

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Ephesians 5:1-7

Thus far in this section of Ephesians (Ch 4 and 5), we are being taught by the Holy Spirit how to walk – what our lifestyle (in word and in deed!) as believers in Jesus Christ is to look like:

1. walk worthy of the calling of God
2. walk not as unbelievers do, by casting off the old and putting on the new man

Two weeks ago, Ch 4:20-32 spoke to us about our walks with Jesus in this perilous time

- outrage at the demonic atrocities committed by Hamas against Israel
- angst in the knowledge that this spirit is alive and well and rising in USA
e.g. pro-Hamas demonstrations in many USA cities and universities

[Bulletin: we support Israel via CC Tel Aviv, if the Lord moves you to give]

Last week, a strong message to “Go” and “Attack the Darkness”

- 1 Cor 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!
- 1 Cor 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway/reprobate/rejected. (James 1:22)
- 1 Peter 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
- 2 Tim 1:7 fear prevents followers of Jesus Christ from going
- 2 Tim 3:16-17 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.
- 1 Cor 14:3 he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

All of us were reproved, convicted, exhorted, instructed in righteousness, encouraged, and edified by the Word of God brought by our dear brother to be busy about the good work of preaching the Gospel in a dark, dark world

[pic: Solar Eclipse 20231014]

Reality:

- spiritual darkness
- worldwide, certainly in the nation in which we live

Understanding the battle

- belongs to the Lord
- is spiritual (Eph 6:12)

we put on our armor and fight with the weapons given to us (Eph 6)

- prayer
- Word of God

2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

We speak the truth in love (Eph 5:15), preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to those in that darkness, attacking the darkness that has attacked us without much of a response!

As we fight the good fight of faith, we walk

1. worthy of the calling of God
2. not as unbelievers do

This time...and now in Eph 5:1-7, as we fight we walk in love, continued

v1 Therefore...because we walk worthy of the calling of God and walk not as unbelievers

we are to live as followers of God
imitators of the OTL God
having His heart and mind
being a doer of His Word and ways

as dear/beloved children

As the children of God, follow the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit every day

John 1:12-13 as many as received (submit) him (The Word of God made flesh, the Holy One of Israel), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe (trust) on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Followers...

Every child wants his/her way

Every child wants to be “the leader” in “Follow the Leader”

There is a great push upon the children in our society from

- parents
- grandparents
- education system

to be “leaders”

Being a “follower” has a negative connotation of subservience and weakness

But the reality/truth is that

- no one is a leader (master)
- everyone is a follower
 - either a follower of the Living God and Light and Life...
a bondservant, willingly following
 - or a follower of Satan and darkness and death...
a slave in cruel bondage, taken captive by the devil

As unregenerate sinners, we were prolific followers/imitators of Satan

Now, as mercifully regenerated and graciously reconciled children of God, we are called to be prolific followers/imitators of God

- the heart of the Father
- the mind of Christ
- the fruit of the Spirit

We are to follow our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord,
hearing His voice and walking/living as does He,
doing as He came to do and sent us to do...Luke 19:10, John 3:17

To follow Jesus Christ requires

- denial of Self and picking up our cross
- surrender of one's will to the will of God our Father, which we prove by presenting our bodies a living sacrifice and, being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom 12:1-2)

Let's be bold and devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, in these perilous days when the world is clearly engulfed in darkness!

We are beloved children of our Father...let's live accordingly

- not as
 - annoying
 - irritating
 - bratty
 - grievous and heart-breaking
- but as
 - well-behaved
 - obedient
 - polite, gentle, kind

carrying the Family name honorably in all we say and do

How do we follow God as beloved children?

v2 We walk in love...live a lifestyle in word and deed, in action and speaking,
of God's selfless, self-last love for

- Him and our neighbors (Matt 22:36-40)
- each other (John 13:34-35)

that

- unbelievers would know that we are the disciples/followers of Jesus Christ
- sinners might accept God's gift of salvation in His Son Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is our model, our example of God's love

He has

1. loved us...as supremely evidenced by
2. given/surrendered Himself for us

Is 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Rom 5:8

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

- an offering – bloodless, life-sustaining sacrifice
- sacrifice – bloody, life-giving sacrifice

John 1:4

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

- to God His Father and our Father Who sent Him for this purpose
Is 53:10-11 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
- for a sweet smelling savor, the only pleasing fragrance to “erase” the stench of sin

And by walking in the love that Jesus has for us,
we bear witness of God’s love to the lost sinners around us,
the followers of Satan that the Father desires to convert into followers of Jesus Christ

2 Cor 2:15-16 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life

How did Saul of Tarsus become the Apostle Paul?

By the love and grace of God revealed to him and received by him by faith
Gal 1:15-16 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 heathen
Titus 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done (Is 64:6), but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

How did we who were children of wrath and disobedience become children of God?

The same!

By the love and grace of God revealed to us and received by us by faith
Eph 2:1-9

How will other children of wrath and disobedience become children of God?

The same!

By the love and grace of God revealed to them in us and received by them by faith

How can lost people who are in turmoil, worried and anxious, be comforted unless they hear from us, who are comforted and not worried or anxious?

How can lost people who are confused get clarity unless they hear from us,
who are in our right minds (sitting at the feet of Jesus)?

How can lost people who have no hope get hope unless they hear from us,
who have a blessed hope?

How can lost people who are fearful not be fearful unless they hear from us,
who by faith over fear have peace with God and the peace of God?

How can lost people who have been abused be healed unless they hear from us,
who are kind and compassionate and gentle and loving?

How can lost people who are deceived, perplexed, and looking for answers be
enlightened unless they hear from us, who know the Truth?

John 20:21 *Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

It takes speaking

1 Cor 15:3-4

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23

Rom 5:8

Rom 5:1

It takes going

Rom 10:9-15

Is 55:6-11

v3-4 And walking in love as Jesus loved us is NOT manifested in

- fornication...and sexual activity outside the institution of marriage as defined by God
- uncleanness...moral impurity
- covetousness...idolatry (Col 3:5)
- filthiness...anything shameful or obscene
- foolish talking...talking like a fool, silliness, buffoonery
- jesting...having a sharp tongue at the expense of another

Those behaviors are

- NOT proper, NOT Christ-like
- are devilish and are sin against God...the very opposite of love for God!

So let none of these sins be spoken of/mentioned of any of God's dear children!

Let not that be our witness in the world!!

We are to have a complete abandonment of such living because...

v5 We know...God has so said and God cannot lie...that no (unrepented)

- whoremonger...living like a "sex addict" in the vernacular of the world
- unclean person...living in the filth of the world, not cleansed of sin and unrighteousness by the blood of the Lamb of God and by the washing of the water of the Word
- covetous person...living a life lusting for the material things of this world, an idolator

has any inheritance of the followers of God, the dear children of God:
the Kingdom of God

We followers of Jesus Christ seek not an inheritance of this world of things that stay in this world and go the way of this world (burns up in fervent heat!)

We seek an inheritance in the next world, the new heaven and new earth,
eternal in the presence of the Living God

Nothing in this world compares to the inheritance that awaits us, not even ALL the world

Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Prov 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Prov 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Therefore,

v6 In an evil world filled with lies and deception and betrayal (the Media is a great purveyor of these tactics of the destroyer of men's souls), beware!

Run everything you hear thru the truth of God's Word so that you are not deceived by empty words and seducing spirits and doctrines of devils

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Those given over to the lifestyles of v3-5 are children of disobedience and the wrath of God awaits them should they not come to their senses and repent

Q: What about the children of obedience, God's dear children?

A: The very same wrath of God fell on the Son of God on the Cross for their sins (v2)

What is the difference between a follower of God and a follower of Satan
child of obedience child of disobedience

NOT Jesus Christ!

John 3:16

1 Tim 2:4-6

2 Peter 3:9

The difference is one of personal choice regarding Jesus Christ

In this world

Repentance vs defiance

Receive by faith God's gift vs despise God's gift

Love God and others preeminently vs love Self preeminently

In the next world

Life vs death

Light vs darkness

Heaven vs hell/Lake of Fire

Rom 10:4

v7 God's dear children, do not participate in the unholy behaviors/lifestyles of the children of disobedience

2 Cor 6:17-18 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 will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Be holy, for our God is holy

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord

1 Thes 3:12-13 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

So here we are, living in the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot...
days of grotesque moral depravity and days of profound violence
2 Tim 3:13 just like in the days before the Flood and the days before fire and brimstone

As we gather on this day, 10/29/23, the “state of the world”:

- a Satanic attempt to annihilate the Jews, starting in Israel
- in the face of a “repeat Holocaust”, a great surge of Jew-hatred (anti-Semitism) worldwide
- upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring (Luke 21:25b)...the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. *There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. (Is 57:20-21)

Because in the world there are 2 completely irreconcilable worldviews and moralities
Morals: what is good and what is evil as it relates to human life

One civilization, built on truth, values human life – Western Civilization
The other civilization, built on lies, values human death – radical Islam
“For us, life begins with death.”

The 2 civilizations are polar opposites, mutually exclusive, utterly incompatible...
they CANNOT co-exist (the bumper sticker is a naïve delusion)
Recommended reading: Behold Israel’s Telegram post on 10/24/23 from the
Paris-based think tank

The focal point, ground zero, for this conflict of civilizations is Israel
[map: Behold Israel]

But not just Israel!

Radical Islam has “legally” invaded the democracies of Western Civilization,
taking advantage of liberal immigration policies and open borders
A radical Muslim in Canada: When we become the majority, Sharia Law
will replace Canadian law. You will have no choice.

The horror in Israel that began on 10/7/23 is revealing the pure evil behind
Hamas and their satanic agenda

Ronny Simon after the attack on the hospital in Gaza (from Islamic Jihad
and NOT from Israel):

Dead Israelis, is bad for Israel and good for the Palestinians.
Dead Palestinians is bad for Israel and very good for the
Palestinians. When it comes to the Satanic spirit of Hamas, death is
good. In two cases, Hamas rockets hit a hospital in Ashkelon.
Some damage was done. No fatalities. The hospital is well fortified
to last such attacks. We invest a fortune to protect our civilians.
Hamas invests a fortune to ensure that Palestinians will die.

Jew-hatred is a demonic spirit

That demonic spirit is here and in Europe too!

- huge spike in anti Semitic attacks on Jews in cities all over USA and Europe
- pro-Hamas demonstrations
 - in the major cities in USA, Europe, world
 - on dozens of campuses of USA's institutions of higher indoctrination, the "breeding grounds" of tomorrow's "leaders" in USA..."leaders" who are blindly following Satan, darkness, and death

[pic: Urban Assembly Institute at NYU]

[video: Cooper Union College]

[pic Beverly Hills]

"The Squad" in US Congress, Rep Rashida Tlaib having direct links to Hamas

Cities and campuses are the centers of "progressives"...
in whom evil and lies are progressing

They are moral cesspools

Truly, we live in spiritually fierce times!!!

The invading "civilization" (radical Islam) views the invaded civilization (Western) as a cancer and intends to kill it

So how can the invaded civilization, the democracies of Western Civilization, purge themselves of this very literal existential threat?

A parasite never seeks peace with the host it invades, it seeks only its death

A parasite never "converts" to become a part of the host it invades

A parasite must not be fed and it cannot be negotiated with...

it must be destroyed before it destroys the host

A civilization of death cannot be appeased, it cannot be reasoned with
It must be destroyed

How is radical Islam destroyed and by Whom?

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and the Judge of all the earth

The God of Israel takes down kings/civilizations and sets up kings and He knows what is in the darkness (Dan 2:20-22)

In times past He has judged Himself

- The entire world (Flood)...Days of Noah
- Sodom and Gomorrah...Days of Lot

In times past He has used nations as instruments of judgment

- Israel
- Babylon
- Persia
- Greece
- Rome

In times future He will

- use a nation (Israel) as His instrument of judgment
- judge nations/civilizations Himself
 - Ezk 38-39
 - Rev 19

Not given to the Bride of Christ is be an instrument of His judgment

We are ambassadors of the Gospel to all the nations (Matt 28:19-20)

The battle between these 2 incompatible civilizations belongs to the Lord

- spiritual, other worldly battle: the Church
- worldly battle: Israel and Himself

So we, His followers, must understand the spirit behind radical Islam and fight accordingly, with the weapons given us by the Lord –
prayer and the Word of God i.e. the Gospel of Jesus Christ

The nations of the world cannot fight the fight that must be fought for they are not spiritually discerned and they are “governed” by the prince of darkness (Eph 6:12)

“Peace and Safety” is impossible without the Prince of Peace ruling the nations
But it is “possible” (wink, wink) by the counterfeit christ Israel is poised to believe and the nations are being prepared to receive

Today on earth, the Church must fight the spiritual fight that must be fought
This spiritual battle is intense!
It is not going away.
Fear not!

As we sprint toward the Finish Line to finish well our course, remember

1 Tim 6:11-16

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 Thes 1:10 | wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, <i>even</i> Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. |
| Is 49:23b | thou shalt know that I <i>am</i> the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me. |
| Jude 3 | Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort <i>you</i> that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. |

Fighting the good fight of faith with diligence, focus, and energy

Luke 19:10 God is still working salvation before judgment

Luke 19:13 occupy till I come

2 Cor 6:2 For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

Fighting the good fight of faith with patience, cheerful endurance

1. walking worthy of the calling of God
2. walking not as unbelievers do
3. walking in love

walking: living in word and in deed, speaking and doing

As ambassadors of peace **with** God – 1 Cor 2:2, Rom 1:16-17, Rom 5:1

As watchmen

Is 62:6-7 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

As warriors

- prayer
 - believing
 - in the Spirit
 - fervently
 - without ceasing
- the Word of God
 - Sword of the Spirit
 - alive and sharper than any two-edged sword
 - Jesus Christ