that all children at some time or another, need to be disciplined. That is the nature of growing up, and attempting to exert one’s own authority over one’s self.

I say, we all need a little humility from time to time, regardless of our age. This above verse tells me that a spanking, in public or in private of your own child, is condoned by God.

Children Need Their Parents

Always remember, in your relationship with your parents, even though at the moment of being punished, you are angry and feel that you are being treated unfairly, and perhaps you say, “**I hate you,**” take the time to think of when you looked to your parents with love, and saw in them someone you felt safe with, before you allow your anger to get the better of you.

Remember: Anger is an aspect of Satan’s personality; therefore, you need to fight against the anger, and in so doing you fight against Satan getting hold of your heart.

This time of tribulation that they are putting you through will only last a short time. God has given your parents the authority to make life’s decisions for you, because you are still uneducated in the ways of the world, whereas they have been where you are before themselves with their own parents.

If your parents have loved you in the past, and you know they do from the way it was before between you and them, then allow them to look out for your best interests, because they can see the whole picture, whereas you only see that which is right in front of you.

A Son needs his father, even if at the present, you think you hate him. A Daughter needs her mother, remember the love you once felt, and try to see things from their perspective and not only from your anger and stubbornness.

Discipline out of love

Just remember this, would you prefer that your parents did not care enough about you to take the time and effort of disciplining you? What would that say about them? In giving you discipline, a good parent is showing their love for you, to ignore you and allow you to do as you wish, is to show their lack of care about you. I would rather be disciplined by those who do so out of love, than to live in a home where I am unloved. Would you rather that they treat you as one would treat a bastard?

As Bastards

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons?

Hebrews 12:8

Paul then asks another question. If you are so unloved by your parents that they don't have the time to discipline you when discipline is called for, then are you their son or daughter, or are you a bastard in their eyes?

So you will know a bastard is a child born out of wedlock. That means a child brought about because the parents engaged in the sinful act of fornication and or adultery. For God, that which is born out of sin is sin, which is why such a child is dealt with such low regard, (a bastard), by the laws of God.

Therefore, if you as a parent fail to discipline when discipline is called for, then you are telling your child and God that the child is nothing more to you than a bastard, an unwanted thing and not truly your child.

If a child is not disciplined then what kind of a person will he/she grow up to be, God uses the word "Bastard" to show how he considers such a child and their parents. If the parent's love their children so little that they would not discipline where discipline is called for, then why would God wish to invite either, child or parent into Heaven? Both are in violation of God's Commandments.

If you love your child and you love God, then it is your responsibility to raise your child in the laws of God and in the laws of the nation in which you live. When a child, is left to decide what is right and wrong on their own, they will most often chose wrong.

When the parent shirks their responsibility, it leaves the door open for Satan to enter in. This will lead the children to live unhappy lives of frustration, when they do not get their own way when they grow up in the real world.

The Fifth Commandment makes the correct upbringing of children the duty and responsibility of the parents. To discipline a child is a commandment from God that the parent should prepare the child for the trials

and tribulations of life, as well as obedience to God. Failure in this is a sin of the parents against God, just as the wayward child commits sins, when he makes the wrong choices in life.

If the parent has so little concern for their child, then they are treating that child as one would treat a bastard. If the parents treat the child as a bastard, then God will treat them the same. To never have been disciplined, when it was called for, is to not know the love of the parent. If you never know the parents love, then how will you recognize Gods love when he gives it to you?

Consider this: when a child is constantly being bad, and doing things to upset their parents, the parents so often sigh and say, **“The child just wants attention.”** **Well! Yea!** If you, as a parent, haven’t got the time to give attention to your child, then you are telling that child that you do not love them. To the child, even the attention given in a spanking, is better than no attention at all.

Next time your child acts up, don’t spank him or her, simply pick them up in your arms and give them hugs and kisses, and tell them you love them. Next time, don’t wait for the child to act up. A Hug a day keeps the Blues away, not to mention Satan.

A parent, who fails to discipline their child, is just as bad, as a parent that abuses their child in the name of discipline. To discipline a child is a commandment of God, to abuse a child in the name of discipline is a sin against God.

Accept Parents Discipline

*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? **Hebrews 12:9***

As a child, we love our parents, and look only to make them love us and to be proud of us. When our parents then discipline us, we sometimes feel that we do not deserve such treatment from them, and that sometimes causes us to rebel against them. But after a time, we see that the discipline gave us knowledge, of what our parents would tolerate from us in our attempts at independence and what they will not tolerate. This then leads us back to the love and respect we always have had for our parents.

If we as children can accept and learn from the discipline of our parents of flesh and blood, then this shows God that we can and will accept discipline from him.

Accept God's Discipline

After having been disciplined by our parents, do we not still love them? In obeying God and accepting his disciplines, should we not still love him, he who offers us eternal life?

How does God discipline us? Have you ever known that you were given discipline from God and not your parents?

*For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. **Hebrews 12:10***

Our parents discipline us, so that we will obey their dictates. Our parents are extending their authority over us, for their own reasons and standards, which as Good Parents are based upon the Commandments of God.

God on the other hand, disciplines us so that we might know his morality, which is his righteousness, and thereby enter into Heaven and thus, be glorified in God.

By embracing the Ten Commandments as well as the Teachings of Jesus, then we too will make his glory our glory. The reason God has invited us to join him in Heaven is because he seeks companions, but his companions must have the same sense of Honesty, and Morality that he has. It is not just companions that God seeks however, it is Sons. When our parents treat us like sons and daughters, so too will God. When our parents discipline us, it is also God who through our parents giving us instruction as to what God sees as right and wrong.

Remember: an aspect of the promise that God made to Abraham was adoption into the house of God as sons and heirs to the kingdom of God. Not just as servants, doing God's bidding, but as son inheriting all things that are God's, including Eternal Life.

Discipline is Not Fun

*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. **Hebrews 12:11***

It is never pleasant to be disciplined, as it is happening, we find it grievous and humiliating. However after a time, we understand the reason for it, and the lessons we learn give us peace and understanding, thus making us a better person and closer to our parents and to God, for having endured it.

Be Strong in the Lord

Servants of Men

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Ephesians 6:5-8

In the lands of the Middle East, during the times of Jesus and the Apostles, slavery and human bondage was an acceptable moral institution. As such, and because Paul intends to represent his Faith as being law abiding, even to the laws of the lands and nations in which it flourished, Paul preaches to those who are servants of others, their place in the Kingdom of God.

Paul is instructing those who are servants to be obedient to their masters and to not rebel against them. In their service, Paul is advising that they do all that is required of them by their masters, so long as it is not in violation to the Law of God. In this service, they must always keep Christ in their thoughts, and abide in their station in life, with the knowledge that in Christ they will be set free, in time.

Even though they find themselves in servitude to other men, it is ultimately to Christ that they have their allegiance, and in keeping to the faith, they shall be set free.

This all holds true to all men free and servant, when we live in the Way of God as found in the Ten Commandments and in the Teachings of Jesus, then God has gifts for us, as is taught by Jesus, “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.”

Masters of Men

*And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. **Ephesians 6:9***

Paul is telling those who are masters of others to forbear threatening and abuse of their servants, because, even the masters have a master, even God-Jesus, and as God-Jesus is merciful to all so too should the master of men be to his servants.

Respect of Persons

The words, “**Neither is there respect of persons with him,**” means that God does not judge someone according to their status among men in this life, that a master of men is no more considered by God than the slave of a man. What God looks for is the Righteousness of each equally in soul not in earthy wealth.

Whole Armour of God

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **Ephesians 6:10-11***

The whole armour is symbolic of saying to educate yourself in the full and complete understanding of God’s Holy Scripture; it is in this that you have a powerful weapon to defend against Satan and the ways of sin.

Satan is most successful in deceiving people who are ignorant of God’s True Word, and are thereby gullible into accepting lies as truth and truth as lies.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **Ephesians 6:12***

There is a mighty war going on, that has been ongoing since before Adam ate from the forbidden fruit. The war is not fought with swords or bows and arrows, or guns or bombs, but instead in words.

God’s Holy Gospel is the weapon and the armour that we use to fight off Satan’s false gospel. If you are ignorant of God’s Holy Word, then you will not know if you are being lied to or not. This is shown to be true in the following verses.

*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the Earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. **Revelation 12:7-10***

It is common upon the Earth that men will fight battles against other men and nations will war against other nations, but have you ever thought that there could be a war in Heaven?

Long before Satan lied to Adam and Eve, Satan had been preaching his false gospel to the angels in heaven. When Satan caused that Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified upon the cross and died the mortal death, the Angels in Heaven finally realized what a liar and a deceiver that Lucifer is and those other angels that had been deceived by Satan's false gospel. The Angels of Light then joined together in the Righteousness of the Holy Gospel and forced those fallen angels and Lucifer, which are Satan, out of Heaven.

God tells us this in the above verses so as to inform us that we can't fight Satan with guns and bombs but with educating ourselves in God's Holy Gospel.

*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. **Revelation 12:11***

When you have God's truth, then you cannot be tempted by Satan. If Satan makes use of those of men who are deceived and blinded from God, to persecute you and to harm and kill you, just remember, you have already beat Satan through your righteousness, for he can kill you and you may die the Mortal Death, as did Jesus, but Satan has no power over your soul.

Remember Too: God has made promises, and one of them is resurrection unto Eternal Life for all who are righteous in the eyes of God.

Armageddon

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. **Ephesians 6:13-15***

The Whole Armour of God is a reference to your acceptance of the Word of God and all that God stands for as is revealed in the Books of the Bible, and as is abbreviated by the Ten Commandments, and the Teachings of God in the Flesh of a Man, Jesus Christ.

The Evil Day is a reference to the day when the Forces of Evil will unite in an effort to destroy once and for all the Word of God. This day is commonly known as **Armageddon**. It is on this day that the Bible tells us about the **Three Evil Spirits like frogs** and their attempt to destroy all that is of God and worshiped.

Three Evil Spirits

*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet, for they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. **Revelation 16:13-14***

God uses the symbolism of three Frogs, which come out of the mouth of the Dragon. The Dragon is Satan, and the spirits that come forth out of Satan's mouth are the lies and deceptions that he spews continuously.

The Dragon is a reference to Satan as revealed in, **Revelation 12:3**.

The Beast is a reference to the anti-Christ as revealed in, **Revelation 13:1-3**.

The third evil spirit that comes forth out of the mouth of Satan is the False Prophet, which in turn preaches against the worship of God as does the anti-Christ but against the Morality of God which the anti-Christ hasn't done until recently. It is the lies of the False Prophet which causes those which are led by a king that God refers to as Abaddon, which are those let loose by the four angels of the Euphrates as revealed in, **Revelation 9:14-15**, which wages gruesome war upon any and all who do not worship as they demand.

The Great Day of God Almighty is a reference to Armageddon. The reason God thinks of it as his Great Day, is because when all those forces of evil on both sides of the battle are joined together in one place, then will God's True Word finally be realized by the whole world that remains after God destroys those set upon the battle.

*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done." **Revelation 16:16-17***

The "he" spoken of is Satan, and he gathers his forces of men, lost in his lies and deceptions of the three evil spirits, to do battle against each other.

Remember: Satan hates God and all that he has created and stands for, therefore Satan intends to have these opposing forces, each of which are blinded by Satan's Lies, to not only destroy each other but to destroy the whole Earth and all life upon it.

The phrase, “**It is done,**” is God’s reference to the time that God had to hold back from exacting punishment against Lucifer and all that followed and became Satan.

Remember: Satan called God a liar, and a deceiver. God had to show to all, angels and men, that he was truth, and that it was Lucifer who was the liar and deceiver. With this gathering at Armageddon, God is finally able to end Satan’s hold on mankind. From this point, God is now able to remove Satan and all that is evil from out of the entire universe and not just the Planet Earth.

*And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. **Revelation 16:18***

There are three evil forces in the world today, which each think themselves soldiers of God, but in fact are soldiers of opposing False Religions. Those that come out of the Euphrates River represent one religious movement, those who are part of the anti-Christ are another, and those that represent the False Prophet are the third.

Having your loins girt about with truth, is a reference to God’s True Word as is found through diligent study in the Books of the Bible.

Having on the breastplate of righteousness is a reference to the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus Christ, which translates to having the Morality of God.

Having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, is a reference to the Gospel of God as it is found in the Books of the Bible.

Shield of Faith

*Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **Ephesians 6:16***

The Shield of Faith, is your believe, (Faith), that the Word of God is truth, and that God’s promises are true and can be believed with a surety.

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. **Ephesians 6:17-18***

The helmet of salvation is a reference to God's promise of salvation and life eternal to all who worship God as he commands and who live within the parameters of God's Morality.

The Sword of the Spirit is the belief in the power and the majesty of God to defeat all who oppose him.

Be Humble in your service to God

*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **Philippians 2:1-2***

By being **"One with God,"** in spirit and in morality you have God himself as your defense against Satan and his lies.

*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **Philippians 2:3-5***

Do not spend your time taking concern for yourself and your own wants and needs, rather look to others that you may assist them who are worse off than you. Think of Charity, Kindness, Love and Understanding, and above all Mercy, as God has shown mercy towards you.

God in the Flesh of a Man

*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **Philippians 2:6-7***

The Christ is the essence of God. That God went from being the Creator and Lord of the universe to make himself in the image of Man in the person of Jesus reveals the love he has for his children.

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. **Philippians 2:8***

God did not just make himself in the image of a Man but he came not as a ruler or a man of wealth and power but as a lowly carpenter, in humility to others, subjecting himself to the pain of death. He who is everlasting to everlasting, allowed himself to feel the pain of death, so that he would know our pain and thereby have the righteousness of passing judgment upon all men.

Death by the cross was an invention from the bowls of Hell which extracted the maximum pain and suffering out of those nailed to it. God allowed that he in the form and body of Jesus should experience this death rather than some other less humiliating and pain filled death. This he did for us, that we might through his example know his love.

Every Knee Shall Bow

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,(Jesus) and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Because Jesus obeyed the will of his Father, so that we might be saved, God has lifted him up in glory so that when his name is spoken; all hearing it will bow their knee and give reverence to Jesus in the same fashion that they would do when standing before God the Father.

Continue in your Faith

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Philippians 2:12***

While Paul was yet among the people they listened, learned, accepted and believed in all that he preached to them. Now that he is no longer with them, Paul is encouraging them to continue in their faith, as it was taught to them, and not let the gospel of others that was not preached by Paul sway them from the truth.

Do According to God's Pleasure

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure, do all things without murmurings and disputing's: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; **Philippians 2:13-15***

When you give yourself to God, he manifests himself in you, through an enhanced conscience, of what is right and wrong. Listen to his voice, and stay fast to the Morality of God. If you take the time and effort to learn and know all the moral traits given in the Ten Commandments and in the Teachings of Jesus and endeavor to make those morals your morals, then you will be as **One with God**.

In this crooked and perverse world, which adheres to Satan's False Gospel, you who uphold the Morality of God, become a shining light of goodness that far out shines those around you who are lost in the darkness of Satan's lies and deceptions.

*Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. **Philippians 2:16***

When you embrace the morality of God, and give worship to God as is commanded in the first four of the Ten Commandments, then you are the light of life for the entire world to see that is otherwise lost in the darkness of Satan's lies. When you follow the instructions of Jesus as voiced by his prophet Paul, then Paul has not preached in vain, and neither has God sent his son Jesus to teach us in vain.

*Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me. **Philippians 2:17-18***

Rejoice in the Lord and Beware

*Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. **Philippians 3:1***

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision, for we are the circumcision, (of the heart), which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Philippians 3:2-3

This is Paul's attempt at showing his concern that others, False Prophets, will preach a doctrine of error, and that those who have been shown the truth through Paul and the other apostles, need to keep strong in those teachings and not be pulled away by false words and false customs.

In verse 3 above, I imputed in brackets, (of the heart), to show the truth of what Paul is saying. Those of the Third Covenant have the Law of God written upon their hearts, not as laws that must be kept but as aspects of their own personality, honor and moral character.

Remember: the "Circumcision" is those who are the Jews, which are circumcised of the foreskin. But Paul in the above verse is referring to those who are **circumcised of the heart**, that being followers of Jesus Christ require no physical mark, but have a spiritual mark. They are those who have the Laws of God written on their hearts.

If the Law of God is written upon your heart, then you still are obedient to the Ten Commandments, but no longer as a law required to be obeyed, but as a part of who you are; your Personality, your Honor, your Moral Character.

Paul's Pedigree

*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh, if any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **Philippians 3:5-6***

Paul was a member of a family who were priests of the Temple, and as such he received a good education. With this status of being Temple priests, and members of the Sect of Pharisee's, Paul's family held a place of honor and respect in the community, and in the City of Jerusalem itself.

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. **Philippians 3:7-8***

What things were gain to me? Paul is asking the question, "Even though I had all these things, what good were they in relation to not having Christ?" In Christ all these things I counted as loss, which is to say, they had no value as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Paul refers to the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for which he suffered the loss of all things. Paul further reveals, and do count them but dung, which is to say that Paul counts all that he has given up in his fellowship with Christ, as nothing at all, only as dung as compared to all he has received from God in return for his Faith.

Paul was willing to give up all the honor and prestige of his family; that I may win Christ. This is the sign of a true believer who puts the ways of God above his own personal wants and desires.

Righteousness of God

*To be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith? **Philippians 3:9***

*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **Philippians 3:10-11***

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:12***

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13-14***

*Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. **Philippians 3:15***

*Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. **Philippians 3:16***

*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. **Philippians 3:17***

*For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things. **Philippians 3:18-19***

It has been my experience that as soon as I came into full understanding of who God is and the purpose of Christ Jesus, that I no longer had interest in the things of this world.

I was once extremely interested in reading Science Fiction novels, and I have even written and publish one of my own, "Destiny of Man, published by Publish America." With my embracing of the Teachings of Jesus and the acceptance of the Ten Commandments into my personality and moral character, I no longer have much interest in things of fiction; the reality of this world, with Satan's strong influence over the nations and the people, is far more compelling.

*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. **Philippians 3:20-21***

Stand Fast in the Lord

*Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. **Philippians 4:1***

*I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. **Philippians 4:2***

To be in **the same mind** is to have the same belief in all that God stands for and Commands and in all that Jesus Christ taught. To receive and accept the same understanding as Paul has and as Paul and the other Apostles preached, and not adding to or removing from anything that the Apostles preached.

An example of this would be as Paul preached concerning the circumcision of the foreskin, that as being in the Faith of Jesus Christ, we have the law of God written on our hearts, and therefore have no need of the symbolic physical mark of circumcision.

Generous and Giving

*And I entreat thee also, true yoke-fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Cement also, and with other my fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of life. **Philippians 4:3***

*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, "Rejoice." Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. **Philippians 4:4-5***

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **Philippians 4:6***

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:7***

Be Saint-like in all things

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. **Philippians 4:8***

*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. **Philippians 4:9***

*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **Philippians 4:10-11***

*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **Philippians 4:12***

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. **Philippians 4:13-14***

*Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. **Philippians 4:15-17***

*But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, and odour of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. **Philippians 4:18***

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **Philippians 4:19-20***