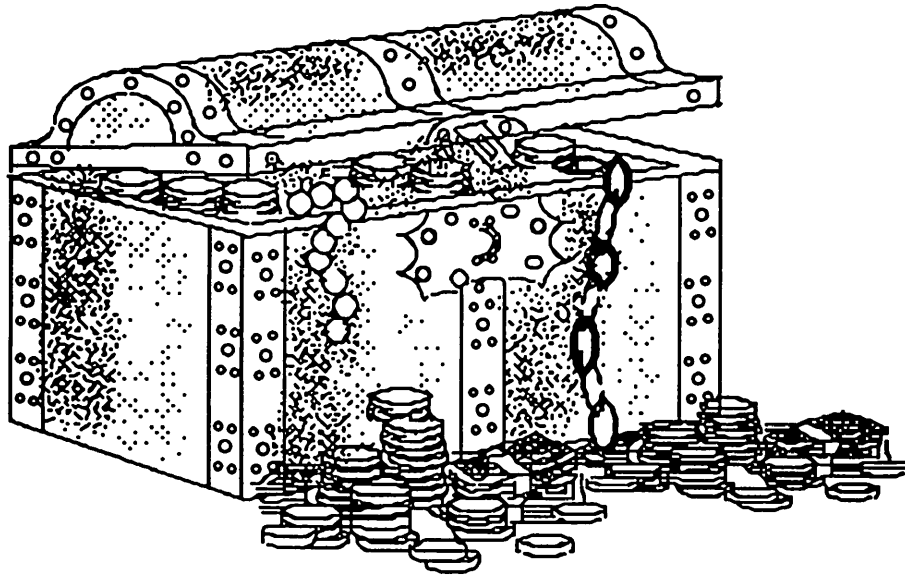


THE TREASURE CHEST OF ETERNAL GEMS

by
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier
Christian Literature and Bible Center Inc.,

NOT TO BE SOLD

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A study of the Apostle Paul's letters to the
EPHESIANS

by

REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER

Founder and President of

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE
AND BIBLE CENTER INC.

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"A Study of the Book of Ephesians

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PREFACE

The Book of Ephesians is one of the highest levels of Doctrinal church truth among the Epistles. God the Holy Spirit especially used Paul the Apostle to relate these important eternal truths from the Godhead so that the Saints of all ages might have a deeper understanding of the position that the "Body of Christ" has been given. It was written some ten years before Jerusalem was completely burned by Titus. (70 A.D.) Christ had foretold the disciples that every stone of the temple would be torn down. "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matt.24:2. Therefore, Christianity, being rejected in Jerusalem, was now being taken to the "Regions Beyond"!

As we study this outstanding revelation from God, we want to consider the rich inheritance that we, as Christians, already possess which is guaranteed and secured in the heavenly vaults of God. This is not a hopeless treasure hunt or wishful dreams, but a reality in the Lord Jesus Christ, and sealed by God the Holy Spirit. It is like reading God's will concerning each of us,, who are already the saints of God. As New Testament saints, this denotes and secures us as saints positionally, but does not declare that in our mortal state that we are sinless. "called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." Rom.1:7b. This is the position of every believer as being sanctified by God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sanctification is due to the finished work of Christ on Calvary. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered outside the gate." Heb.13:12. "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second; By which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all." Heb.10:9-10.

May we make special note, that this Epistle deals with the "True Church" and does not deal with specific churches, as to their local assembly. We will be taken up into the "Heavenlies" as we enter into the eternal values which are bequeathed to us by our loving Lord. May our hearts be prepared to search out these marvelous truths from God's treasure chest, being established in Christ, and having confidence in God's Word. May we eventually be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim.4:7-8.

Rev.Dr.Andrew J.Losier

DEDICATION

As we handle these eternal gems from the Book of Ephesians, may we also be mindful of the rich heritage which God has given to us. As one grows older, we finally realize that we have said farewell to many of our loved ones, who are in the presence of the Lord. In my immediate family, the youngest of my three sisters, Olive, is still serving the Lord in her mortal body. She is a little older than I am, and is continually enthusiastic for the Lord. I wish to pay tribute and honor to my Dear Sister Olive L. Toogood. I also wish to dedicate this textbook to the Toogood family. Dear Olive's husband Richard Jackson Toogood, born August the 30th., 1905 and went to be with the Lord October the 20th., 1964. Richard accepted the Lord Jesus Christ late in his life, and I had the privilege of presenting him with a Bible. I count it a great honor to send forth this textbook in memory of Richard, my beloved brother in law. He knew that he hadn't long to live, and set his house in order, planning to be present with the Lord, whom he loved dearly. There will be a grand reunion of the saints of God, some golden day break, and what a day of rejoicing that will be! We shall see our Savior face to face in our glorified bodies, and be with our loved ones, who have gone on before us. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess.4:16-18.

Brother Andrew

FOREWARD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to a man of God, whom I have known for many years, Rev. Pastor Ron McDonnel of the Katy Bible Church in Katy, Texas. The Lord has used him to bring salvation and joy to many, and to establish Christians in the most holy faith. I am deeply honored as Pastor Ron McDonnel writes the foreward to this Biblical textbook, *The Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems*.

When I think of the Book of Ephesians, immediately the words, "Doctrine, Grace, and Godly Living" come to mind. When I think of Andy Losier, the same three big ideas describe his person and his life: "Doctrine, Grace, and Godly Living".

The Book of Ephesians lays the foundation for so much of New Testament doctrine. Doctrine is to the Christian faith what a skeleton is to the body. Countless times involved in the construction of church buildings, Andy Losier understands the importance of laying a solid foundation. This applies to the spiritual discipling of congregations as well as to their church facilities.

Another prominent theme in Ephesians is God's amazing grace. God has provided super abounding grace from before the foundation of the world for his elect and for our salvation in this dispensation of grace by the Holy Spirit. Andy's message and life have consistently magnified the precious grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. His teaching of dispensational truth finds much of its basis in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

We are admonished in the Book of Ephesians to walk worthy of our high calling in Christ Jesus. This translates into believers having a high God-consciousness as a grid through which we view the world. In a word, saints are admonished to practice what we believe by godly living. Andy and Dorothy Losier, as missionaries to Africa for 43 years, have been models of a couple committed to serving their Lord Jesus and living godly. This book, as an indepth study of the wonderful truths of Ephesians, is merely an extension of what Andy has been doing all of his life, i. e., equipping saints around the world with the Word of God to do the work of the ministry. Andy has been a faithful spiritual warrior fighting the good fight, keeping the faith. He is a man of the Book. Unlike the church of Ephesus to which this letter from the Apostle Paul was written, Andy has never lost his "first love".

May God use this study from the heart and pen of this man of God to produce much fruit for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rev. Ron McDonnel,
Pastor, of Katy Bible Church,
Katy, Texas, U.S.America.
Supporting Andy and Dorothy,
as missionaries for 20 years.

INTRODUCTION

As we study the Epistle of Ephesians, written to the Saints of all ages, we will be dealing with the highest aspirations in the Christian faith. It will take us into the heavenlies with Christ Jesus, giving us a glimpse of our inheritance as members of the body of Christ and of the royal family of God. There are a few important factors which we should consider as we examine these eternal precious gems from God's Word.

- 1. Our position in Christ Jesus.**
- 2. The importance of God the Holy Spirit in our present life.**
- 3. Being saints of God, it is imperative that we have a fruitful walk for the Lord.**
- 4. The unity of the true church is provisionally made possible by the Holy Spirit.**
- 5. These truths represent the living hope which has been established by the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 6. The weapons of our warfare against all opposition are mighty through God.**
- 7. Victory is already ours by the complete work of Christ.**

Here is the outline which I suggest, as we examine these precious gems from the treasure chest of God. They are kept in the storehouse of our heavenly Father, where rust and dust does not corrupt. We have constant access to these gems as we study God's Word. They are fully insured and sealed by God the Holy Spirit.

OUTLINE

CHAPTER ONE RICH INHERITANCE

CHAPTER TWO FLAWLESS LIVING GEMS

CHAPTER THREE ABUNDANCE OF PERSONAL WEALTH

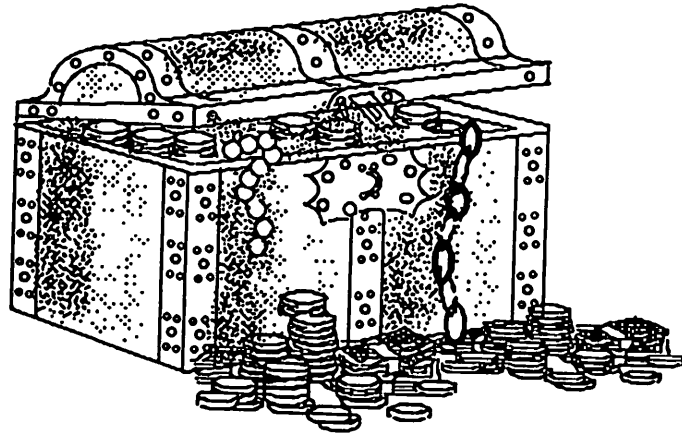
CHAPTER FOUR UNITED IN CHRIST

CHAPTER FIVE INCORRUPTIBLE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER SIX A PROTECTED TREASURE FOR ETERNITY

CHAPTER 1

RICH INHERITANCE



CHAPTER ONE

RICH INHERITANCE

Paul's Positional Credentials

Although Paul the apostle was physically a prisoner of Rome, as he wrote this Epistle, he declared himself an apostle and a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ, by the will of God. (Eph.1:1.) Paul, having become a believer was changed entirely and now he experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit. Being chained to Roman soldiers, did not deter Paul from the ministry which was entrusted to him. He set his goal on things above, and desired to fulfill his high calling in the Lord, at all cost. There were no complaints and the Holy Spirit led him to write, "Grace be to you, and peace, from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." Eph.1:2. This was all in the will of God, and was necessary for Paul to spend time as a prisoner for several reasons.

- 1. He was reaching the royal family of Rome with the Gospel.**
- 2. The Roman soldiers were chained to Paul, and were in hearing and seeing distance of all that Paul was teaching and writing.**
- 3. These written Epistles were made possible by his time as a prisoner.**

There is now an important issue which we must settle as to Paul's credentials as an apostle. The New Testament term of an apostle was first used by the Lord Jesus Christ as he sent forth his disciples to the household of Israel. (Matt.10:1-15.) He called his 12 disciples together and sent them forth to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. They were called apostles, during the Lord's earthly ministry, but Paul was called to become an apostle, by the risen and ascended Lord. Paul and Barnabas were chosen by the Holy Spirit. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work unto which I have called them." Acts 13:2. The Scripture gives us proof of this in Acts 14:14; naming Barnabas and Paul as apostles. In the final count down, there are but 12 apostles and the following conditions must be met.

- 1. They had to be chosen directly by the Lord himself. (Matt.10:1-2; Mk.3:13-14; Lk.6:13; Acts 9:6,15; Acts 13:2; Acts 22:10,14-15; Rom.1:1.**
- 2. These apostles were given special powers as signs of their authentic calling by God. (Matt.10:1; Acts 5:15-16; Acts 16:16-18; Acts 28:8-9.)**
- 3. The disciples were to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to Israel only, during the earthly ministry of Christ. (Matt.4:17;Matt.10:7-8;) "These twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter not; But go, rather, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matt.10:5-6.**

4. **The apostles were designated by Christ for the continuation of their being sent under different conditions and now to the whole world. "He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, who is in heaven." Matt.16:15-17. Then Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church". Peter was first chosen to this New Testament apostleship, (Matt.16:19.) Then the remainder of the disciples were also commissioned. (Matt.18:18; Jn.20:21-23.)**
5. **The 12 apostles will be future judges over the 12 tribes of Israel. "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you that ye who have followed me, in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Matt.19:28.**
6. **With Israel rejecting their Messiah, the mystery age was then revealed on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-12. This gave occasion for the fulfillment of the great commission by the Lord Jesus Christ. Matt.28:18-20. The commission was for all of us, and not merely for the 12 appointed apostles.**
7. **To have become an apostle, it was necessary to have seen the risen Lord and Savior, as an eye witness.(Acts 1:22.)**

Since Paul did not see the resurrected Lord along with the other disciples, the question remains, When was it that Paul saw the resurrected Lord? It had to be on the way to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-19). He looked upon the resurrected Lord, who was none other than Jesus Christ. That is why Paul could say, "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you; for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord." 1 Cor.9:1-2. These qualifications to be an apostle would disqualify those in our present day who wish to be called apostles, for they have never seen the resurrected Lord. Paul has made up the final number of the twelve apostles, who will eventually judge one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Paul also had three years in the Arabian dessert, which he declares as follows. "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood; Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them who were apostles before me, but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days." Gal.1:15-18. "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth)- How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory; yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities." 2 Cor.12:2-5. This was God's manifestation to Paul and qualifying him to be an apostle.

The Heavenly blessings

"Blessed be the God and Father of our lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" Eph.1:3.

The Lord has granted unto Christians a heavenly inheritance, which is rich in eternal values. God's stock market remains constant and nothing can cause a depreciation in those eternal stocks and bonds. They are kept safely in the vaults of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have already been made a first class heavenly citizen. "For our citizenship 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." Phil3:20-21. "Behold what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." 1 Jn.3:1-3. We look forward to that time when we shall behold our Redeemer, face to face, and receive our glorified body, like unto his. The "Heavenlies" contain our rich eternal blessings, accomplished through Christ by the Almighty power of God. "According as his Divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; By which are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Pet.1:3-4. It is therefore very important that we have knowledge of the living Word, so that we may thoroughly understand the riches of our inheritance. God has had a purpose in giving us an inside look as to what the future holds. We do not work to attain an inheritance, but rather work to show our appreciation for what God has already provided.

GEMS WITHIN THE TREASURE CHEST

1. Chosen Vessels in Christ

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph.1:4.

The Lord Jesus Christ has spoken much about the coming Kingdom and it was usually spoken of in parables, to make it easier to understand. During one of these times, he spoke of the Marriage feast that the king prepared for his son, (God the Father preparing for his Son the Lord Jesus Christ) and so many made all sorts of excuses, and made fun of this marriage feast and even killed those who brought the invitation to attend. They were not worthy to attend and God is now in the process of gathering first the Bride, and the friends of the Bridegroom will be gathered from all of the Old Testament Saints. There will even be some that will try to attend without the wedding garments, but will be cast forth. The Old Testament Saints only consist of those who are clothed in the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This parable concludes with a direct word from the Lord. "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt.22:14. This concise statement from

the Lord has best been explained to me by a Dr. Lu from Taiwan, who said, "Many are called but few are God's choice."

Note what the Word of God says concerning we who are Christians. "According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him, in love." Eph.1:4. We have become the Father's choice, based upon our faith in his Son, who provided so great salvation on Calvary's cross. Let us just list some of these precious eternal Gems, revealed in the Bible.

- A. God chose to include the Gentiles. Acts 15:7-9.**
- B. God's chosen laborers in God's own time. Matt.20:1-16.**
- C. Tribulation saints will be chosen by God. Mk.13:19-23.**
- D. The Son of God knows the chosen ones. Jn.13:16-18.**
- E. Chosen fruit bearing friends. Jn.15:15-19.**
- F. Chosen apostles through the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:2.**
- G. Paul a chosen vessel to witness before the Gentiles, kings and Israel. Acts 9:15; Acts 22:13-16.**
- H. God's choice for the Lord's glory 1 Cor.1:26-31.**
- I. The chosen are identified by the Holy Spirit. 2 Thess.2:13-17.**
- J. Chosen as a soldier of the Lord 2 Tim.2:3-4.**
- K. God chose the poor to be made rich in Christ. Jas.2:5.**
- L. Chosen by God as living stones. 1 Pet.2:4-5.**
- M. A chosen generation, and a royal priesthood. 1 Pet.2:9.**

We have been chosen in the Lord Jesus Christ, through his merits, rather than our own. The purpose of God choosing us, is to pour out his holiness upon us with "Divine Love", declaring us blameless for all eternity. Being chosen by God, places within our possession a priceless and eternal gem. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 Jn.4:8-10.

2. Adopted into the royal family of God.

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, through which he hath made us accepted in the Beloved;"

There is nothing that is impossible with God, and he has pre-determined the conclusions of all things in the beginning. He has actually placed us in his family, not as servants but rather as sons and daughters. We have by faith been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and now have the rights as children of God, with the Divine nature of the Holy Spirit implanted within us. This takes place the moment that one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, from the Divine viewpoint it was determined before the foundation of the world. This is not fatalism, but realism in the omniscience of God. We have been given a guarantee of this by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The full realization of this will take place when we receive our glorified bodies, like unto the glorified body of the Lord. This will be the redemption of the body. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, that is the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope. But hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Rom.8:22-25. By faith we patiently wait for this complete adoption, and God in his omniscience knows those who will come to the Lord by their own free will. "Wherefore, the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Gal.3:24-26. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Gal.4:6-7. So your predestinated adoption is not in you, but rather in Christ Jesus. Our individual volition is always present, and it is "Whosoever will may come". We are now awaiting that resurrection of those who have gone on before, and the bodily change of those that will be alive at the coming of the Lord, to lift us up into the heavenlies to dwell in the mansions of the Father. (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

It is of the greatest importance that we understand predestination from God's viewpoint. That only comes as we carefully study God's Word. There are two important categories that we place the determination of God's plans for all ages. First of all God causes certain things to come about such as salvation provided through his Son for those who are the elect because of their faith. Then there are certain things which God foreknows, permitting the evil forces to accomplish, under the sovereignty of God. God is not the creator of evil, but allows the evil sources to go so far and no further. Since God knows the end from the beginning, and has a foreknowledge of all things, it becomes the norm of God, expressing his immutability. It is a marvelous revelation to us, who have come into this adoption, to behold the precious gems of eternity in and through Christ. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." Jn.15:16.

3. Redemption through Christ's blood with total forgiveness.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace," Eph.1:7.

This total redemption can only come through the riches of his grace poured out upon us. We have been purchased out from the slave market of sin, and brought into the royal family of God, adopted in the beloved. The transaction has been made and the Lord Jesus Christ paid it all in full, by grace alone. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord! God did not by pass sin in any way, but was willing to send his eternal Son, to fulfill his law. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our lord." Rom.6:23. This has made possible, our being covered and clothed with the righteousness of Christ. At present we are covered with the righteousness of Christ, our life being hidden in the Lord. We reckon ourselves dead to the old life and alive in the newness of life given to us by the Holy Spirit. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Col.3:2-3. "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven," 2 Cor.5:2.

We are looking forward unto the fulfillment of that blessed hope, when we will not only be redeemed from the penalty of sin, but also from the presence of sin, once and forever. "Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works." Tit.2:13-14. It was Christ himself that took the curse of sin upon himself, setting us free from sin and death. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree;" Gal.3:13. Our redemption could not be bought with silver or gold, but took the very precious blood of the Incarnate Son of God to deliver us from the penalty of sin. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, who raised him up from the dead and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God." 1 Pet.1:18-21.

When we are "Caught Up" to meet the Lord in the air, and travel into the very heavens and in the presence of the angels, we shall then sing the song of redemption in our glorified bodies. "And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And has made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth." Rev.5:9-10. That will be a glorious day, when we see our Savior face to face and remain with the Lord forever and ever!

4. Divine wisdom and prudence provided.

"In which he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself;" Eph.1:9.

The natural man and his mentality, cannot understand the spiritual realm, because he is both dead spiritually and blind mentally. In Adam all mankind has died spiritually and gradually dies physically. Through Satan, all unregenerate people have been brain washed. "But if our gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor.4:3.

The Lord has not only revealed this Divine wisdom to us, but has also given us God the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth. "Nevertheless, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." Jn.16:13-15. God the Holy Spirit is both the Author of the Scripture and the teacher of it's marvelous truths. He also has many special gifts that he gives to various ones, for expounding the things to come. (1 Cor.12:1-11.) "Oh the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Rom.11:33.

What Christians have to say concerning the gospel, may not seem wise according to the mentality of this world system, but to those with spiritual understanding, brings a treasure house of blessings. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perisheth foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.....But to them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.....But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption;" 1 Cor.1:18-30. The wisdom of this world system is limited to events that are dealt with in the material realm, but God's wisdom is based upon eternal values. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." 1 Cor.3:19-20.

God does wish that we would be partakers of more and more of his wisdom through the Bible. If you lack wisdom and understanding, there is a way of obtaining it. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." Jas.1:5. Having Christ as our savior, we have access to the wisdom of God. "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col.2:3. May we rejoice in the Lord for the great things that God continues to do for us, through Christ Jesus. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Col.3:16.

5. The inherited mystery of God's will.

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself; That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might

gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him; In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. That we should be to the praise and his glory, who first trusted in Christ." Eph.1:9-12.

There should be no doubt in the mature Christians understanding as to what the future holds. But, sadly enough, very little of the future is known to the average believer. Why is this so? It is purely a neglect in the study of God's Word, being cluttered with temporal things, as well as not being filled by the Holy Spirit. Usually Christians prefer a one course meal from God's word in order to prevent indigestion. They can only digest the milk of God's word, as we read. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with solid food; for to this time ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." 1 Cor.3:1-2. However, when those same babes in Christ sit down to a banquet they would complain unceasingly if they only had a first course meal. It seems that the ordinary Christian is not curious enough or ambitious to search the Scripture, as to what lies ahead of us. It is God's will that we thoroughly understand these mysteries, hidden away in the Bible. He wants us to be workmen, seeking to know the eternal treasures of gems which are waiting for us in our heavenly home.

As we study the Bible and spend much time in reading these precious promises, God is glorified and honored, and our study amounts to the praise and glory of God, as coming from those who first trusted in Christ. The mystery of the kingdom which Christ preached during his three years, should now be clearly understood by Christians. Paul had to remind us, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles is come." Rom.11:25. We need to understand the kingdom teachings, Israel's rejection, and the Gentiles inception. As we study the whole New Testament in the light of the Old Testament, we can better understand the Master plan of God, according to the revelation of the mystery of God. "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God, only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen." Rom.16:25-27.

Another important mystery which we should be thoroughly familiar with is the mystery of the human resurrection "Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." 1 Cor.15:51. The more we know about the Bible, the greater our confidence and assurance will be as to what we will face after death, or what we will face as the Rapture takes place, for both the dead and the living. "Even the mystery which hath been hidden from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints, To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;" Col.1:26-27. We as Christians are in mystery, as to the body of Christ, and although we are of various languages and cultural backgrounds, yet we are made one in Christ Jesus. This should be a great comfort to each of us. "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and

of the Father, and of Christ, In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col.2:2-3.

6. An eternal seal by God the Holy Spirit.

"In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." Eph.1:13-14.

Newness of life has been made possible by being born again, by God the Holy Spirit. In Adam all human beings died spiritually and in Christ we are made alive, by the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. Since God is the Author and finisher of our faith in so great a salvation, so it was necessary to have the Divine seal upon our lives. We have seen the various ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives as Christians, and we will just mention some of these as a reminder.

- A. The Holy Spirit gives us a new birth. Jn.3:5-7.**
- B. The Holy Spirit remains within us forever. Jn.14:16-17.**
- C. All believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor.12:13.**
- D. The Holy Spirit continually prays for the believers. Rom.8:26.**
- E. The Holy Spirit teaches us the Word of God. Jn.16:13.**
- F. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. Jn.16:8.**
- G. The Holy Spirit is capable of filling the believer. Eph.3:19.**
- H. The Holy Spirit is grieved when the Christians sin. Eph.4:30.**
- I. The Holy Spirit comforts the believers. Jn.14:26.**
- J. The Holy Spirit gives special gifts for the work of the Lord. 1 Cor.12:11.**
- K. The Holy Spirit restrains the evil forces. 2 Thess.2:7.**
- L. The Holy Spirit guides and directs the believers. Rom.8:14.**
- M. Christians are sealed forever by the Holy Spirit. Eph.1:13.**

When we clearly understand the wonder working power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, then and then only can we enter into the faith rest , provided by God. "Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness," Heb.3:7-8. "Let us therefore, fear lest, a

promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we who have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest; although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." Heb.4:1-3. "There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God. For he that entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb.4:9-13.

Since we as Christians are eternally sealed by God the Holy Spirit, we need to lay aside all these weights, and cares, so that we can serve the Lord unhindered. "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he who establisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God, Who hath sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." 2 Cor.1:20-22. God the Holy Spirit has been given as a Divine stamp upon our lives, to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, until the day of deliverance. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Eph.4:30.

7. The privilege of praying for knowledge and power.

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which was wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Eph.1:17-23.

A life of prayer opens the mighty power of God to flow in and through us, to the glory and praise of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord offers these priceless treasures to us as believers, as eternal gems. Let us just list the benefits derived through prayer.

- A. Access into the very presence of God. Eph.1:18-19.**
- B. Access to wisdom and revelation, as we learn more about the Lord. Eph.1:17.**
- C. Prayer opens our eyes to Divine understanding of our hope and inheritance in Christ Jesus. Eph.1:18.**

- D. Prayer reveals the greatness of God's mighty power, which he revealed in the resurrection of Christ. Eph.1:19-20.**
- E. Giving us access to the Lord Jesus Christ, on the right hand of God the Father, as our Advocate. Eph.1:20-21.**
- F. Making known to us the mighty power that is in possession of the Son of God, to whom we will become the bride. Eph.1:22-23.**

CONCLUSION

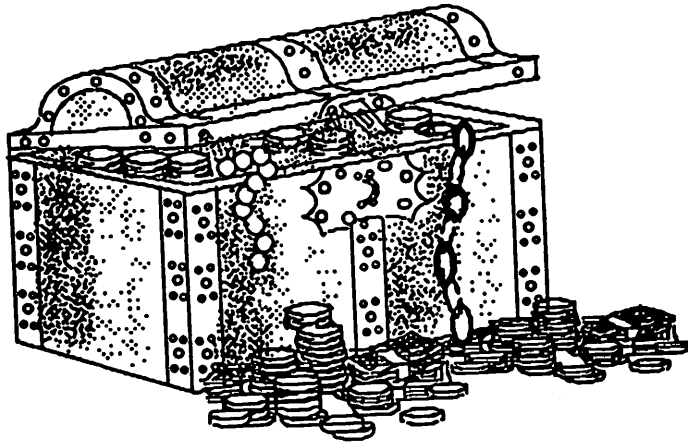
We have handled some very precious gems in this first chapter of the Book of Ephesians, and may we safely deposit them within our hearts. The world's temporal values are as trash, compared to these marvelous blessings in the heavenlies that already belong to us, being joint heirs with the Lord. May we remind ourselves of these eternal things which God has prepared for us. (1 Cor.2:9-12.) God has poured out his heavenly blessings far more exceedingly than what he could provide for us in this temporal life. Because of the love of his precious Son toward us, the Father is wanting to provide for us all the wealth of eternity, as joint heirs with his eternal Son, in whom he is well pleased.

CHAPTER ONE QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the requirements to become an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ?**
- 2. Why doesn't this apostleship continue today?**
- 3. How was Paul entitled to be called an apostle? Cite Scripture.**
- 4. Why did Paul have to spend so much time in prison?**
- 5. Give the Scripture and explain how Paul saw the resurrected Lord.**
- 6. When does a Christian receive these "Heavenly Blessings"?**
- 7. Write a thesis on Ephesians 1:3-14.**
- 8. What do you consider the greatest gems found in the whole Bible?**
- 9. What gives us the right to claim these precious eternal gems as our very own?**
- 10. When do we become members of the royal family of God? Cite Scripture.**
- 11. How do we get access to God's wisdom and knowledge? Cite Scripture.**
- 12. What is the mystery of God's will? Give Scriptural evidence.**
- 13. How long, and under what requirements are we sealed by God the Holy Spirit? Cite Scripture.**
- 14. What possessions do we receive by the Holy Spirit? Cite Scripture.**
- 15. Name some of the blessings that become ours, as we communicate with God through prayer.**

CHAPTER 2

FLAWLESS LIVING GEMS



CHAPTER TWO

UNTARNISHED LIVING GEMS

INTRODUCTION

As we continue with this treasure hunt through the Book of Ephesians, may we be mindful that all of this has been determined by Almighty God before the foundations of this world. There is never a need for God to have an after thought or a change of mind. God is immutable as well as Omniscient and never makes a mistake in his eternal plans. To us with our finite minds, it may seem at times that the Master Plans of God change, but this is not so. May we now venture into the eternal realms and claim a share of the priceless golden nuggets in the heavenlies. These gems are genuine, flawless, priceless, untarnished and alive.

1. Set free from the course of this world system.

The natural man, being brain washed by Satan, the prince of the power of the air, naturally becomes a slave to the course of this world system. The natural man cannot comprehend things that are spiritual, as he died spiritually in Adam the father of all mankind. He is totally depraved from within, in spite of a spark of charity from time to time. We who have been made alive in Christ Jesus, are fully aware of our past. "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times 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 sons of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Eph.2:1-3.

It is a terrifying condition that the natural man is born into, he is immediately under the penalty and wrath of God. The sad part of this slavery under the bondage of sin is, the natural man creates his own type of religion and tries to satisfy his desire by making amends for his short comings. They attempt to counter balance their evil with some sort of welfare. But the Word of God, warns against such form of worshipping the creature, rather than the Creator. "Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, Who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Rom.1:21-25.

2. But God's eternal gem of life!

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive 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;" Eph.2:4-6.

God's great love, had to be entirely by grace, for we were helplessly dead, without one ounce of life! As the Father resurrected the Son, so he made provision through Christ's sacrificial death to make us alive. May we stop a few moments and examine this eternal gem of life, made possible by the one of whom it is said, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Jn.1:3-4. How beautiful are the words from the Son of God. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Jn.6:35. "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Jn.10:9. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Jn.11:25-26. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6.

Dear ones, in the Redeemer, we have been made alive in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ has had victory over sin and death and has become the propitiation before God the Father, removing the sin barrier forever and ever! "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor.15:55-58.

3. Seated as joint heirs with Christ in the heavenlies.

"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 show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Eph.2:6-7.

God always does "exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" Eph.3:20. The manifestation of the love of the Father for us, in saving our souls would have been sufficient, in itself, but God brought us into the very heavenlies with his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father has given us an identification in the heavenlies and a place has been reserved for us to sit with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our guarantee is having been born again by God the Holy Spirit. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs - heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ - if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Rom.8:14-17.

4. Continual grace in the ages to come.

"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph.2:8-10.

Walk in the light of Christ

There could be no greater gem in the heavenlies, than the continual kindness of God the Father toward us, being the body of Christ. In the ages to come, we will rejoice as being married to the Lamb. Salvation is in it's entirety a gift and could never be earned. Our lives as the body of Christ are being molded and made through Christ, so that we might bring forth good works. It is God's workmanship, fully constructed in and through Christ, that will produce good works. Christ desires that we follow him, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Jn.8:12. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:7.

Walk in newness of life

Being made new creatures by a new birth, we should daily walk in this new eternal life, made possible by Christ Jesus. "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom.6:4. When we become new creatures in Christ Jesus, our direction changes, as well as our fellowship. We no longer should desire to be conformed to this present world system, but rather transformed under the will of God.

Walk honestly

We are reminded over and over again that God's word is truth, and it behooves us to be truthful in this chaotic world. We are drawing very near unto the Rapture of the saints and we need to realize that we have but a short time to declare the truth of the gospel of Christ. "And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us, therefore, cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not reveling and drunkenness, not in immorality and wantonness, not in strife and envy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Rom.13:11-14.

Walk by faith

Our walk as Christians is not based upon wishful thinking, but rather on the eternal promises of God. Our faith is based upon evidence from the Bible. It is a faith with substance, and is real, because God has declared these promises, and God is truth. "Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight;" 2 Cor.5:6-7. This is not a step in the dark, but rather a walk in the light of God's Word. The Lord God has given us witnesses down through the ages who have testified to these and eternal gems of God.

Walk in the Holy Spirit

Being born of the Holy Spirit, and being made new creatures through the Holy Spirit, it is imperative that we walk in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and guide and desires to lead us in the ways of righteousness. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal.5:16. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Gal.5:25-26. As we walk in the Spirit, we glorify the Lord, and are well pleasing to God. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" Col.1:10. That is why our faith is not a blind faith, but rather a faith that is confirmed by the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us forever and ever.

Walk in Divine wisdom

We are in this world, but not of it, and therefore we have a responsibility as Ambassadors of Christ to be careful as to our conduct to those who are outside of Christ. We do this in order that some may be turned from darkness to God's marvelous light. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col.4:5-6. "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." 1 Thess.2:12. It is important that we bear a rich testimony before one another with encouragement in the Lord. It is also necessary that we walk in Divine wisdom as well pleasing in the sight of God. "Furthermore, then, we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." 1 Thess.4:1. As we walk in the light of Bible teachings, we have direct contact with Divine authority. The results are inevitable, we walk in the wisdom of Almighty God.

5. Inward peace given freely to all.

"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 with 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 once were far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For he 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 ordinances, to make in himself of two 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 who were afar off, and to them that were near. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph.2:11-18.

The Lord Jesus Christ has broken down all barriers among all nations, so that the body of Christ may be without respect of persons. God had to separate the nation Israel for the purpose of guarding the Messianic promise. Since that has been accomplished, God

is free to offer salvation to all who will believe. We are living in the church age, where there is neither Jew nor Gentile to be considered, but "Whosoever will". We now have access to God the Father, by the sacrifice of Christ, who made possible the new birth by the Holy Spirit. At the death of Christ, we have the record of a strange thing happening in the Jerusalem temple. "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit. And, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks were split." Matt.27:50-51. This veil separating the Holy place from the Holy of Holies, could never have been torn asunder as it was, except God himself performed it. This indicated, that now Christ became the high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Heb.5:1-10. We have become the temple of God, having been born of the Holy Spirit and Christ is our high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

6. Our bodies have become the temple of God.

"Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and sojourners, 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 groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph.2:19-22.

As we continue to search for these eternal gems, we discover that becoming a new creation in Christ, we have been made the temple of God in which God will dwell, through the Holy Spirit. This is an amazing factor in our Christian life, that God is willing to inhabit human beings. Yes, we are indwelt forever by the Holy Spirit, which we have already discussed. We now have become the temple of God, and Christ is both our foundation and corner stone. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor.3:16. We need to constantly remind ourselves of this sacred truth. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this age, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." 1 Cor.3:17-19. We are God's very special people, and those who would attempt to destroy us, will be destroyed by God. It also gives us warning, not to misuse these bodies of ours, for we belong to God. May we glorify the Lord in our daily walk.

CONCLUSION

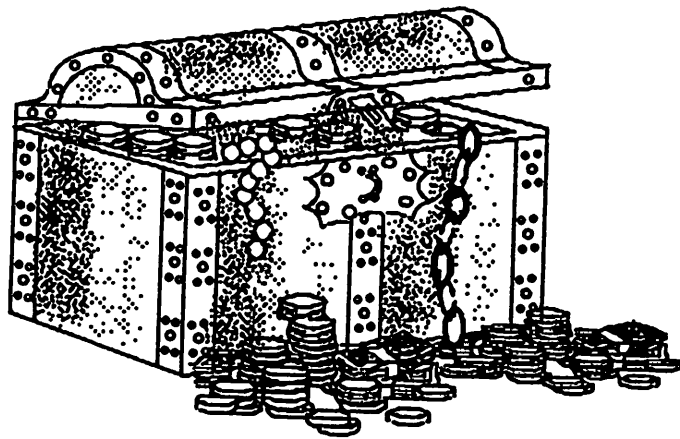
This has been another great discovery, in our treasure hunt, knowing that Christ is the foundation of our new life. Being built upon the solid Rock Christ Jesus, we will find no gem purer or richer than Christ. May we build upon this eternal foundation, Gold, silver and precious stones. Walk worthy of that high calling in Christ Jesus, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you through this life, well pleasing before God. As we continue to search out God's Word, may we make our claims sure, with confidence in the promises of God. There are riches untold to be claimed as our very own, so spend much time in exploring through God's Word.

CHAPTER TWO QUESTIONS

- 1. Does God ever need to change his mind in his eternal plans? Cite Scripture.**
- 2. What do you understand about the church being a living body, which is built upon the foundation Christ Jesus? Cite Scripture.**
- 3. Before you were a Christian - Under whose authority were you? Cite Scripture.**
- 4. What is meant by "Sitting Together in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus"? Cite Scripture.**
- 5. Write an essay on "Joint Heirs in Christ Jesus". Use Scripture.**
- 6. When will God's grace be completed? Cite Scripture.**
- 7. Name some of the ways we are to walk as Christians, and explain.**
- 8. How is "Inward Peace" obtained? Cite Scripture.**
- 9. What is the greatest gem which we have as believers? Cite Scripture.**
- 10. Where is God's house of worship during this church age of grace? Cite Scripture.**
- 11. What does the Bible mean by, "The middle wall of partition"? Cite Scripture.**
- 12. Why did God have to separate Israel before Christ the Messiah came into this world?**
- 13. What is the significance of the veil in the temple being torn asunder at the death of Christ? Matt.27:51.**
- 14. What is the purpose of our good works, that God wishes us to do in this world? Write briefly on this subject.**

CHAPTER 3

ABUNDANCE OF PERSONAL WEALTH



CHAPTER THREE

ABUNDANCE OF PERSONAL WEALTH

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our treasure hunt, we will now be facing something that was a mystery for thousands of years ago. The Old Testament was silent as to this very precious gem, for several reasons.

- 1. Israel had to have freedom of choice, as to whether she would accept the Messiah.**
- 2. God in his omniscience with-held Elijah from coming to herald the kingdom, but sent John the Baptist instead, knowing that the kingdom would need to be postponed.**
- 3. Christ entered Jerusalem as King through the golden gate, knowing that it was in the plan of God the Father to have him come forth from heaven to establish his kingdom.**
- 4. Israel failed to recognize that their Messiah would have to suffer as the Redeemer, before the kingdom would be established.**

These are the outstanding reasons why this special mystery of Christ was not mentioned in the Old Testament. God in his fairness gave Israel that choice to accept or reject the Messiah. God in his omniscience, knew exactly what the religious leaders would do in his fore-knowledge. Another important observation that needs to be made is, Christ did not talk about this mystery during his earthly ministry. What is this, one of the most valuable gems in our possession? It is the mystery of the church, to be born on the day of Pentecost. "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church, Of which I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given me for you, to fulfill the word of God, Even the mystery which hath been hidden from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints, To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;" Col.1:24-27.

Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ, to the Gentiles.

"For this cause, I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles" Eph.3:1.

It is an interesting fact, how Paul reminds all of us that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ, rather than of Rome. The Lord had made it clear to Paul, as one of the most prepared apostles, that God had appointed him to do much writing, being led by the Holy Spirit.

1. The Dispensation of the grace of God

"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me toward you, How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery (as I wrote before in few words, By which, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:" Eph.3:2-5.

No doubt, the evil forces thought that they had defeated God's plans for all ages, when the Son of God was placed upon the cross, but as always, their evil intentions were foreknown by God and no adjustments are needed to be made for so great a salvation. This mystery age of the church was fully understood by Paul, through the special teaching of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing that surpasses this revelation from the Holy Spirit. Satan has tried through various religions to deceive man "to be like God" in becoming a part of the Godhead. As you understand more and more of these many religions you become aware of how Satan has used heathen worship to attempt to get through to these man made gods by his own suffering and works. All of this is in vain, for man's righteousness is as filthy rags compared with God's absolute righteousness. The Holy Spirit made it very clear, "I do not make void the grace of God; for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Gal.2:21.

Although the mystery of the church had been hidden and breaks down the middle wall of tradition, it is still included in the promise given to Abraham. "For ye are all the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise." Gal.3:26-29.

2. All races of people are included in this mystery age

"That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel, Of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ," Eph.3:6-8.

This was a difficult revelation for the Jews to accept, and even Peter had a difficult time, understanding that God's Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh. (Joel 2:28.) As Christians there is no superior race, but all must humbly accept, "Whosoever will may come". There is no room for boasting in the presence of God, for to him belongs all glory, honor and praise. "Even Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye, therefore, that they who are of faith, the same are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So, then, they who are of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." Gal.3:6-9.

The household of faith is made up of peoples of many lands as well as many languages. May we as Christians humbly bow before the Lord and acknowledge, "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain,

but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Cor.15:10. That is why the Lord himself gave us that great commission to go unto all of the world, and preach the gospel to every person. (Matt.28:19-20.) It is by the grace of God that the gospel was preached to each of us, and may we show our appreciation of this love of God toward us, and share it with others.

3. The mystery of the church, reveals the wisdom of God.

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages hath been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ, To the intent that now, unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places, might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord, In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by faith of him." Eph.3:9-12.

There are several important gems to be discovered in this portion, as you no doubt have seen. God is not only pouring out his love upon those who believe, but he is also sharing the following.

A. Sharing in fellowship with his creation.

In the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ we have a beautiful example of God wanting to dwell with his creation, which he made in his own image. The Lord dwelt among men and note what he said. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." Jn.15:9-15. This fellowship is also portrayed in the very name of the Lord. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is God with us." Matt.1:23.

The very fellowship that the Lord had with his disciples during the Passover, was of great significance. As Christ introduced the feast of remembrance to the disciples, he said, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." This is an amazing statement, in showing to us as believers just how much the Lord loves us. For some two thousand years, the Lord has refrained from drinking the fruit of the vine, until we arrive in heaven with him, and sit down at his table. This is what great love that the Lord has for us.

B. Fellowship with those of like faith

The first manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was also another precious gem provided by God. Here we have the formation of the first church of this mystery age. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; And that same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:41-42. That fellowship, as members of the body of Christ will reach it's culmination, when we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ, That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge, Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:4-9.

There is a danger, as we wait for the coming of the Lord, and that is, the association with the unregenerate of this world. We have had the warning, not to be conformed to this world system,(Rom.12:2.). for our fellowship should be with those who are made the righteousness of God, through Christ. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Be'lial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor.6:14-18. The Lord is waiting at the door of those precious souls that have been entangled with false religions and desires to come into their lives in sweet fellowship. "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Rev.3:20-21. "If there be, therefore, any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like - minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil.2:1-2.

The Christian fellowship that we can enjoy on this side of heaven is but a fore - taste of that eternal fellowship that we will enjoy forever, with the all the riches of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a sure and tested witness in what the Holy Spirit has recorded through those eye witnesses. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ." 1 Jn.1:3. One of the great proofs of our heavenly fellowship with the Lord is if we continue in fellowship with those of like faith. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:6-7.

This mystery of the church is no longer hidden, but is completely set forth in the Epistles, and should be carefully studied. We as Christians need to be thoroughly grounded in the teachings of the body of Christ. God desires us to know the principalities and powers in heavenly places, which are available for our survival. God wants us as the true church to be partakers of his vast storehouse of wisdom. These are part and parcel of the gems which we find in the treasure chest of God. God's eternal purpose, in revealing the mystery of the church is to glorify his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants us to come boldly before his throne of grace, having the personal desire to be strengthened in the inner man and establishing our confidence and stability to the glory and honor of the Lord.

4. Prayer fellowship with understanding.

"Wherefore, I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph.3:13-19.

This is a terrific prayer by Paul as he prays in the Spirit, and is filled with Divine love, pouring out his desires for them from the depths of his soul. May we examine these requests by Paul for the saints of all ages. There was nothing selfish about this prayer, and as for himself, note how he prayed. "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Phil.3:10. There would be very few saints of God who would pray for more suffering than what Paul had already endured, but Paul that mighty apostle of God, dared to express such a desire. Let us therefore, examine Paul's prayer for all saints.

- A. Paul desired that the saints would take courage and not be concerned about his personal sufferings for Christ, but he endures it all to bring them into the glorification in the Lord. vs.13.**
- B. Paul in humility bows before the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, in recognition of his supreme power. vs.14.**
- C. He recognizes that we belong to one great royal family, established in heaven and earth. vs.15.**
- D. That all the saints may be endued with mighty power, by the Holy Spirit, in the inner man. vs.16.**
- E. That the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ may be well established in Divine love, which is the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal.5:22-26.) vs.17.**
- F. To have a thorough understanding of the Divine love of Christ, being filled by the Holy Spirit. Vs.18-19.**

Study this prayer of Paul's for the saints, and search the Epistles for a better understanding of the precious gems which can be found, for your admonition. May we abound more and more in the knowledge of the word of God, not merely as cold facts, but rather as living words from God. Here are a few words of admonition from 1 Thessalonians chapter five.

- A. Rejoice evermore. vs16.**
- B. Pray without ceasing. Vs.17.**
- C. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Vs.18.**
- D. Quench not the Spirit. Vs.19.**
- E. Despise not prophesying. Vs.20.**
- F. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Vs.21.**
- G. Abstain from all appearance of evil. Vs.22.**

CONCLUSION

"Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph.3:20-21.

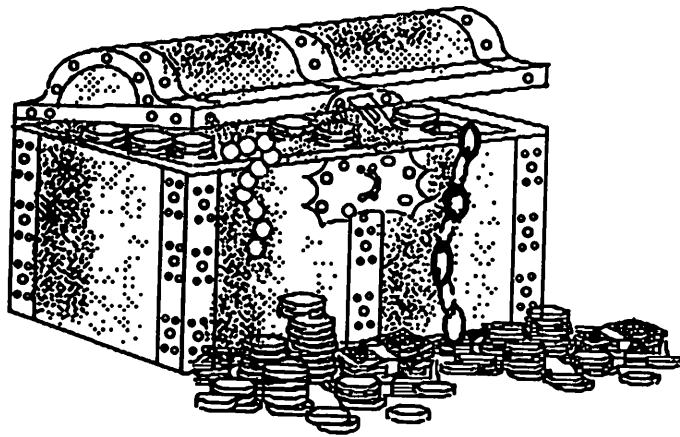
This benediction from the Holy Spirit through Paul, should stir us up to spend more time, searching out these precious and eternal gems, throughout the Bible. God has placed these gems and golden nuggets in the Bible for us to hunt and claim for our daily life. Be a workman, dedicated to the Lord, and as you find these special gems, share them with others, and by so doing, help build up the body of Christ in the most holy faith.

CHAPTER THREE QUESTIONS

- 1. Why was the mystery of the church not revealed in the Old Testament? Give four main reasons.**
- 2. What is the difference between "The mystery of Christ", and "The Mystery of the Church"?**
- 3. Explain Colossians 1:24-27.**
- 4. Explain Ephesians 3:2-5.**
- 5. Did God have to change his plans when Christ died on the cross? Cite Scripture.**
- 6. What change had taken place according to Galatians 3:26-29?**
- 7. Why did God have special care and respect toward Israel in the Old Testament?**
- 8. Explain Ephesians 3:6-8.**
- 9. Who all are included in the household of faith?**
- 10. Give us some of the gems as found in Ephesians 3:9-12.**
- 11. What is the value of prayer fellowship with other Christians?**
- 12. Explain Ephesians 3:13-19.**
- 13. Give us some important prayer requests that Paul offers for the saints of all ages.**
- 14. Expound on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.**
- 15. Write a thesis on the subject, "Biblical knowledge is necessary for our spiritual life."**
- 16. Write briefly on, "The Abundant life in Christ Jesus".**
- 17. Why are we as Christians called "The Body of Christ"?**
- 18. Who all will be included as "The Bride of Christ"?**
- 19. Who are included as, "The Friends of the Bridegroom"?**
- 20. When will the marriage of the Lamb take place?**

CHAPTER 4

UNITED IN CHRIST



CHAPTER FOUR
UNITED IN CHRIST
INTRODUCTION

In our treasure hunt, we have discovered some very precious gems of great eternal value. These are but part of the inheritance that God the Father has established in the heavenlies for the believers. Being adopted into the Royal Family of God, also brings added responsibility in witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ. This also requires a closer walk with Jesus, as members of the body of Christ. God desires to manifest his power through our lives, and therefore, "Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil.1:6. God the Father has sent forth God the Holy Spirit, making us new creatures in Christ Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ in one of his outstanding prayers to the Father, has desired to unify his future bride, as a pearl of great price. The Lord set himself apart for his very own. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Jn.17:15-24.

1. Walk worthy with the riches that we have inherited

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation to which ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph.4:1-3.

Paul the apostle, recognizes that although he has been chained to Roman soldiers, he cannot excuse himself from his responsibility to serve the Lord. In fact, Paul did not consider himself as a prisoner of Rome, but rather to be a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every Christian is called to serve the Lord, regardless of the circumstances. The Lord has set us free from the bondage of sin, so that we might be captivated with the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Be lowly and meek, as we serve the Lord

This is one of the hardest attitudes to maintain, as we serve the Lord. The human viewpoint, would be to exalt one's position and be boastful of the past accomplishments.

The tendency would be to glory in the past laurels, and walk proudly before our fellow Christians. This is what stardom in the world requires, exalting one's self. However as Christians, we should humbly submit to the Lord, giving all glory and honor to him. We have nothing to boast of, in ourselves, for we owe all to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Certainly, the Lord could exalt himself, being the Creator of heaven and earth, but listen to what he says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30. This should certainly challenge us in our Christian walk. Paul also beseeches us to walk in lowliness as we witness for the Lord. "Now, I, Paul, myself beseech you by meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you" 2 Cor.10:1. The apostle Paul desired to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, setting forth the meekness of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gave him utterance, "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" 1 Cor.4:20-21.

B. Be fruitful in the Holy Spirit.

The unity of the body of Christ can only be sustained by the Holy Spirit, who dwells within every true Christian. This unity cannot be organized by man made rules and regulations, but must be under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is no other name, but the Lord Jesus Christ that will bring this perfect unity. These religious world organizations that try to unite all religions into a one world church, are but tools of Satan. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6. Only those who have been born again of the Holy Spirit are able to be fruitful unto God, in the unity of Christ. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long - suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, self - control; against such there is no law." Gal.5:22-23. This is the method in which God unifies the body of Christ, so that it may bear much fruit.

C. Inherited riches as the elect of God.

Our election is made sure by the Holy Spirit seal over our lives, enriching our fellowship with those of like faith. "Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long - suffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col.3:12-17.

With our inherited riches, as the elect of God, we should also remember that the Lord's true servants should not be subject to being hired by the one who provides the best salary. "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O

man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, unto which thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Tim.6:10-12.

D. Our rich inheritance brings perfect rest and assurance in the Lord

Keeping the unity in the body of Christ is not an easy condition to maintain. The flesh and carnal nature attempt to break that unity within the household of faith. Therefore, we need to constantly rely upon the Holy Spirit to take away that stress and strain. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose them, if God, perhaps, will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, And that they recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Tim.2:24-26. The battle is the Lords, and he who is in us is greater than all of the forces that gather against us. "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled, But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear, Having a good conscience, that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good manner of life in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." 1 Pet.3:13-18. These are God's rich and eternal gems which fade not away, but will shine forth forever in the presence of the Lord. By so doing, we endeavor to keep both the unity within the body of Christ, and bear witness to the saving grace of our loving Lord.

2. The seven fold unity in the body of Christ

"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." Eph.4:4-6.

A. One body in Christ

God has a purpose in the unification within the body of Christ, and it is very important that we thoroughly understand why the Christians are all called into this one body. Please note, as the Lord Jesus Christ prepared to go to the cross, that he instituted "The Lord's Supper". This was in reality to take the place of the Passover, as he became the Lamb slain, removing the penalty of death. Symbolically, the Lord said, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat, this is my body." Matt.26:26. Believers, from Pentecost until the Rapture are identified as the body of Christ. Some of these unregenerate critics might take an offense at the statement of the Lord, which declares the bread to be his body, as well as the fruit of the vine to be his blood. Some religious groups misinterpret this and try to claim that the bread and fruit of the vine actually turn into the flesh and blood of Christ. They come to this conclusion from the following. "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto

you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." Jn.6:53. However, as one reads the Word of God, you must always keep it in context, so let us see what is the conclusion of this statement. "It is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life" Jn.6:63. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Rom.7:4. Christ, being made the head of the body, we become one unified body, waiting for that glorious day when the marriage of the Lamb will take place. (Rev.19:7-10.) "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first - born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;" Col.1:17-19. This is a special calling from God, that we should make up the complete body of Christ. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col.3:15. God the Father is waiting until the complete body of Christ is formed, and then that trumpet will sound, and the Rapture will take place. "Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:21.

God the Father welcomes, "Whosoever will" to be partakers of this wonderful relationship in his Son. "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the promise in Christ by the gospel." Eph.3:6. To become a member of this glorious body, it requires being born of the Holy Spirit. This body is a spiritual body, made possible by our new birth. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." 1 Cor.15:44a. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor.3:16. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" 1 Cor.6:19. "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." 1 Cor.12:27.

B. One Spirit in Christ.

As has already been mentioned, that God the Holy Spirit has made possible this new spiritual body in Christ Jesus, so there is true unity by the Holy Spirit. Our calling in Christ Jesus has been made sure by the new birth, and the identification through the Spirit. All true believers are spiritually born again. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jn.3:5. We are made one in the Holy Spirit, bringing us into eternal life. "It is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." Jn.6:63. It is important that the Christians throughout the world are united with believers from all walks of life, and not just from the immediate assembly which they might belong. "Only let your conduct be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Phil.1:27.

As the Lord was about to depart into the heavenlies, by way of the cross, he prayed to the Father, that he might send forth the Holy Spirit. This of course was granted to the Son, on the day of Pentecost. It is also important to realize that the Holy Spirit cannot be divided in sections or given by measure. "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and

hath given all things into his hand." Jn.3:34-35. No one can say that they have more of God the Holy Spirit than someone else. We all can enjoy perfect unity in the Spirit. So, when you read that we should be filled by the Spirit, we must always remember that it is not that you get more of the Spirit, but rather that he gets all of you. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring newness of life to us in perfect unity, as well as controlling our lives, for the glory of God.

We as Christians have various gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit, but this does not infer that there are different spirits within the Godhead. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." 1 Cor.12:4. "And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit. For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the very same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." 1 Cor.12:4-11.

These gifts from the Holy Spirit will be dealt with as we continue in this study.

C. ONE HOPE IN CHRIST

According to these religious ecumenicists, they reject that Jesus Christ is the only hope of getting to heaven. They would declare this to be plain and simple bigotry. They are working toward a one world religion, and they refuse to accept that Christ is the only hope. They twist God's word around to mean something else. They also do not accept the whole Bible as the word of God, and treat what they do not agree with, as man's interpretation. These unregenerate religious leaders have a false hope and are brain washed by Satan.

Our hope is in the Living God, rather than these false teachings. "For in thee, O Lord, do I hope; thou wilt hear, O Lord, my God." Ps.38:15. Our faith has given us access unto hope, bringing glory to God. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom.5:2. This one hope is already part of us, because God's love has been made manifested in our salvation. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us." Rom.5:5. As the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we are made aware of that one hope in Christ Jesus. "For we are saved by hope. But hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Rom.8:24-25.

Our gem of hope is safely in the heavenlies and is established by one Lord and one God. "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel." Col.1:5. This hope is established within us as the riches of his glory. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col.1:27. This hope which is laid up in heaven, will come to light, when Christ comes for his own. The Lord Jesus Christ is our hope.(1 Tim.1:1.) "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works." Tit.2:13-14. Our one hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the anchor of our soul. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth

into that within the veil, Where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." Heb.6:19-20.

D. One Lordship in Christ Jesus.

Just scan through the concordance of the Bible sometime and see the vast number of references to the word "Lord". In the Old Testament the Hebrew people often quote Deuteronomy chapter six verse four. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord." The Lord himself quotes that very verse. "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord;" Mk.12:29. This is further confirmed in the New Testament, "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus." 1 Tim.2:5. The word "Mediator" is further explained from the Scripture. "Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one." Gal.3:20. That is to say, a mediator is used to settle an affair between two affairs, and Christ as in the Godhead has acted as our Mediator, maintaining the unity in the Triune God. Christ had the authority to be our Mediator, having fulfilled the law in our stead, and keeping the unity as the second person of the Trinity.

As we read in the New Testament, we have countless references to "The Lord Jesus Christ", for Christ is the great "I Am" and the eternal Son of God. John the Baptist declared him as the Lord. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Mk.1:3. It is important that we recognize Jesus Christ as the Lord in our lives, and being born again, it will be obvious. This was the turning point with the thief on the cross, when he cried out, "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Mk.23:42. Christ is both King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev.17:14.) "Concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Rom.1:3-4. Eternal peace has been established through but one Lord. "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom.5:1. "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." 1 Cor.8:6.

There is another important factor in recognizing Christ as Lord. This recognition comes only through the Holy Spirit, assuring us of the unity in the Spirit, through our declaration. "Wherefore, I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit." 1 Cor.12:3. So, it is essential that we stand fast in the Lord Jesus Christ, in our newness of life. "For now we live, if we stand fast in the Lord." 1 Thess.3:8. Let us remember that there is but one Lord, and may we sanctify him in our hearts. (1 Pet.3:15.

E. Only one faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith is one of the most important and essential attributes in becoming a Christian, and it is based upon substance and evidence. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life." 1 Jn.1:1. This is a strong testimony from those who were upon this planet earth at the same time that the Lord dwelt among men. Our dates in history pivot on the advent of the Son of God. Therefore this is not a blind faith, of

which we possess. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb.11:1. By faith, we accept the promises of God, knowing that God is just and righteous and cannot lie. We also have ample evidence from the Bible as to God's faithfulness in the past, among the saints of God. This faith is not a blind faith, but is based upon our complete trust and confidence in what has been accomplished for us, to bring assurance of everlasting life. "But the just shall live by faith." Hab. 2:4b. This faith that brings newness of life to us, should not be limited to the fact of our salvation, but should continue through our christian walk. "For it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom.1:17. Our first step by faith, establishes peace with God, giving us an assurance that we now can walk by faith. "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our lord Jesus Christ" Rom.5:1. Our faith as Christians is based upon the word of God. "So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom.10:17.

Our faith in the Lord is a gift from God, and is classified as the "One Faith", based upon God's word. It begins with a faith unto so great salvation and should continue through our Christian lives as we walk in the light of God's word, with full assurance. Let us claim these special gems from God's word, trusting the Lord that he will bring it to pass.

F. One Baptism in the Lord Jesus Christ

This one baptism is separate from the ritual baptism with water, and it is called "Real Baptism". Every true Christian is born again by the Holy Spirit, who identifies himself with the believer. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." This refers to all true believers, and none are omitted. Baptism means an identification, and certainly, being born again by the Holy Spirit gives all of us that baptism by the Holy Spirit. This identification cannot be lost, for we have God's promise that the Holy Spirit will dwell within us forever. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17.

There are some Christians who confuse this baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the gifts from the Holy Spirit. There are those that try to limit the baptism of the Holy Spirit to only those who have the gift of languages. This is not according to God's word, so do not be deceived by their vain thinking. Also as members of the body of Christ, we each have our particular functions and callings, and consequently, the Holy Spirit gives us gifts according to the work that God has entrusted to us.

It is very important that we understand the difference between John's baptism of repentance, and the water baptism commanded by the Lord. "And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elijah, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water; but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not. He it is who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to loose." Jn.1:25-27. Then over in Luke we have these added words, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire". (Lk.3:16b.) It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that makes new creatures out of those who believe.

As we had already studied concerning the Holy Spirit baptism, I will barely touch on the various phases of it. The day of Pentecost, was the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Jewish disciples.(Acts 2:1-8.) Then we have the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Samaritans.(Acts 8:5-17.) Philip then was caught away to the Ethiopian Eunuch, (8:26-40.) The Gentiles were next in line to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:1-48.) Then the important baptism by the Holy Spirit came upon the Old Testament saints, who were baptized by John the Baptist. (Acts 19:1-7.) Our identification with the Holy Spirit is of the utmost importance, and must not be confused with any other form of baptism. Nothing can take the place of the real baptism by God the Holy Spirit.

G. One God and Father of all

Throughout the New Testament, we constantly read, "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ". The Lord continually made reference to his Father in heaven. The Lord's special prayer finds him praying and calling out the name of the Father. (Jn.17:1-26.) The prayer which the Lord taught to the disciples, begins with, "Our Father which art in heaven". (Matt.6:9-13.) Christ, being the eternal Son of God the Father, acknowledges his Father in all that was committed unto him to accomplish. "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me by my Father, and no man knoweth the Son, but my Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, except the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." Matt.11:25-27.

There is but one way to the Father which art in heaven, and that is through the eternal Son of God. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6. This keeps the unity within the Godhead. Jesus again enlightens us, "And he said, Therefore said I unto you that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father" Jn.6:65. This is not based upon the respect of persons, but rather on the respect of one's own choice. The religious leaders refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah and attempted to destroy him. "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me; for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it." Jn.42-44.

The Lord Jesus Christ was sent forth by the Father to become the good shepherd of those who would believe. "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Jn.10:14-18. There is therefore,"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."Eph.4:6.

3. Gifts by grace from our living Savior

"But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Eph.4:7.

The exchange of gifts in our every day life is always an exciting time, especially when the gift is concealed in a beautiful wrapping. In the natural realm of humanity, the incentive is to exchange gifts with those who are capable of a good return. This was brought home to me, while in Masailand as a missionary. The question was usually asked, "Kedimu?" (Is he able?), and what they meant was, "Is he wealthy enough to exchange gifts to my advantage?" Well, be that as it may, before God, we are not capable of giving anything to Almighty God, that would be compared to his gift of his eternal Son. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Cor.9:15. "But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many are dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Rom.5:15. God's gifts are always on a grace basis, as there is nothing that he is lacking and we have nothing to offer, which is worthy to be given to God. God has provided us the gift of his eternal Son, who made the gift of eternal life possible, to those who accept. (Rom.5:17-18; Rom.6:23.)

God also promised to pour out the Holy Spirit upon all flesh, (Joel 2:28.) and we have been partakers of this gift of the Holy Spirit, bringing about our spiritual birth. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38. It is of great importance that through Peter the Gentiles also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Forasmuch, then, as God gave them the same gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, what was I, that I could withstand God?" Acts.11:17. This would have been a supreme gift in itself, but God poured out his grace through the Holy Spirit to supply Christians with added gifts, according to the work which is entrusted to them.

A. God's gifts are measured according to the task.

The spiritual gifts available to Christians are not a free handout for anyone to grab! They are given according to the will of the Holy Spirit for the task which the Lord has given each of us to accomplish. Sometimes these gifts are neglected and even misused. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." 1 Tim.4:14. These gifts are not from men, but are from above. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begot he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." Jas.1:17. Our responsibility to each other as Christians is to encourage one another, as Paul did with Timothy. "Wherefore, I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." 2 Tim.1:6. We place our hands upon each other, through our prayer for one another.

B. The Lord's resurrection made possible the giving of gifts.

It may puzzle some young believers to read, "Wherefore, he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that he ascended, what

is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" Eph.4:8-9. Let us see what is involved with such a statement from God's word. Turn with me to, Psalm 68:17-19. "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast received gifts for men, yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." When Christ died, he descended into Hades, the place of all the dead, both saints and unregenerate. What was the purpose of this? The crucified Christ went to Hades to claim the souls of the Old Testament saints that were captives, in the place of the dead. You may recall the rich man and Lazarus. (Lk.16:19-31.) Between the unregenerate and the believers there was a great gulf fixed. However the Old Testament saints were there and the Lord had to lead them forth from Hades, so that they may dwell in his heavenly Paradise. You also will recall that the one thief on the cross was not destined to go to Hades, but rather to be with Christ in Paradise. Therefore, we have the explanation of the Lord descending to Hades for the purpose of bringing forth the Old Testament saints.

The giving of all gifts to the saints of God are ordered by the Lord himself. When the Lord created us, he made us different, one from another. We have various natural talents, and we are given additional talents according to the work which the Lord has for us to accomplish. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" Eph.4:11. Why doesn't the Lord give us all the same gifts? This is explained in the following verses. "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;" Eph.4:12-15. In other words, the gospel is to be preached by the evangelists, and then the believers need to be built up in the most holy faith, by those with the gift of teaching. Then we wait for that glorious day when we will receive that perfect glorified body, in the heavenlies. Isn't this a treasure chest worth waiting for?

C. God the Holy Spirit unifies the work of the Lord by the giving of gifts.

The very presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and mine, brings about the unification in the body of Christ, if he is given the right to fill our lives. The reason why some Christians are aimlessly going through this present life, defeated and discouraged may be for any of the following conditions.

- 1. They are still babes in the faith. Eph.4:14; 1 Cor.3:1-3.**
- 2. They lack Bible teaching. Eph.4:12; 2 Tim.4:1-3;**
- 3. They grieve the Holy Spirit. Eph.4:30.**
- 4. They are conformed to this world system. Rom.12:2.**
- 5. They practice discord among the brethren. Prov.6:16-19.**

6. They are unequally yoked. 2 Cor.6:14.

Since the Triune God is omniscient, there is nothing hidden from them. You may deceive your fellow Christians, as to your thoughts and intents, but God the Holy Spirit knows all about each of us, including our very thoughts. The Holy Spirit wants to lead us into all truth, if we are willing to be led. He wants us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of his word. "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, by which they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the head, even Christ; 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." Eph.4:14-16.

Spiritual gifts given in Divine love.

It is in keeping with the Word of God for Christians to desire the very best gifts, for the ministry which the Lord has entrusted to them. The Holy Spirit is mindful of your deep desires, which will bring glory and honor to our Lord. However, the warning in desiring certain gifts is, "What is my motive for wanting certain gifts"? That is why we must leave the final choice in the hands of the Holy Spirit, and according to his will. There are gifts available for all Christians, and the Holy Spirit is not a respecter of persons, but rather a respecter of motives. There are different gifts to be given by the Holy Spirit, because there are different fields of operation and administration. (1 Cor.12:4-6.) Every Christian is given various gifts to produce fruit unto the Lord. (1 Cor.12:7; Jn.15:5-8.) These are gifts above the natural talents, and are given to enhance and enlarge the out reach by the believers. Paul the apostle is an excellent example of this, having been taught in the highest level of theology in his day. Paul not only had the gift of languages, but was also gifted with the pen. Paul certainly was given wisdom as he used his great knowledge of the Word of God.

These spiritual gifts are given according to the members of the body of Christ, keeping the unity within the true church. (1 Cor.12:12-31.) There is one aspect of the Holy Spirit which every member of the body of Christ should excel, and that is "The Fruit of the Spirit" (Gal.5:22-26.) These gifts from the Holy Spirit should always be flavored with the whole fruit of the Spirit rather than in fragments. As we make full use of whatever gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit, may they be used in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Gal.5:25-26.

D. The Christian's walk in the Holy Spirit.

"That ye put off concerning the former manner of life the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph.4:22-24.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life, it would be impossible to walk worthy of the high calling in Christ Jesus. There are several aspects of this walk, being led by the Holy Spirit, which are as follows.

1. The walk of faith.

This walk of faith is not a step in the dark, but rather a walk in the light of God's Word. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:6-7. We have been made spiritually alert, by our faith and are now able to ascertain the spiritual light of the word of God. "For we walk by faith, not by sight;" 2 Cor.5:7.

2. The walk of newness of life.

We have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus and have been made alive spiritually through our new birth, and therefore we are not in darkness, walking in the flesh. "Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Jn.8:12. "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom.6:4. The righteousness of God has been implanted in our lives as Christians. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." Rom.8:2-4. The new life is made possible by the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor.5:17. This is but another great gem that has been given to us, by the grace of God. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh." Heb.10:19-20.

3. Walk honestly before all

In this present world, we are confronted with continual deceit and flooded by immorality on every side. We are admonished by the Word to walk according to the truth of the Bible. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us, therefore, cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in immorality and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Rom.13:12-14. We have a testimony and witness to maintain before the household of faith, as well as before those who are unbelievers. "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are outside, and that ye may have lack of nothing." 1 Thess.4:12.

4. Walk worthy of your high calling in Christ Jesus

In order to walk worthy, living a steady Christian life, it is essential that we walk in the Spirit. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal.5:16. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another." Gal.5:25-26. We do love the Lord for this great inheritance which he has freely given to us, so may we by the Spirit do those things that are well pleasing to him. "Furthermore, then, we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." 1 Thess.4:1. We abound in the Lord, when we remain steadfast in the word. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light;" Col.1:9-12. Our treasure chest is full of eternal gems, and we are destined for that glorious kingdom of God's righteousness. Let us be wise in the Spirit and continue that walk with the Lord, waiting upon his appearing. "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." 1 Thess.2:12.

CONCLUSION

As we conclude this another treasure hunt in God's Word, may we be mindful of the pitfalls along the way. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you." Eph.4:30-32.

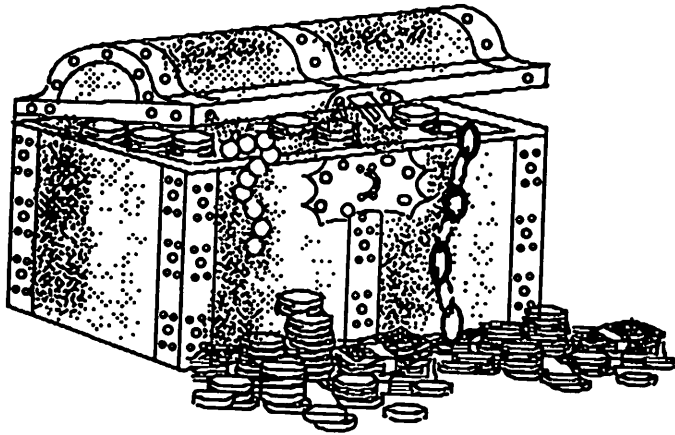
The Christian walk is not an easy way of life, but it is a walk of confidence, knowing that we already belong to God's family. The trials and tribulation that we encounter as we walk through this life, are meant to build our eternal character. It is but one way of testing our faith in "Thus saith the Lord". God's promises to you and me as pilgrims passing through this life are secured and fully provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER FOUR QUESTIONS

- 1. What responsibilities do we have as adopted into the royal family of God?**
- 2. Give a brief essay on John 17:15-24.**
- 3. Name some ways to keep the unity among true believers in Christ.**
- 4. Compare Matthew 11:28-30 with 2 Corinthians 10:1 and 1 Corinthians 4:20-21.**
- 5. Should all Christians produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Explain.**
- 6. How is our election in Christ Jesus made sure? Give Scripture.**
- 7. What establishes our assurance in the Lord?**
- 8. Name the seven fold unity in the body of Christ.**
- 9. Cite Scripture and explain, "One Hope" and "One Faith".**
- 10. Explain the difference between ritual baptism and real baptism.**
- 11. Why is it that Christians do not all have the same gifts from the Holy Spirit?**
- 12. How do we obtain spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit?**
- 13. Who made it possible for us to receive special gifts from the Holy Spirit?**
- 14. How is the unification of the true body of Christ maintained?**
- 15. Why are some Christians discouraged and defeated in their lives? Name at least 4 reasons.**
- 16. Why is the fruit of the Spirit important in the Christian's life?**
- 17. Why is it necessary to receive extra spiritual gifts in the work of the Lord?**
- 18. What constitutes the Christian walk?**
- 19. Name some of the phases of the Christian walk.**
- 20. How can we grieve the Holy Spirit?**
- 21. How do we become filled by the Holy Spirit?**
- 22. Write a thesis on, "The Unity within the Holy Spirit".**

CHAPTER 5

INCORRUPTIBLE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



CHAPTER FIVE

THE INCORRUPTIBLE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"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 sweetsmelling savor." Eph.5:1-2.

INTRODUCTION

As our treasure hunt continues, we are overwhelmed by the wealth that we have inherited in Christ Jesus. The more we follow the trail of righteousness, the more confidence we have in the living God. The human eye cannot behold all the wealth that God has in store for us, but we can behold some of these marvels, by the revelation from the Holy Spirit. "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." 1 Cor.2:9-12. These precious and eternal gems which God has prepared for us are discovered and discerned, only by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. There are many pitfalls along the Christian way, and in order to avoid these evil influences, we need a closer walk with the Lord. "Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other, the savor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Cor.2:14-16.

Avoiding the pitfalls encountered in the Christian life

A. Be followers of God.

God's plan for our lives as dear children, because of the sweetsmelling savor of Christ, is to guide us through this present life by God the Holy Spirit. Through the Word of God, we as Christians are warned of the terrible dangers and temptations, as we seek for these eternal treasures.

- 1. Fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness. Eph.5:3.**
- 2. Filthy and foolish gossip. Eph.5:4-5.**
- 3. Avoid vain words of deception. Eph.5:6-8.**
- 4. Do not fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness. Eph.5:11-12.**
- 5. Walk carefully and avoid foolishness. Eph.5:15.**

The alternative to these things that the Christian should avoid are also set forth by God and we need to remind ourselves of the mighty defense that God has provided.

1. **Have no part with such as do these evils. Eph.5:7,11,12.**
2. **Walk as children of light. Eph.5:8,13,14.**
3. **Feast on the fruit of the Spirit. Eph.5:9-10.**
4. **Understand the will of the Lord, through his Word. Eph.5:15-17.**

The admonition from God's Word, warns us to beware of these evil forces along the way, that try to make us settle for the counterfeits in life, rather than the genuine gems that God offers to his children. God's word clearly states, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa.30:21.) King David understood the pitfalls along the way, but he also knew the God who could deliver him. "For thou art my lamp, O Lord; the Lord will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop; by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a shield to all them that trust in him. For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?" God is my strength and power; and he maketh my way perfect." 2 Sam.22:29-33. It is important that we understand the way of the Lord in our daily walk through this evil world. "Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies." Ps.27:11. The Christian life is not an easy life, but it is a rewarding life as we commit our life into the hands of Almighty God. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass." Ps.37:5. God's way brings us into the realm of life, rather than death. (Jer.21:8.) Christ is our new and living way, and desires that we shine forth in this present life as the children of light. (Heb.10:20; 1 Jn.1:7.)

Our Christian walk should always be in the light of God's word. We do not plan our course of life according to the trend of the day. The form of government which we may be subjected to, have many ways of legalizing statutes which are against Bible teachings. Caution and care must always be practiced, according to the teachings of the Bible. This portion which we are studying even mentions, these days as evil days. Therefore we must understand the will of God for our lives. "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." Eph.5:15-17.

B. The necessity of being Spirit filled

"And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." Eph.5:18.

Some Christians may misuse this portion of Scripture to give them liberty for the use of strong drink being used moderately. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov.20:1. "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;" 1 Tim.3:2-3. The issue here is being filled by the Holy Spirit for the

work which the Lord has entrusted to the Christian. We are not to be drunk by wine, but rather filled by the Holy Spirit. You never become drunk with the Holy Spirit, but rather you become alert and prepared for the warfare against evil forces. You not only become alert, but rejoice in the Lord. You are in perfect harmony with God, so that you have a song within your heart. This also causes you to count your many blessings, acknowledging all that God is doing for believers. Now if you were drunk, you would lose all sense of awareness and be an easy prey for the devil. Being filled by the Holy Spirit enriches and enhances the fellowship one with another in the fear of God. (Eph.5:19-21.)

C. Married life of Spirit-filled Believers / Christ and the True Church.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband, 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 Savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." Eph.5:22-24.

The right relationship between husband and wife is very dependent upon both being filled by the Holy Spirit. If we grieve the Holy Spirit, we also lose our fellowship and become vulnerable to the evil forces, so if husband and wife are grieving one another, there is a strain in relationship with each other. The fruit of the Spirit is love, and the right relationship between husband and wife is also love. It is easy for the wife to submit to her husband, when genuine love is present. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Eph.5:25. Husband and wife are set apart and sanctified as one, as Christ cleansed and sanctified the true church. (Eph.5:26-27.) Christ has covered his true church with his own righteousness, preparing for the presentation of his bride to be, unto the Father.

Husband and wife have become one flesh, and certainly no man hates his own flesh. The church, being the body of Christ, is so loved that the Son of God asked the Father to indwell us with the Holy Spirit. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." Eph.5:28-29. Being filled by the Holy Spirit will be obvious, when the husband and wife love each other. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Col.3:18-19. When we are equally yoked to a wife of the Lord's choice, it is like finding a very precious gem of great value. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor from the Lord." Rom.18:22. "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 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." Eph.5:30-31.

THEREFORE

"Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife, see that she reverence her husband." Eph.5:33.

D. The great Mystery pearl of great price - The Church, which was purchased by the Eternal Son of God.

"This is a great mystery, but speaking concerning Christ and the church." Eph.5:32.

Our treasure hunt concludes with a pearl of great price, which is the body of Christ, also known as the true church. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man, seeking fine pearls, Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." Matt.13:45-46. This is but a short parable, spoken by Christ but is of great importance to us as members of that body of Christ, which was purchased by a great price. It cost the Son of God all that he had to purchase us out from the bondage of sin. As we have been handling these precious gems throughout the study of the Book of Ephesians, we finally come face to face with the Creator of all things, who has made our treasure hunt complete. Now our attention can be focused upon the one who has made all of these eternal treasures possible. The eternal glory that the Lord has always had, is to be shared with the church, and the saints of all ages. We will appear in the heavenlies, like "a sea of glass" with all of the brightness of the Lord Jesus Christ. "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor.3:18. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Cor.4:6. The true church is the glory of Christ. (2 Cor.8:23.) The Lord, through his Word, desires to make known to all Christians these great riches that we have inherited in Christ Jesus. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col.1:27. We have been called by Almighty God to be partakers in the riches of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Unto which he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thess.2:14. We have been made partakers of that eternal glory of the Lord. "The elders who are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed." 1 Pet.5:1.

Our great Lord of glory

One day we shall see our Lord of glory and shine forth in his brightness. When we see him face to face and receive our glorified bodies, there will be nothing more precious to us, than to behold the Lord. All the wealth of heaven and earth cannot be compared to the treasure that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," Heb.1:3. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren," Heb.2:9-11.

The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to suffer for us, making possible our share of his glory, certainly we should be willing to do our part in witnessing to his saving grace. At times, it may result in suffering for the Lord, but what is that, compared to what the Lord has done for us? "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Pet.4:13. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both

now and forever. Amen." 2 Pet.3:18. "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."
1 Pet.5:10-11.

E. Christian family obligations

"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. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening; knowing that your Master also in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him." Eph.6:7-9.

Children

When the right relationship exists between husband and wife in a Christian family, there will be a lovely harmony in the surroundings. As the children are taught obedience to the Lord, so they will respect their mother and father. The Word of God demands this. "Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment of promise), That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Eph.6:2-3. One of the greatest ways to keep the Christian family together is to have family devotions together. The Lord gave us a large family and what a joy it was to sit around the table and have family devotions together, and then talk about the Lord, and answer children's questions, then have each one lead in a word of prayer. It does not mean that there will be no problems, but it does help to solve those problems in the light of the word. As the children become Christians, the Holy Spirit will have access into their lives leading and guiding them with a Spirit filled life.

The Lord Jesus Christ had great love for the children as they came with their parents. "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Permit the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter into it. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mk.10:13-16. The Lord, at another occasion, called a little child to come to him. "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matt.18:2-6.

It is not a light thing for the Christian parents to neglect to teach their children both obedience to the Lord and obedience to them. They must be taught to be well pleasing to the Lord. "Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord." Col.3:20. We are all as little children before the Lord and need to realize how important it is to train up a child in the most holy faith. Timothy as a child had known the Scripture, which made him wise and obedient both to his parents and the Lord. "And from a child

thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim.3:15.

Fathers

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph.6:4.

The father of a family, is either highly respected by the children or is ignored as inconsistent and inconsiderate. There are many ways that a child will detect the sincerity or incongruity in their parents lives. Are we as Christian fathers consistent in our behavior before our children? Do we make the situations before us a matter of prayer? Are our prayers genuine? These are a few questions which we should ask ourselves. The children will discover any discrepancies in our lives. We need also to guard against rash decisions in our attitude, especially when things are not going as one wishes. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Col.3:21. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov.22:6. Make sure that you gather your whole family together for devotions, with the reading of God's word. Allow time for discussions. Teach each member of the family how to pray, by your good example. May we be able to say, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." 3 Jn.4.

Servants

"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 eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from your 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." Eph.6:5-8.

This is also applicable to those who are workers for a wage for a company or individuals. As Christians we heartily do our work as unto the Lord, regardless of what the situation may be. "And whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done, and there is no respect of persons." Col.3:23-25.

Masters

"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." Eph.6:9.

When both workers and owners of a company or business are Christians, the task of both managers and workers becomes easier. Both the owners and the workers should always remember that they are workers together as unto the Lord. Whatever work we have to do, must be done heartily unto the Lord. Every business usually has working conditions with rules and regulations. It is easy for one or the other to take advantage, for selfish gain. Since the Lord is no respecter of persons, we each must give an account before him on an

equal basis. "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." Col.4:1. There will always be problems to face, especially with those who cheat in the work which they are assigned to do. This causes an upset and disharmony within, and needs to be dealt with in the light of God's word. "Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." Col.3:12-14.

Conclusion

"Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God; therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." 1 Jn.3:1-3.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24-25.

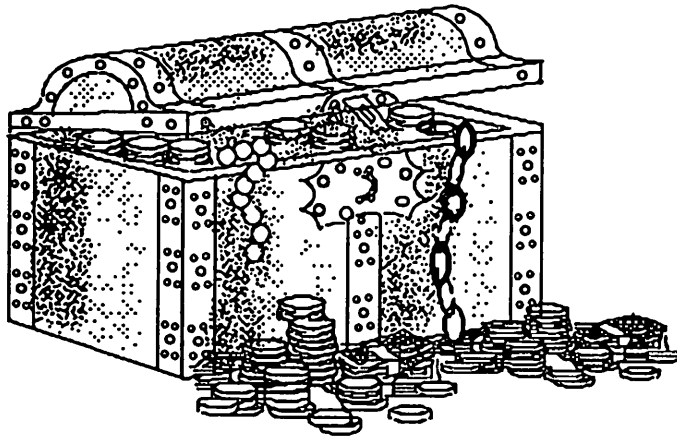
CHAPTER FIVE QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Explain thoroughly.**
- 2. As you examine the wealth that the saints have in Christ Jesus, what are your impressions?**
- 3. Explain 1 Corinthians. 2:9-12.**
- 4. What are some of the pitfalls encountered as Christians?**
- 5. What provision has God made so that we might avoid these pitfalls?**
- 6. How do we know the will of God for our Lives. (Rom.12:2.)**
- 7. Why is it necessary to be continually filled by the Holy Spirit as we walk through this present life? Give Scripture.**
- 8. Give a brief essay , comparing Spirit filled lives with Christ and the True Church.**
- 9. Explain Ephesians5: 32; and Matthew 13:45-46.**
- 10. What is the most precious gem to be found in this life? Write briefly.**
- 11. What will Christ share with the saints in their glorified bodies? Write briefly and quote Scripture.**
- 12. What was made known to the Gentiles? (Colossians 1:27.)**
- 13. Being partakers of the glory of God, what does that include? (1 Peter 5:1.) Cite Scripture.**
- 14. Write briefly on Hebrews 1:3; and Hebrews 2:9-11.**
- 15. When shall the full glory of the Lord appear to us? Cite Scripture.**
- 16. Name as many of these precious gems listed in the Bible as possible.**
- 17. Why is it important that the saints of God are not unequally yoked with the unregenerate? Write briefly.**
- 18. When can we enjoy the right relationship in our Christian family? Write briefly on this subject.**
- 19. How does one establish children in a christian family?**
- 20. Do children respond to genuine discipline favorably if taught the Bible?**

- 21. What responsibility do fathers have at home?**
- 22. How shall Christian servants or workers do their work for others?**
- 23. What is the responsibility of masters to those who work for them?**
- 24. Since God is not a respecter of persons, how does he reward those who do their work faithfully?**

CHAPTER 6

PROTECTED TREASURE FOR ETERNITY



CHAPTER SIX

A PROTECTED TREASURE FOR ETERNITY

INTRODUCTION

Our treasure hunt has been for eternal gems, and not for the temporary counterfeits of this present life system. God the Father has offered to us riches untold through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As adopted children of God, we are under the tutorship of God the Holy Spirit, who will guide us through the Bible. As we continually are filled by the Holy Spirit, our spiritual eyes behold these eternal gems which are made available to us as joint heirs with Christ. This eternal treasure which we have inherited has a special way of being protected against the evil forces of this world. As long as we keep within the word of God, the devil and his demons will not be able to side track us from these treasures untold. Let us see what provisions God has made toward our defense, as we stand against these evil forces.

I. The Christian Soldier's power

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Eph.6:10

As we travel through this present life, we must be prepared for warfare with those unregenerate, who are under the control of Satan. It is a battle against, the world, the flesh, and the devil. Behind the scenes, we are constantly confronted with an evil spirit warfare. God has amply provided a powerful defense, through the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. God the Holy Spirit is our source of mighty power. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech.4:10b. In order to attain the full power through the Holy Spirit, we must be filled by the Holy Spirit. Without God the Holy Spirit, we would be easy prey against the satanic power. "Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power." Ps.21:13. Our strength to overcome the enemies of God is by the power of God. "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands. Sing forth the honor of his name; make his praise glorious. Say unto God, How awe-inspiring art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee." Ps.66:1-3. God's power and omniscience is supreme and we can depend upon him to provide us with sufficient power to overcome the adversaries. "Great is our Lord, and of great power; his understanding is infinite." Ps.147:5.

The whole creation is under the sovereignty of God, and whom shall we fear? "He hath made the earth by his power; he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his understanding. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures." Jer.10:12-13. May we always be reminded from God's word of the infinite power of God. His Word has been given to us, who have believed, and we can trust in our Almighty God. "For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with

whom we have to do. Seeing, then, that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Heb.4:12-14.

As the Lord promised heavenly power to the disciples, after his resurrection, that power has been continued throughout this age of grace. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. These were the last words which the Lord said, before his ascension to heaven. God is the supreme power of all ages, and on into eternity. That power has been manifested to us by the Holy Spirit. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13. God has given us a treasure chest of power through the Holy Spirit. For this reason we must not depend upon our earthly vessels, but rather upon the heavenly power. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:7. May we draw from this mighty power as we defend our rights to the eternal gems of God. "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;" Col.1:11. As partakers of the eternal treasures of God through the Lord Jesus Christ, let us not faint along the way, nor be discouraged, but utterly depend upon the Lord to bring us through. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

II. The Christian soldier's enemies

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" Eph.6:11-12.

God has given us ample warnings through the Bible of the invisible enemies, led by the devil. The world system and the depravity of the flesh are visible to us, but the devil and his demons are providing the deception. That is why we must always be ready to meet these foes with the whole armor of God. As we put on this armor of God, we do so with the inward protection of the Holy Spirit. He is our source of power and will teach us how to use every weapon which God has provided. As has been studied in previous lessons about Satan, he has maintained his great power given to him by God, but he is under the sovereignty of God. The devil, also called Satan and the serpent, is also called the prince of the power of the air. Here are a few of his many attributes.-

- 1. Sum full of wisdom and perfect beauty. Ezek.28:12-13.**
- 2. He was the anointed cherub upon the holy mountain of God. Ezek.28:14.**
- 3. When God created him, he was perfect, until sin was found in him. Ezek.28:15-19.**
- 4. He has power to brain wash every human being. 2 Cor.4:3-4.**

5. **He has power to indwell and give his demons power to indwell the unregenerate persons. Gen.3:1; Gen.6:1-2; Matt.12:L43-45; Mk.5:1-13.**
6. **He can appear as an angel of light. 2 Cor.11:14.**
7. **He was the greatest of God's angelic creation. Isa.14:17; Jude 9.**
8. **He accuses the believers before the throne of God. Job.1:6-2:8; Rev. 12:10.**
9. **Satan has a terrific personality and a voice as clear as a flute. Ezek.28:13.**

For a complete study of this warfare against our enemies, study the textbook, written by this author, entitled, "The Battle Ground, and Warfare of the Christians." There are several important issues involved in this warfare, and unless we have a thorough study of God's Word, we will be easy prey for the enemies of our soul. God's arch enemy is Satan and although his power is limited under the sovereignty of God, let me list just a few of his activities.

1. **He is filled with violence Ezek.28:16.**
 2. **He made this earth to tremble. Gen.1:2; Isa.14:16.**
 3. **He defiled the sanctuaries of God. Ezek. 28:18.**
 4. **He corrupted the wisdom that was given to him by God. Ezek.28:17.**
 5. **Many kingdoms of this earth were shaken by him. Isa.16.**
 6. **The whole world became like a wilderness Isa.14:17.**
 7. **Many cities destroyed by Satan. Isa.14:17.**
 8. **He held human beings after death as captives, until Christ's resurrection. Isa.14:17.**
- A. Satan's methods of attack**

The world, the flesh and his satanic powers are used to keep the unregenerate in bondage, and attempt to confuse the believers. He uses legalized rules and regulations which are contrary to the Bible to continue his onslaught against God's principles. He has well established hell holes throughout this world, legalizing sin and debauchery. Most of the governments around the world are corrupt, making it almost entirely impossible for those with Christian principles to sit in places of judgement. There are three main attacks which Satan uses.

1. **He relates his attack to the present system of power in the world's systems.**
2. **He operates under the kingdom of darkness.**

3. He uses religious spiritual wickedness to dominate, acting as an angel of light.

Our wisdom or knowledge of the Bible is not sufficient to cope with the attacks of Satan. Without the help of God the Holy Spirit we would be defeated immediately. The whole armor of God is necessary under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit, to withstand the fiery darts of the devil. Although Satan uses the world and the flesh, please remember that the real foe is behind the scenes in the realm of evil spirits. That is why it is necessary to test out the enemies tactics in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. By this know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is in the world." 1 Jn.4:1-3. The Holy Spirit as he sets forth the Word of God, desires that we use our armor to the full extent to fight off the fiery darts of the evil one. Be alert to the tactics of our enemies, and do not try to fight the battle against them in your own strength. "Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph.6:13.

B. Our method of defense

Since this is a spiritual battle against the invisible enemy, it will take the strategy from the Holy Spirit, to combat such a conflict. In order to get full defense through the Holy Spirit, it is essential that we are filled by the Holy Spirit. This allows him to work unhindered, through our lives. If we grieve the Holy Spirit and remain out of fellowship with the Lord, we become easy prey for Satan and his demons. We must keep in constant contact with our headquarters, for it will take the wisdom of God to confront the evil forces of the demons. They are very wicked and will do anything to defeat us as Christians. Our whole armor must be worn which constantly equips us for battle. However, that armor must be tried under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Greater is he that is in you than all the forces against you. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." 2 Tim.2:15.

God has provided us with ample defense against the wiles of the devil. May we just briefly list these for your encouragement.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said; nevertheless, I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matt.26:64. "Who is he that condemneth? Shall Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us? Rom.8:34. "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only

in this age, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Eph.1:19-23. (Col.3:1; Heb.1:3; Heb.8:1; Heb.10:12; Heb.12:2; 1 Pet.3:22.

2. Christ is our Advocate before the Father.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 Jn.2:1-2.

3. The continual prayer of the Holy Spirit.

"Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Rom.8:26-27.

4. The prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Jn.17:15-21.

5. Our fellowship in prayer as believers, one with another.

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." Acts1:14; "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4; "Peter, therefore, was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5; "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing diligently in prayer." Rom.12:12. (2 Cor.1:11; Eph.6:18; Phil.4:6; Col.4:2.

6. Family devotions

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Eph.3:14-15.

A Christian family is of great heritage, especially as they have family devotions. It gives stability and trust to each other, as they join together sometime during each day for Bible reading and family prayer. We are part of that great family of the Lord Jesus Christ

and when the Christian family is united together in prayer, they will be united in their daily activities. Family life as God intended it has suffered greatly. It is in a chaotic condition today, as both mother and father are working, and the children are left alone, or in the care of someone else. There is very little time that many families are together for enjoying each others presence. Fellowshiping in prayer as each member of the family prays, is essential for a strong defense against the evils of our day. This is lacking in the majority of Christian homes, and make each member of the family, easy prey by Satan.

7. The power of the Word of God.

"For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb.4:12. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse; Rom.1:16-20.

The Word of God is one of our strong defenses against all practice of evil, and the onslaughts of Satan. The devil knows the power of God's Word, and even tries to use it in his deception. He tried to tempt Christ by quoting the Scripture to him, but the Lord always had the answer for him by the use of the Word. You and I need to be so familiar with the Bible that by the help of God the Holy Spirit, we might be able to make our defense and stand against the evil forces.

III. The Christians armor for battle.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" Eph.6:11. "Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, having done all, to stand." Eph.6:13.

A. Truth according to God's word.

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with truth," Eph.6:14 a.

In our daily walk in the Christian faith, we must always remember that "God is truth", and in him is perfect righteousness. "Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begot he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." Jas.1:16-18. It is therefore very important that we stand upon God's truth and as the girdle represents the insignia of the warrior, so the truth of God becomes our identification. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Jn.14:6. Our identification, therefore, is in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has become our truth, and the evil forces cannot deny this relationship that we have in Christ Jesus.

B. The breastplate of God's righteousness.

"And having on the breastplate of righteousness." Eph.6:14 b.

Another important weapon of warfare that we should use is God's perfect righteousness, which has been granted unto us through the Lord Jesus Christ. We should consider our own righteousness as dead and useless. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isa.64:6. "If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col.3:1-4. In this spiritual war with the evil spirits, we need the complete protection by the righteousness from God. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior." Tit.3:5-6. We cannot fight this battle without God's righteousness. Some try their own way and will always fail in their ignorance. The Jewish leaders attempted to justify themselves with their own righteousness. "For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Rom.10:2-3.

The breastplates of righteousness that will withstand the evil forces, must be accepted by faith from God. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," Rom.3:22-23. In order to combat the enemy we need God's righteousness, through the Holy Spirit, who has provided us with this eternal life. "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Rom.8:9-10. Christ has wonderfully provided for us that we should be partakers of the perfect righteousness of God. "For he hath made him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor.5:21. Christ has taken upon himself this prepared armor to bring us the victory. "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore, his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak." Isa.59:16-17.

There is nothing that can defeat the righteousness of our God and that righteousness becomes our breastplate of protection. "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep. O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." Ps.36:5-7.

C. The Gospel of inward peace.

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph.6:15.

The Saints are sent to present the Gospel of peace

Since salvation is an individual matter, there is of necessity the need for personal contact, to accomplish this great commission. "And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All authority (power) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen." Matt.28:18-20. Satan and his demons do not want the gospel preached, and try everything to hinder us from preaching the gospel. But we have the assurance that Christ will never leave us nor forsake us, and he will always be our ever present help. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom.10:13. This gospel not only brings eternal life, but also provides inward peace. The world can be in a terrible turmoil and continual strife, but praise God, we can have that peace that passes all knowledge. This old world will only experience peace, when the Prince of Peace comes and rules with a rod of iron.

In the fullness of time, when the Father sent his Son, (Gal.4:4-5.), we read, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, among men of good will." Lk.2:11-14. The Hebrew greeting is "Shalom", which indicates peace, but they have no peace because they rejected the Prince of Peace. As the Lord was about to go to the cross, he assured the disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jn.14:27. Our inward peace comes from the Lord himself. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Jn.16:33. When the Lord paid the debt on the cross, to remove the penalty of sin, he then appeared to his disciples with this assurance. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." Jn.20:21.

We are sent ones to preach the gospel of peace to all. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." Rom.1:7 b. This peace can only come as we believe and have been justified before God the Father on the merits of God the Son. "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Rom.5:1. However there are Christians who do not have that inward peace, because they are carnally minded and conformed to this world system. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Rom.8:6. Some believers are so carnal that they quench the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and often this leads to the sin unto physical death. Do not let this happen to you, Dear Christian, but rather be filled by the Spirit, for that great commission. Being sent ones to preach the gospel, we may not make much of an impression upon those of worldly pleasures and fun, but note what the Word of God says. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Rom.10:15.

The Gospel of Peace breaks the power of Satan.

The Gospel message will break the spell which Satan has upon the unregenerate, and give those who believe insight to eternal life in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor,4:3-5.) "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Rom.16:20. As the Lord defeats the grip that Satan has on the unregenerate, when they believe, their mind is restored. The brain washing which Satan has held over his prey, immediately is broken and the newly born saint is restored with a clear mind, and understanding of the word. "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." 1 Cor.14:33. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Col.3:15-16. "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through knowledge of God, and of Jesus, our Lord." 2 Pet.1:2. "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thess.3:16.

D. The Shield of faith.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, with which ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph.6:16.

As we preach this gospel of peace, we do not offer to those hungry souls mythology or some false religious hope, but we present reality and truth, based upon God's Word. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders received witness. Through faith we understand that the ages were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb.11:1-3. This may seem strange to some of you, but what the Holy Spirit is declaring is, these material things were made by God's Word. God is not of this material creation, but rather is of the spiritual realm which is eternal. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:18.

The Evidence of faith is seen in creation.

Let us consider for a moment the tremendous creation, which God has made. It is too innumerable to be able to examine but a fraction of all that God has created after it's kind. The human body alone is an individual creation, as no two of us are alike. We are non-transferable, even though there are transplants, which may extend the life for a short time. Science has finally admitted than the source of man, regardless, of race or color, have all one common source. What they do not want to admit is that the human beings are different from the animal world. What they are saying is, "They do not believe in the God of creation". "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Ps.14:1. They prefer to start life by some sort of an explosion without an ounce of life. Some sort of a shock that will automatically produce a life cell. Then, some how that little life cell started to grow and after millions of years, all sorts of life came about. You have to have great faith in nothing

to swallow such lies from the pit. That takes down right brain washing from Satan himself! Note what the Word of God has to say. "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds. There are celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is a glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life giving spirit. However, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have been borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Cor.15:38-50.

The Shield of Faith brings Eternal Values.

Our shield of faith in this temporary life is of the greatest importance in building up our eternal character. We are hence able to evaluate these eternal gems from God's Word, and are protected from all of the fiery darts of Satan. Without the shield of faith, our lives would continually be under the satanic fires of doubt, stress and strain. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen." 1 Pet.5:7-11. In this temporary world, we who are christians now live a life of faith, based upon the Word of God. Our destination is into the realm of eternity with the God of eternity.

E. The Helmet of Salvation for the Saints of the Lord.

"And take the helmet of salvation," Eph.6:17 a. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." 1 Thess.5:8-10.

Christ is the helmet of our salvation.

The helmet of salvation is to protect us as we make full use of the Divine viewpoint. Salvation is both faith and hope, based upon the promises of God. As a saint of God, our mental attitude is very important in this life. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in

Christ Jesus, 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; And, being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil.2:5-8. Having the mind of Christ, not only means for us to take up our own cross and follow him, but also to use our mentality in the study of the Bible. This will establish us in the Word of God, being covered by the helmet of salvation.

The Lord Jesus Christ was appointed by the Father to provide salvation for those who believe, and had declared it through the prophets. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant, David; As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who have been since the ages began;" Lk.1:68-70. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee; behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," 2 Cor.6:2. This salvation has come only by the grace of God, and it is established by the power of God. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Tit.2:11-15. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

Therefore, proudly wear the helmet of salvation, glorifying the Lord in and through your life. It is the emblem of Almighty God and is a gem incorruptible. The Lord Jesus Christ wore a crown of thorns that we might wear the crown of his glory. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him," Heb.5:8-9. Let us not fear our adversaries, but stand firmly upon the promises of God, "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God." Phil.1:28.

F. The sword of the Spirit for the saints of the Lord.

"And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:" Eph.6:17b. "For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb.4:12. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.: 2 Tim.3:16-17.

As believers, we not only have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, but we also have the fullness of his Word in the Bible. As we read and study the Word of God, we have special tutoring by the Holy Spirit, who has brought us newness of life. Christ prayed to the Father to send the Holy Spirit to indwell us forever and ever. "And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. The unity within the Godhead is a great comfort to us as believers. God is for us, and who can be against us? God's Word is mighty, and his promises are yea and amen! "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Words shall not pass away." Matt.24:35. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jn.1:1. This double edged sword which God has given to us as part of the armor is a mighty weapon of warfare. We not only have the backing of the Holy Spirit, but we also have the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father, who is well pleased with his Son, gives us a powerful weapon against all of the evil forces. Let us continually study God's Word and allow it to penetrate into our very being. "Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy Word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me; for I trust in thy Word." Ps.119:41-42. "Forever, O Lord, thy Word is settled in heaven." Ps.119:89. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps.119:105.

G. The warriors strength and resources.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints," Eph.6:18.

As we make full use of the armor of God and make our stand against all evil forces, praying in the Spirit is an essential commodity. God wants us to keep in touch and communion with him as we make our defense against the wiles of the devil. It is imperative that we pray in the Spirit, for we need his constant help against the invisible enemies. This involves, being filled by the Spirit, and not grieving him in our daily life. It means that we keep a clean record before God the Father, confessing our sins, to claim that complete cleansing power of God. To better understand this prayer life, make sure that you study the textbook. "Praise and Share, Care through Prayer, by Andrew J. Losier. Our Christian life depends upon the constant attitude of prayer, personal prayer and collective prayer from the saints. This keeps us in touch with our limitless resources from God. As we are led by the Holy Spirit, we become partakers of his mighty strength.

Just before the Lord went to the cross, he entered into the temple, to drive out commercialism and added, "Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves." Lk.19:46. Prayer is a form of worship, and the Lord emphasized this throughout his earthly life. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth; For the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Jn.4:23-24. Since the Christians have become the temple of God, it behooves all of us to use these bodies as the temple of God, rather than let the thieves take over the controls.

CHAPTER SIX QUESTIONS

- 1. How are our heavenly treasures protected?**
 - 2. Where is the source of our power? Explain.**
 - 3. Explain Jeremiah 10:12-13; and Heb.4:12-14.**
 - 4. What were the last words of the Lord before he ascended on high?**
 - 5. Write briefly on,"The Christian Soldiers' enemies>"**
 - 6. Explain Ezekiel 28:12-19.**
 - 7. What power does Satan have? Is it limited?**
 - 8. Write briefly on "The warfare of the Christian".**
 - 9. Name at least five types of satanic activity.**
 - 10. Write on, "Satan's method of attack."**
 - 11. What is the Christian's method of defense?**
 - 12. What is the importance of Christ being at the right hand of God the Father?**
 - 13. Write briefly on, "Christ Our Advocate."**
 - 14. What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life?**
 - 15. Why is Christian fellowship in prayer so important?**
 - 16. Explain why family devotions are so important in the Christian life.**
 - 17. Write briefly on, "The Power of the Word of God."**
 - 18. Why do we need armor as Christians?**
 - 19. Name and explain the various pieces of armor that the Christian should use.**
 - 20. What evidence of faith is seen in creation?**
 - 21. What are the Christian warrior's resources and strength?**
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THE FINAL REMARKS CONCERNING OUR ETERNAL TREASURES WITH GOD

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen." Eph.6:23-24.

As you have studied the untold blessings that we have in Christ Jesus, I am sure that you have realized more than ever before the depth of the riches of wealth in Christ Jesus, preserved in the heavenlies for all saints of all ages. May we never settle for these imitations that the world offers. Always be ready at all times to make full use of the armor of God. We are not in this battle alone, for we are members of the body of Christ. We have been adopted into the royal family of God, as joint heirs with the King of kings and Lord of lords. As you study the Bible, make your claims sure, as you stand firmly upon the promises of God. "Now unto God our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." Phil.4:20.

The Lord God Almighty has and is continuing to do great things for his royal family. May we constantly remind ourselves that we are of that eternal royal family of God. Our inheritance in Christ is secured by the grace of our loving Lord Jesus and guaranteed by the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. We have been made joint heirs with Christ Jesus the Creator of all things. Our treasures in Christ Jesus are already secure and eternal and time will have no claim on these precious gems which God has provided.

We cannot add or take away from these treasures, but we certainly can show our appreciation for what has been accomplished in our behalf by a committed life to our loving Lord. The temporary attractions in this world lure us away into a greedy and lustful life to satisfy the world, the flesh and the devil, but we are reminded, not to be conformed to this world system, but rather, wholly yielded to our Heavenly Father. Be a faithful witness for the Lord, bringing honor and glory to God. The trials and tribulations that you may experience are very precious in the sight of God, and your reward will be great when you see our Lord Jesus Christ, face to face. He will then know that you have appreciated all that he has done for you and you will hear him say to you, "Well done". "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Heb.13:20-21.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

In the beginning

Was the Word, and the Word was with GOD
and the Word was GOD

JOHN 1:1

Eternity Past

THE ABSOLUTE GOD
THE ABSOLUTE PLAN
DAN. 9:24

GOD - THE FATHER planned it,
JOHN 10:15-18 : HEB. 10:5b

GOD - THE SON provided it,
JOHN 10:17

GOD - THE HOLY SPIRIT proved it.
1 COR. 12:13

THE ABSOLUTE BLUEPRINT
to achieve a PERFECT
ETERNAL PARADISE-
FREE FROM EVIL
throughout Eternity to come,
based on the Word of GOD

GOD created the
Heaven and the
Earth
GEN. 1:1 : PSALM 19:1

The creation of the Angels

and the realm of their habitation

LUCIFER (Highest Position) ISA. 14:12: EZEK. 28:12-15
MICHAEL (Arch Angel)
GABRIEL (Mighty Angel) well informed

CELESTIAL CREATURES
endowed with a choice

- CHERUBIM (Defenders)
- SERAPHIM (Worship)
- LIVING CREATURES
(Glorious Majesty)
- ANGELIC HOST
(Innumerable)

Restored Earth
Six day creation
GEN. 1:3

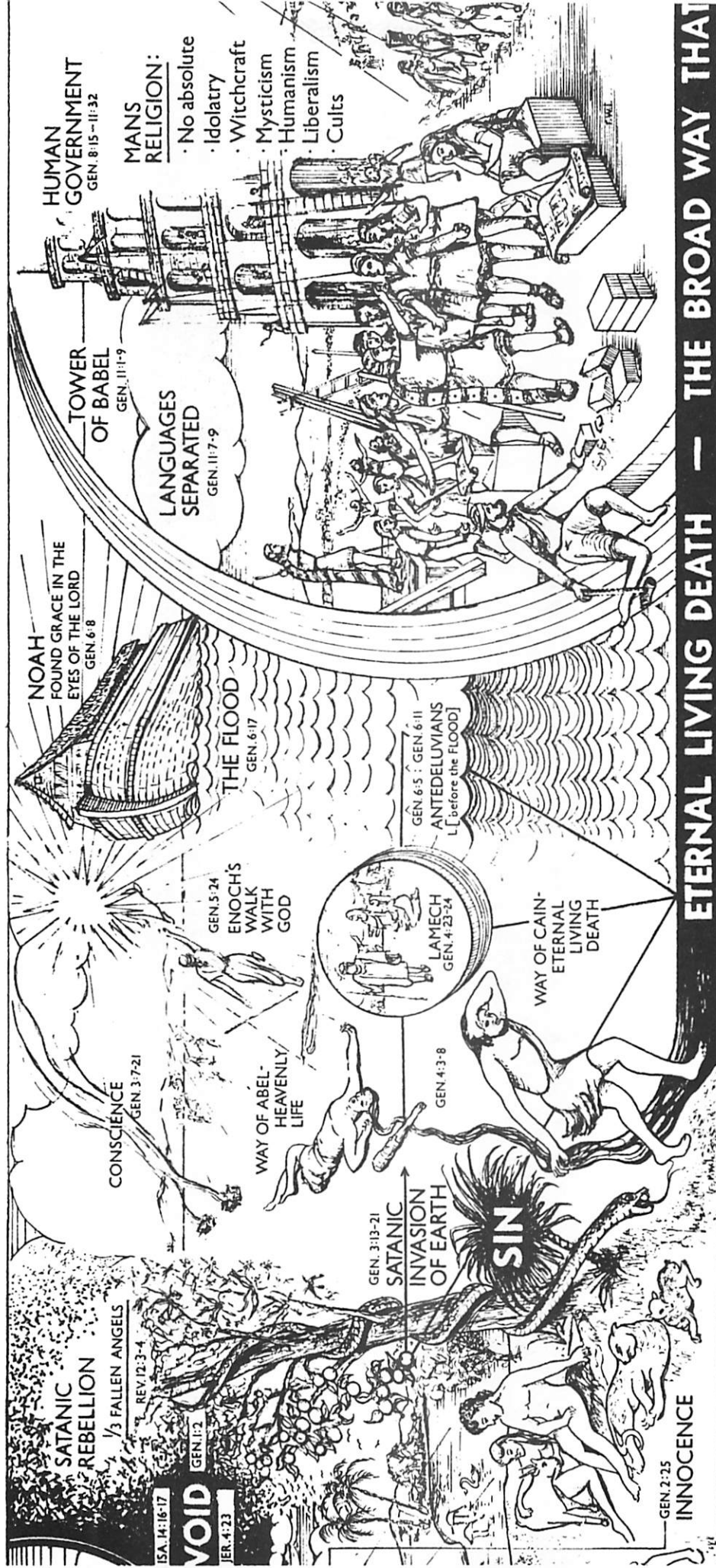
GARDEN
OF EDEN

GOD'S PLAN OF ALL AGES
by REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER
Scroll graphics and illustrations by Raymond W. Losier — Copyright pending 1986

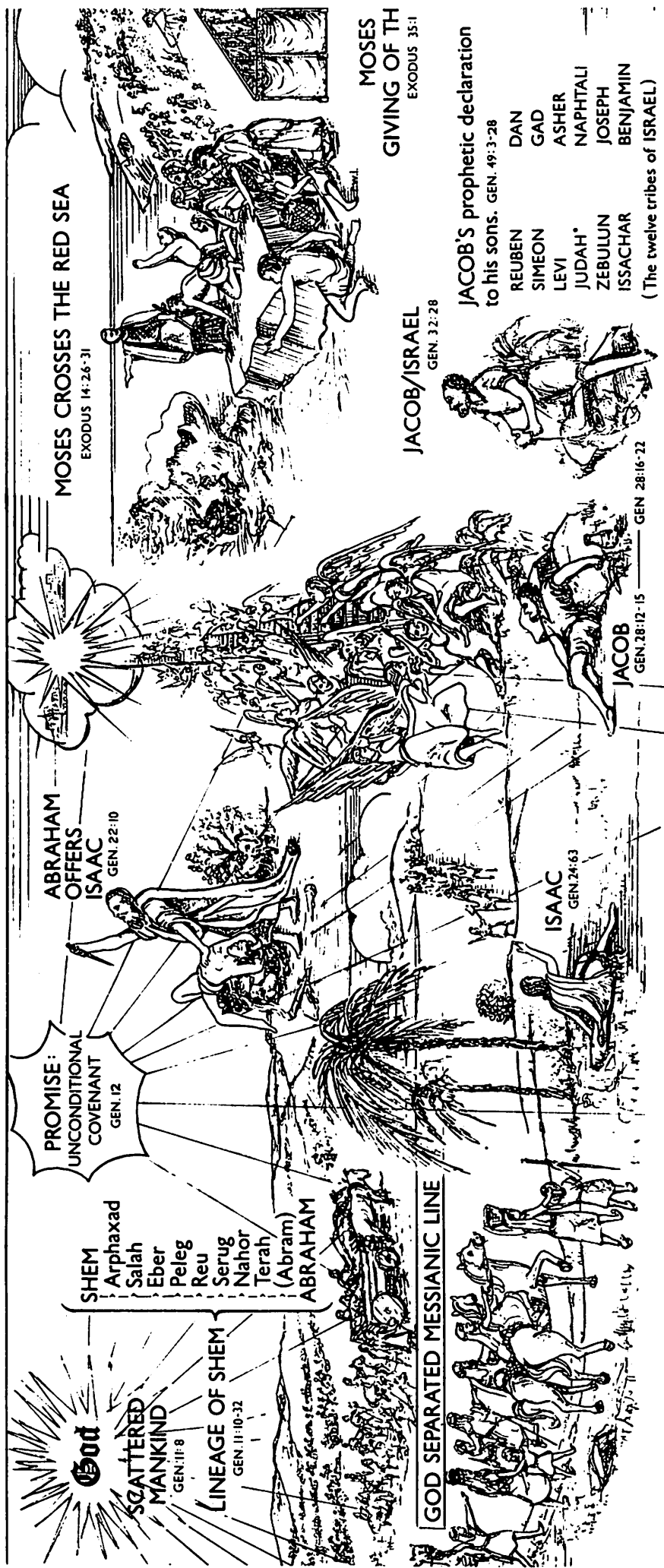
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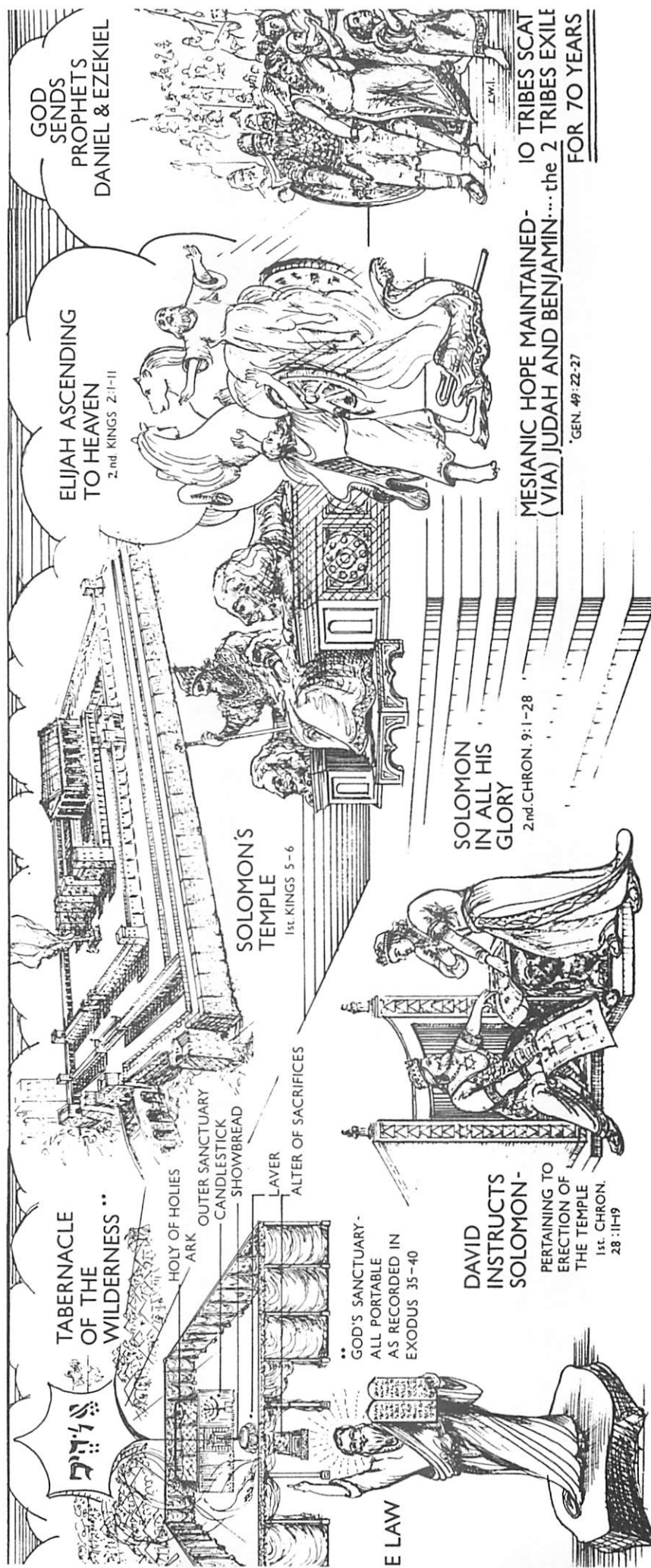
NOT TO BE SOLD



ETERNAL LIVING DEATH — THE BROAD WAY THAT



LEADS TO DESTRUCTION GAL.5:19-21; ADULTERY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNES



TABERNACLE
OF THE
WILDERNESS ..

ELIJAH ASCENDING
TO HEAVEN
2nd KINGS 2:1-11

GOD
SENDS
PROPHETS
DANIEL & EZEKIEL

SOLOMON'S
TEMPLE
1st KINGS 5-6

SOLOMON
IN ALL HIS
GLORY
2nd CHRON. 9:1-28

MESIANIC HOPE MAINTAINED-
(VIA) JUDAH AND BENJAMIN... the 2 TRIBES EXILE
FOR 70 YEARS
*GEN. 49:22-27

10 TRIBES SCAT
FOR 70 YEARS

DAVID
INSTRUCTS
SOLOMON-
PERTAINING TO
ERECTION OF
THE TEMPLE
1st CHRON.
28:11-19

GOD'S SANCTUARY -
ALL PORTABLE
AS RECORDED IN
EXODUS 35-40

E LAW

CESS, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLATRY, SORCERY, HATRED, STRIFE, JEALOUSY,

NEBACHADNEZER'S DREAM
(THE FOUR GREAT KINGDOMS)

DANIEL INTERPRETS IT.....
DAN 2

GOLD — BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
DAN 7:4

SILVER — MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE
DAN 7:5

BRASS — GRECIAN EMPIRE
DAN 7:6

Alexander's Kingdom - four div.

IRON — ROMAN EMPIRE
DAN 7:7-8

IRON & CLAY
DAN 2:34-35 & DAN 2:45

THE FOURTH BEAST
"dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly STRONG."
DAN 7:7-8

REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

LION
DAN 7:4

BEAR
DAN 7:5

LEOPARD
DAN 7:6

DANIEL'S PRAYER

The seventy weeks foretold to DANIEL by GABRIEL
DAN 9:21-26

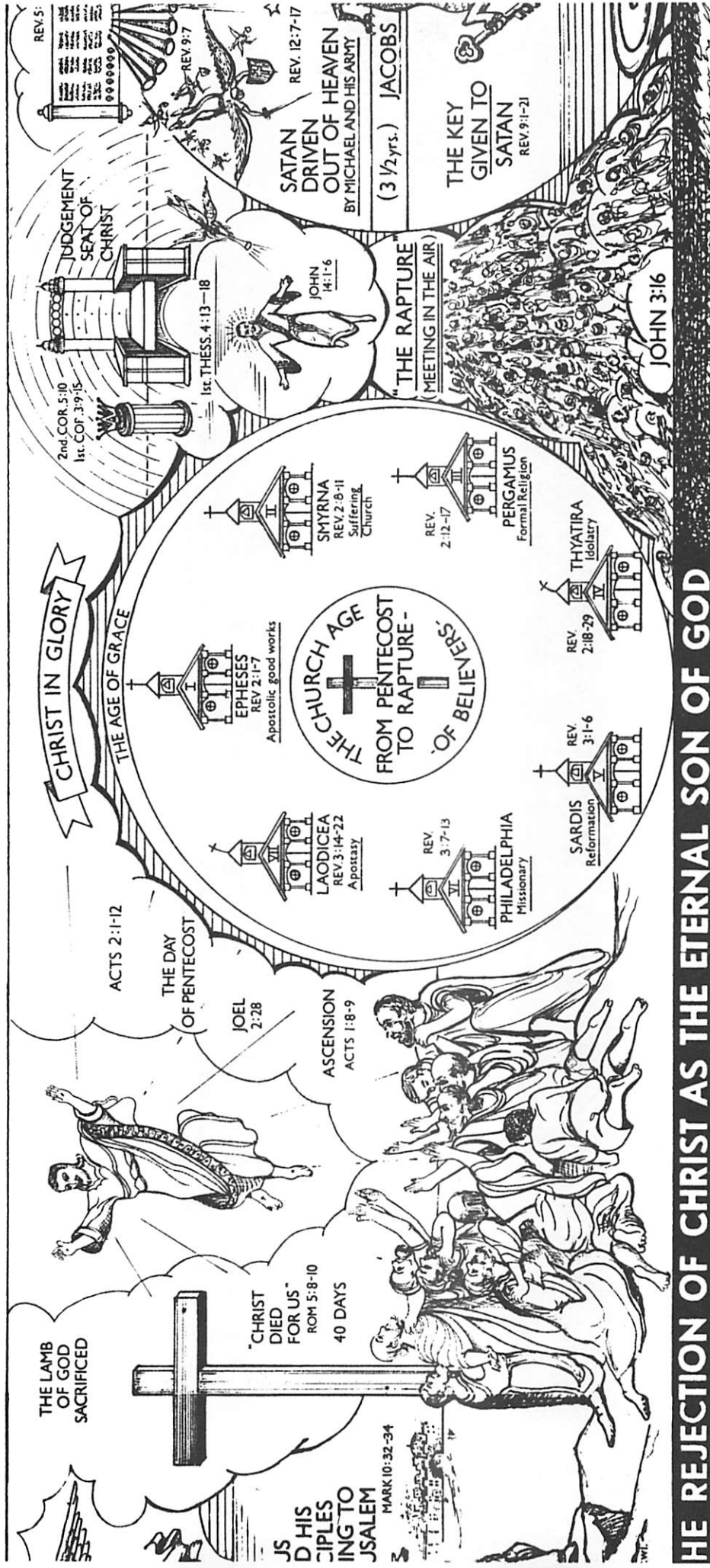
CYRUS DECREES 483 YEARS until MESSIAH IS CUT OFF — (CRUCIFIED)
FOR ALL OF THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD

"BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY," — LUKE 2:10

JOHN THE BAPTIST
BORN TO HERALD THE COMING OF CHRIST
MATT 3:1-12
MARK 1:1-8
LUKE 3:1-20
JOHN 1:6-8

JESUS ANointed DECEMBER 25th

WRATH, FACTIONS, SEDITIONS, HERESIES, ENVYINGS, MURDERS, ETC. T



HE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

MARRIAGE OF THE
LAMB OF GOD
REV. 19:7
THE MARRIAGE
SUPPER REV. 19:17

ABOMINATION
OF DESOLATION
MATT. 24:15

MYSTERY
BABYLON
REV. 17:1-18
REV. 18:1-24

TROUBLE (3 1/2 yrs.)

THE GREAT
TRIBULATION
(70th. - Seven)

OF DANIEL
9:24
9:26,27

THE
BEAST
& FALSE PROPHET

CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE
REV. 19:20

THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST
RETURNS
TO REIGN OVER
HIS
(RIGHTEOUS)
KINGDOM
ON EARTH
1st. THESS. 3:13 - REV. 11:15
REV. 19:11-21: ISAAIAH 40:10

HEAVENLY RIGHTEOUSNESS
COMING DOWN UPON THE EARTH
"Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
ON EARTH,
as it is in
HEAVEN"
MATT. 6:10

1000 YEAR KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISHED
REV. 20:6

NATURE RESTORED ISAAIAH 11:6-9

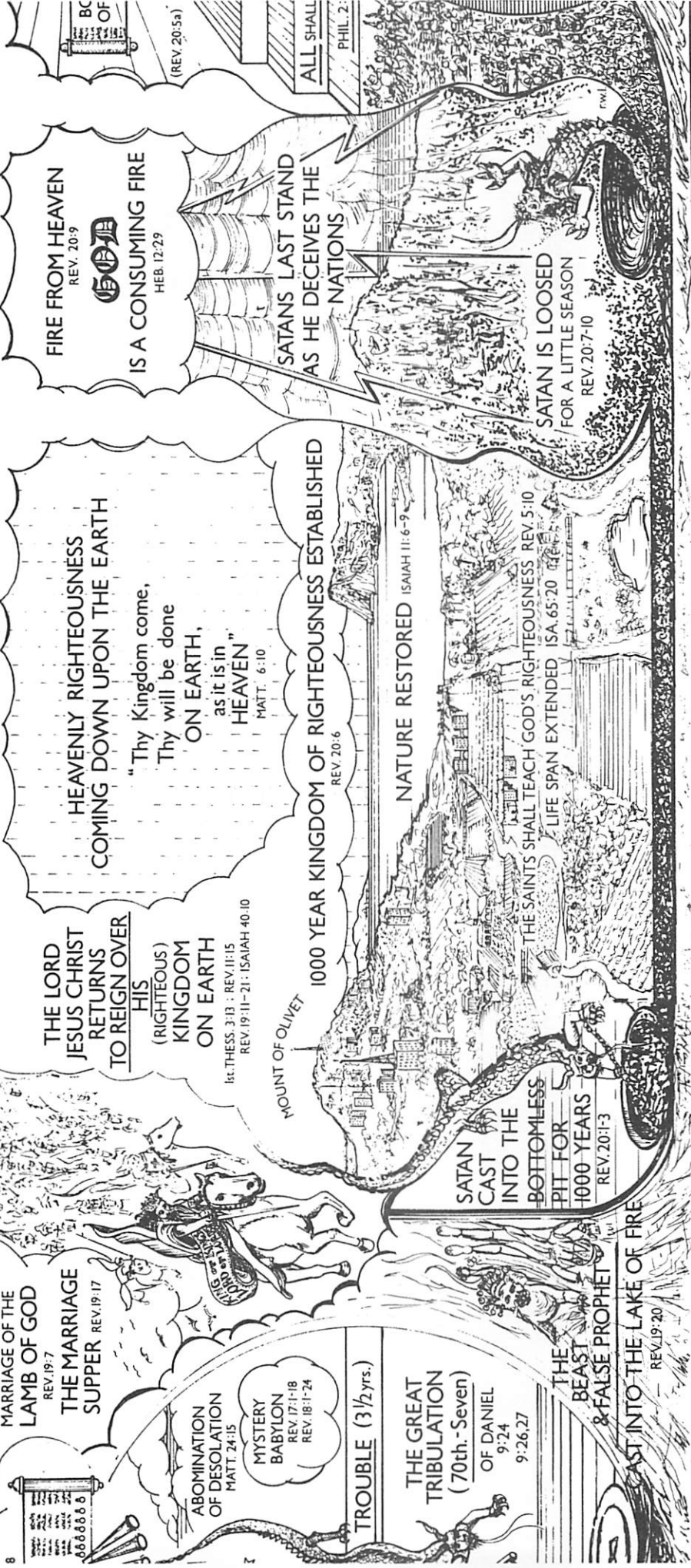
THE SAINTS SHALL TEACH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
REV. 5:10
LIFE SPAN EXTENDED ISA. 65:20

FIRE FROM HEAVEN
REV. 20:9
IS A CONSUMING FIRE
HEB. 12:29

SATAN'S LAST STAND
AS HE DECEIVES THE
NATIONS

SATAN IS LOOSED
FOR A LITTLE SEASON
REV. 20:7-10

SATAN
CAST
INTO THE
BOTTOMLESS
PIT FOR
1000 YEARS
REV. 20:1-3



Publications

by
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

A Study of the Book of Daniel

Amazing Grace

Analytical Theological Questionnaire Vol I and Vol II

Battleground and Warfare of Christians

Biblical Outline of Sermons

Christ the Eternal Son of God

Difficult Biblical Questions Answered

I am Alpha and Omega

Know Your Bible Rightly Divided

Memoirs of Africa

One World Government under Satan verses the Kingdom of God Established Forever

Praise Share & Care Through Prayer

Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Inspired Word of God

The Book of Romans

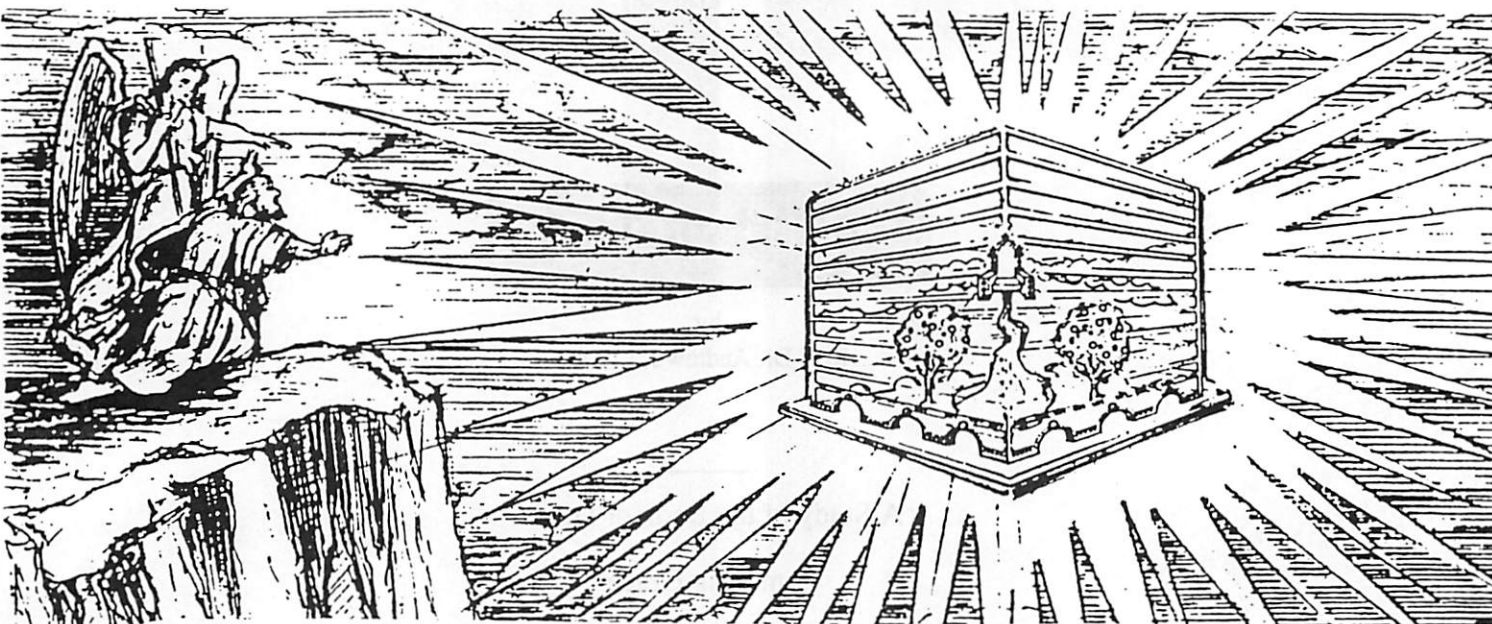
The Cross of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Glory of God

Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems

What Does the Future Hold?



"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21 : 10

Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.

JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"

Revelation 1:8

