

CHAPTER 4

ITHEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the

same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 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 fulness of Christ:

14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

16 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.

17. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

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

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

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

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

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

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

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

CHAPTER 5

BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 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 savour.

3. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

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

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are

reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

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

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

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21. Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

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

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

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

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see*

that she reverence *her* husband.

CHAPTER 6

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

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

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

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

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

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

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

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ Written from Rome unto the Ephesians by Tychicus.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The second half of Paul's letter to the Ephesians emphasizes the Christian walk. The Christian life starts with one step. This is the step of faith, when a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour. The Christian life then involves progress and demands strength for a Christian to grow. We, as Christians, must learn how to walk or we will never be able to run and fight the battle that is presented in chapter 6. Chapter 4 tells us that we should walk in a way that will not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. We grieve God's Holy Spirit when we allow sin to creep into our lives. To enjoy Christian living, anger and strife should be done away with. Problems, disagreements, and hatreds should be pushed aside by means of forgiveness and Christian love.

In these three chapters for today we are told to walk in unity, to walk in purity, to walk in love, to walk in light, to walk carefully, and to walk in harmony. Paul also tells us in chapter 5:16 that we should walk in the way of redeeming the time, because the days are evil. We are not to waste God's time. We are to use it wisely and make every minute count for Him. Time wasted today can never be made up, and the many things we should have done today for the Master cannot be done tomorrow.

In chapter 6 Paul tells us how to walk in victory. Many Christians today have not learned from God's Word how to walk in victory over Satan. Christ has completely overcome Satan and his armies, and victory is ours by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When we live anywhere short of victory through Christ, then we are cheating ourselves of the blessings God has given to us. Verses 10 and 12 show us the enemy we fight. In verses 13 and 17 Paul gives us the equipment we must wear, and then, in verses 18-24, he gives us the energy we must use. In verse 11 we are told to put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Paul goes on to explain what our armour is. In verse 18 he gives us the warrior's source of strength. That source is prayer. Prayer is the power line to heaven. When this line is broken, the Christian is rendered utterly helpless. The sword we must use to fight the battle against the devil is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; and the power we must use is continual, daily, moment by moment, prayer and meditation with God, through the Holy Spirit.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding"

(Proverbs 15:32).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 35 (found on page 8).

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

TRACEY SIMPSON

HYMN FOR THE DAY

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

As one of the most joyous of all Christmas hymns, this carol omits references to shepherds, angelic choruses, and wise men. It emphasizes instead the reverent but ecstatic joy that Christ's birth brought to mankind. For centuries hearts had yearned for God to reveal Himself personally. At last it happened as "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The entire Advent season should be filled with solemn rejoicing as we contemplate anew God's great gift, providing the means whereby sinful man might live eternally.

"Joy to the World" is a paraphrase of the last part of Psalm 98:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He cometh to Judge the earth; with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity."

Although it was originally a song of rejoicing for Jehovah's protection of His chosen people and the anticipation of the time when He would be the God of the whole earth, this psalm was intended by Watts to be a New Testament expression of praise. It exalts the salvation that began when God became incarnate as the Babe of Bethlehem who was destined to remove the curse of Adam's fall.

The text was originally titled "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom" when it first appeared in Watts' hymnal of 1719. The music for this popular carol is thought to have been adapted by Lowell Mason, an American church musician, from some of the phrases used in parts of George Frederick Handel's beloved oratorio, *The Messiah*, first performed in 1742.

Through the combined talents of an English literary genius of the 18th century, a German-born musical giant from the same period, and a 19th century American choir director and educator, another great hymn was born.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!

*Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns.
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1608

THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN MILTON.

1793

NOAH WEBSTER PUBLISHED

“THE AMERICAN MINERVA.”

“The American Minerva” was New York’s first newspaper. Someone has said the greatest bargain in the world is the daily newspaper. This is probably true. If there is a better bargain, it would have to be the Monday newspaper. This is another thing we take for granted. I subscribe to a daily newspaper. It is just an accept-

ed fact that the paper will be there when I get up. Let us thank God for this convenience and pray for God to give America the freedom of the press as long as there is an America. Witness to your paper boy this week.

1907

CHRISTMAS SEALS WENT ON SALE FOR THE FIGHTING OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Maybe you know someone today afflicted with this dread disease. Thank God for the many improvements made in the fighting of this disease in our generation.

1863

THE BIRTHDAY OF G. CAMPBELL MORGAN.

G. Campbell Morgan was a great theologian, Bible expositor, and preacher. His influence upon the world, especially England and America, will be felt for many generations.

ON THIS DATE IN

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1867

Georgia constitutional convention (33 blacks, 137 whites) open in Atlanta.

1872

P. B. S. Pinchback was sworn in as governor of Louisiana after H. C. Warmoth was impeached “for high crimes and misdemeanors.”

1961

Tanzania proclaimed independent.

1971

Death of Ralph J. Bunche (67), Nobel Peace Prize winner and undersecretary of the UN from 1955 to his retirement in October, 1971, in New York City.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 139

AUTHOR: David

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

The Psalm title is, “To the chief musician.” The last time we found these words used as a title of a Psalm was in the 119th Psalm, which means that this Psalm was worthy to be used by the best of singers. It was dedicated to the leader of the temple choir to be set to music, and it was sung in the worship of Jehovah. Aben Ezra says that this is the most glorious and excellent Psalm of them all. It is divided into four stanzas of six verses each. Verses 1-6 deal with the omniscience of God; verses 7-12 speak of His omnipresence; verses 13-

18 deal with His omnipotence, and then verses 19-24 deal with the prayer of David.

Many scholars such as Rogers and others believe that David composed this Psalm when a shepherd boy. It is not difficult to envision David watching over his flock in the wilderness thinking of God’s omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence and penning these beautiful words.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD’S PEOPLE:

It was used primarily in private devotions and was repeated every morning and evening by the devout Israelite. It was also used for public worship as aforementioned.

EVENING STAR DAILY BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 35 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

B. THE ERROR OF BEING SAVED BY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

() Titus 1:16

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

() Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

() John 10:9

I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

() John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

() Hebrews 12:14

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