

**“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
The Great Transition, The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace — Part 24
Blessings Untold for the Ephesians But As Always, Grace Rules - Part 8”**

Ephesians 5 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living — Part 2

Review: Ephesians 5 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living — Part 1:

- ***In our study last time we will learned what Paul the apostle of the Gentiles revealed in chapter 5 of this great letter to the Ephesians concerning our current circumstances under which we are living today with the fullness of God’s wonderful grace a reality. As we saw, there were three aspects to our teaching today:***
 - ***It Is Our Privilege to Redeem the Time for the Days are Evil, Verses 1-16 — Things are not really as they might seem! We are surrounded by the ungodly and the difference between how they are living and how we should be living is stark. There can be no mixing of the light and the dark here. Full separation is the order of the day.***
 - ***The Walk of the Believer Is Enabled by the Spirit, Verses 17-20 — Our walk therefore needs an entirely different empowering and that is supplied only by the Spirit according to which we must walk. We must stop being dominated by the flesh and its “drunkenness”, as it were, and must start to live in fully in the spirit.***
 - ***Membership in the the Church Which Is His Body Promotes Submission, Verses 21-33 — Finally, the whole structure of our living is to be re-oriented according to God’s ordained hierarchy, whether in marriage, regarding the family, or in our relationships outside the family. Walking by the Spirit with His Fullness is the Key to Godly Living, as we shall see. Marriage and that relationship in Christ is so much more that it might seem to be as we shall see today. It is all part of the sacred secret, Paul writes, and that is all about Christ and the church which is His Body.***

Ephesians 5 Walking by the Spirit as the Key to Godly Living — An Introduction:

- ***It Is Our Privilege to Redeem the Time for the Days are Evil, Verses 1-16***
 - ***The argument here is that on the basis of what Christ has accomplished and the free gift of his grace, we should live as he***

desires! It is that simple AND that powerful as an exhortation. Will we receive it? It is a gracious exhortation.

- ***This is about the world with its temptations and evils unmasked and visible to all, whether saved or unsaved. We are not to share with them in any of it for it is evil. We have nothing in common with them. Nothing! But more, even speaking of them is (or should be) shameful. This is a teaching that demands much consideration in our see and hear all media-dominated world. Why might the apostle have written this?***

Eph. 5:14-16

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

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- ***“Sleepeth” == “to be distracted”. “Arise from the dead” is better translated “arise out from among the dead ones [that is, the unsaved]”. This is a present tense, so “begin arising” might be equivalent.***
- ***This separation principle is normative therefore. He goes on to state the principle is these glorious words: “Buying up the opportunities because the days are evil, that is, arranged by the evil one”. The thought is incomplete without the explanation provided in the next verses regarding the filling to overflowing by the Holy Spirit of God. The linking is in the words of verse 17, “not unwise”, that connect so perfectly with the the words “but as wise” in verse 15.***
- ***The Walk of the Believer Is Enabled by the Spirit, Verses 17-20***
 - ***He goes on in verse 18 to exhort with these words: “be not drunk with wine” and follows with additional action verbs for speaking, singing, making melody, and giving of thanks. So there are four aspects of this “filling” listed here, all internal, individual and personal.***
 - ***But it immediately becomes more than internal with the next verses where the apostle focuses specifically on the marriage bond and for good reason, as it is satan’s focus of attack due to its central purpose in the family of God from the beginning.***

- ***Living Grace — Submission in Marriage Magnifies the Lord, Verses 21-33***

Well, here is where we finished last time with the marriage bond. True submission in the church has as its primary example, husbands and wives in a relationship God has established and enabled. It is to be the primary example for those in other relationships. Without that example, we are truly at great loss as believers.

The power of grace to transform us should be easily seen in the most intimate of all human relationships, in marriage. So he uses intimate language here in verses 30-33:

Eph. 5:30-33

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 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.

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

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.

- ***We saw last time how submission between marriage partners is a very practical matter since grace-forgiveness has become its operational principle. The teaching here revolves around a theme of critical importance to the apostle, that of the hierarchy of God established in the creation at the beginning and maintained as a central focus of God's work down through time in every dispensational framework.***
- ***At the beginning satan sought to deny and defy his position before his creator. So the divine hierarchy was his enemy from the beginning. And it continues to be so today and always. Husbands and wives have been placed in a relationship by Almighty God and satan seeks to destroy that relationship. Wives should submit to their husbands as unto the Lord and husbands are to live their wives as Christ loved the church. Verse 33 summarizes it using different language: "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband".***

Today: Ephesians 5 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living — Part 2:

- ***Living Grace — Parent - Child Relationships Are Transformed (6:1-4)***
- ***Living Grace — Relationships In the World Outside Are Ennobled (6:5-9)***
- ***Living Grace — Our Warfare Against Satanic Foes Will Continue (6:10-24)***

I. Living Grace — Parent - Child Relationships Are Transformed (6:1-4):

[READ] Eph. 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- ***Paul here goes back to Moses's Law because some principles of God's administration over his creation are trans-dispensational. One of these is the God given relationship ordained between parents and their children. Satan therefore has always sought to harm and destroy those relationships, whatever the dispensational plan of God. The Old Testament gives so many examples of this, doesn't it? The divinely created hierarchy is seen in its many dimensions in scripture. In the family this teaching is critically important in every way. Paul shows great respect for the Law here though he is not teaching that we are subject to it. It is all of grace here.***

II. Living Grace — [All] Relationships In the World Outside Are Ennobled (6:5-9):

[READ] Eph. 6:5-9

5 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;
6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;
7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:
8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.
9 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.

- ***Here Paul's focus on submission continues with a teaching on masters and servants, or should I say, slave owners and their slaves, since that was a dominant theme in his day. Today we can find applications directly in employment. Since in Christ there are no such distinctions, personal relationships outside marriage and the family are ennobled by the Christian bond which is greater than any inequality that culture or law may dictate or enable.***

- ***Paul is not a revolutionary. He does not want his “heavenly citizenship” to be tarnished by earthly concerns, even in regard to something as important as this. So he does not speak or write directly against the social evils inherent in the practice of slavery, so common in ancient times.***
- ***In addition, Paul writes that our “service” to those above us should never be based on a legal principle of personal gain, but “from the heart” and “as unto the Lord”. My, such encouraging and spiritual language this is! God will work out the “equity” of it all later, in eternity, seems to be the clear intent here, not a “health and wealth” teaching as is so common today.***

III. Living Grace — Our Warfare Against Satanic Foes Will Continue (6:10-24):

But satan will always seek to destroy the harmony of the spirit in our relationships if he can. Submission within the Body with proper respect always is to be the order of the day. Satan will destroy or tarnish this ideal if he can, however, so we will always be living in a state of war in that sense at least.

What Paul is revealing here is the true and revealed nature of our warfare. For, he writes, our enemies in their most essential nature are spiritual beings in the heavens, fallen spirit beings who are all instruments of satan. Knowing this should change our perspective very much indeed. Amen?

[READ] Eph. 6:10-13 [Spiritual warfare’s details]

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 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*.

13 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.

[READ] Eph. 6:14-18

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- *There is so much here! Our purpose today is only to create a desire to understand this letter better and to highlight what is here as Paul, now a prisoner, reveals all that the Lord had taught him.*
- *Our foes are in essence spiritual beings and not flesh and blood. The weapons of our warfare therefore must also be spiritual. He make this so clear here.*
- *It should change our view of history and of our present world and country if we would take to heart what is written here. How is God working in our own land today? Has it?*

[READ] Eph. 6:19-24 [Paul's challenges as spiritual warfare abounds]

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

21 But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity [incorruption] Amen.

- *Paul ask the believers to pray for him. He does not ask for prayer regarding the terms of his imprisonment. He does ask for prayer concerning his “opportunity” as an “ambassador” in bondage. He clearly believed his imprisonment was ordained by God.*
- *His request for the right “words” [translated “utterance” in verse 19] is interesting. He was in need as we all are for satan may easily take advantage of us even when we know his strategy and techniques well. He includes the words “the mystery of the gospel” here too to remind the Ephesian believers that his message and ministry were now for the Gentiles irrespective of Israel now that Israel and its Kingdom claims had been set aside. I think the gospel of the mystery and the mystery of the gospel are different (see Rom. 16:25). What he is writing about here may be something he had taught them*

about while the three years in their midst. Or, perhaps it is simply good news regarding our circumstances under the abundant outpouring of his grace.

Even in prison we may rejoice in the Lord and continue to carry out effectively the ministry he has given to us. We are encouraged here to be very bold for his WITH the word of grace always, in every possible circumstance. Amen and amen.