

-PRACTICE #3-

This study takes up Eph. 4:20-32 and is the practical application of the knowledge of Christ. It is in contrast to the walk of the Gentiles in verses 18 and 19. Knowledge of the TRUTH in Him should result in 3 things:-

1. PUT OFF THE OLD MAN. This is not the eradication of the old nature. It does not say to get rid of the old man, but concerning the conversation or way of life. The old nature is still with us, but he does not need to rule in our lives. The deeds of the old man are listed in the following verses and are; stealing, corrupt speech, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, and malice. These have no place in the walk of the person who has learned Christ.

2. PUT ON THE NEW MAN. We do not take on the new nature by any act or will of our own, but it is implanted by God. The exhortation here is to put on the deeds of the new man. This new nature is the only source of righteousness and true holiness. This new creation is the only source of good works that can be pleasing to God. In the old nature dwelleth no good thing. This new nature cannot sin. But it only can produce good works when it is fed and nourished by the Word of God. What is nourishment to the new nature only serves to starve the old nature.

3. PUT AWAY THE LIE. Never for a moment give place for the devil. He is a liar. He is the father of lies and THE LIE. If you will carefully consider, you will agree with me that 99% of the lying that is done is to exalt self. Those who have the mind of Christ will be humble and have no desire to exalt self in any way. Lying is the defense of the coward. Those who have put on the whole armor of God have no need of any other defense. You will not find lying and kindness living together in the same person, neither lying and tenderheartedness. Never expect to find a spirit of forgiveness in a liar.

-PRACTICE #4-

Eph. 5:1 to 6:9 is a section that seems to expand the exhortation in 4:1 which speaks of walking worthy of the calling. Of course we understand WALK to refer to our manner of living or our behavior. A proper knowledge of the doctrine should be a sufficient motive for a right walk. Yet many who profess to have the doctrine have failed in the walk. This 3-fold walk may be outlined thus:-

1. WALK IN LOVE. The love of Christ is the example and pattern. Those who have the love of Christ in their lives do not commit fornication, revel in uncleanness, or covet the things of others. These things should be so foreign to a member of the Church which is His BODY that these things need not be mentioned. Love and filthy conversation do not go together. Love and foolish talking are not companions. Love has more serious and constructive things to speak of. Love does not indulge in jesting or double talk which implies things that are not clean. All these things are marks of the children of disobedience upon whom comes the wrath of God.

2. WALK AS LIGHT. The children of light are not to do the things which are done in darkness. To walk in the light is to produce the fruits of righteousness. It is true in nature that no fruit is produced without light. But molds and fungus growths are produced in the dark, the place of death and poison.

3. WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY. In the English this means to LOOK ALL ABOUT as you walk. But the Greek has a little narrower meaning than that. It means to walk ACCURATELY or EXACTLY. This covers a great deal of territory. It applies to family relationships, such as husbands and wives, and parents and children. The walk of the Christian begins at home. It also extends to relationships with others. This is under instructions for dealing with servants. The WALK has to do with every relationship with others in life, private and public.

-DIGESTION-

Man is not to live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. We know that any food must be digested so that it may be assimilated. How can the Word of God be digested and assimilated by the spiritual nature of man?

When Mary heard the Word, she pondered it in her heart. Moses needed 40 years in the desert to meditate upon what God had said. It took Jacob 20 years to digest what God had said to him at Bethel. It took Abraham 25 years at Charan to digest the promise and move on to Canaan, and then it was some time till he fully understood and completely obeyed.

In Psalm 119 David has much to say on this subject. He uses such words as HEED, HID, DELIGHT IN, QUICKENED BY, HOPE, REMEMBERED, LOVED, LAMP, LIGHT, AND SWEETER. He uses the word MEDITATE 5 times, 2 in connection with precepts, 2 with statutes and 1 with Word. He uses the word MEDITATION 3 times in the same Psalm in connection with the Word. He would remember the Word and rise at midnight to give thanks.

The Living Word, that Bread that came down from heaven, said that we must eat His body. This is a figure to show us that the Word must become as much a part of us as does the food we eat.

God's Word is His love-letter to us. If we know the author, we will cherish the letter. When a damsel receives a letter from her beloved, she reads it and rereads it. She hides it in her bosom by day and under her pillow by night. She meditates upon it and memorizes the words from her beloved. She hides the words in her heart and the letter in an old trunk in the attic where in after years she may take it, tho faded and worn, and relive memories of her beloved. If she did not know the author, the letter would be carelessly glanced at and thrown aside. It would have no meaning to her. How do we treat God's letter to us?

-THE EPISTLES-

In what we call the New Testament, are to be found 21 epistles or letters. The number 21 is 3 X 7. A little study reveals that there is a regular pattern, a division into 3 sevens in their relation to the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is divided into 2 parts, the 1st 12 chapters dealing with a ministry exclusively to Israel with Peter as the main spokesman. From chapter 13 to the end it is concerning Israel with some Gentiles grafted in as wild olive branches. Paul is the minister. There are 2 gospels.

During Acts 1-12, were written;
 (1) James. (2) Jude. (3) 1 John.
 (4) 2 John. (5) 3 John. (6) 1 Peter.
 (7) 2 Peter. All these seem to deal with Israel and have no gospel message for the Gentiles.

During Acts 13-28, were written;
 (1) Romans. (2) Galatians. (3) 1 Corinthians. (4) 2 Corinthians. (5) 1 Thessalonians. (6) 2 Thessalonians. (7) Hebrews. These still deal with Israel and have yet the re-offer of the King and the kingdom. But Gentiles have been grafted in with the purpose of provoking Israel to jealousy. The epistle to the Hebrews seems so pre-eminently Jewish that if it were not for the revelation of the place of Gentiles in Romans in respect to the promise to Abraham we would say they had no place in it.

After Acts were written the last 7 epistles: (1) Ephesians. (2) Philippians. (3) Colossians. (4) 1 Timothy. (5) 2 Timothy. (6) Titus. (7) Philemon. There is nothing in these concerning the re-offer of the King and kingdom. Israel is no longer first. The Jew has no more in these epistles than does the Gentile. The first 14 we mentioned deal with an earthly people whose hope was a kingdom on earth. The last 7 deal with a people with a heavenly calling, whose blessings are spiritual and will be enjoyed in the heavenlies.

It is well to take note of this outline in the margins or on a fly-leaf of your Bible.

-STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT-

God's will for His children today is that they should grow up, that they should make some progress in the knowledge of Him. It is a shame for a person not to grow up in physical life. It is not only a shame to him, but to his parents as well. So in the spiritual realm, lack of growth is a shame to the believer and also to God. The Bible speaks of 3 stages of development in the believer.

1. BREPHOS. This is the first stage of development of the growing child. This is the NEW BORN BABE. For such is provided the sincere milk of the Word (1Pet. 2:2). The verse before indicates that even in this very early stage there is no place in the life of the believer for malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies, or evil speakings.

2. NEPIOS. This is a child not yet able to speak. Milk is still the main diet. In 1 Cor. 3:1 Paul speaks of such as being carnal. They still are guided mostly by the old nature rather than the new. In Heb. 5:13 is said that such babes who use milk are unskillful. They do not know how to handle the Word. Since the Word is a sharp two-edged sword, we can see what disastrous results will often come from such folks trying to use it. Not only are they likely to injure themselves, but others as well.

3. TELEIOS. These are those that are of full age (Heb. 5:14). They can take strong meat. They have gotten past the milk diet stage. In the household of God which is known as the dispensation of the mystery, there is no place for either the BREPHOS or the NEP IOS. The measure of growth there has its goal in the stature of the fulness of Christ. Paul, as a minister of that dispensation, had as his goal to present everyone PERFECT in Christ Jesus. The term used is TELEIOS, (Col. 1:28). The object of every person in the membership of the BODY is to COME UNTO A PERFECT MAN (Eph. 4:13). All growth and development depends upon a steady diet of the Word of God.

-THE WASHING OF FEET-

We have the account of the Lord washing the feet of the disciples in John 13. Just prior to this there had been a dispute among the disciples as to who would be the greatest in the kingdom. So as they gathered in the upper room for the supper the spirit of dissention was still with them. The supper was prepared and put on the table. But in all that time not a one of the disciples would humble himself and wash the feet of the others in the absence of any servant to do it.

This was a good time to teach a lesson and the Lord took the opportunity. It also was a figure of what is spoken of in Phil. 2. ----
John: Laid aside His garments.....

Phil: Made Himself of no reputation.

John: Took a towel and girded Himself...

Phil. Took upon Him the form of a servant.

John: Began to wash the disciples' feet.....

Phil. Became obedient unto death.
John: Had taken His garments.....

Phil. God also hath highly exalted Him.

John: Ye call Me Master and Lord...

Phil. Given Him a NAME.

I think you can see the parallel here. The laying aside of the garments was the laying aside of His glory. He emptied Himself or made Himself of no reputation to perform the task of a slave.

The girding with a knotted towel was taking on the appearance of a servant. He took upon Him the form or office of a servant.

He began to cleanse them. The work on Calvary was a greater work of cleansing. Water signified the Word and indicates cleansing the person. Blood is something outward and it has to do with the record against the sinner.

He again took His garments. He has returned to His place of glory, the place of exaltation.

The disciples rightly called Him Master and Lord. A day is coming when He will receive a NAME that is higher than any name.

-PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP-

Paul has set us a good example and pattern of having fellowship with the sufferings of Christ. This suffering and identification with Christ is necessary for the crown. Of course all of us would like the crown, but when the sufferings begin, we shrink back.

Like his Lord, Paul was taken before rulers and falsely accused. It is hard for us to be falsely accused and not try to vindicate ourselves. It is hard to bear when the crowd say, "Away with him!" But it happened to Paul as it did with his Lord.

Then we see him on his way to Rome. The storm comes up. The sun and stars are hid, even as it was on Calvary. There are times when it seems that God Himself has forsaken us. But for the sake of truth we must be willing to have God turn His face from us for a season, if need be. There is no excuse for any complaint from us. We are no better than our Lord.

Then look at the condition for the salvation of the crew of the ship. It all depended on Paul. How it again makes us think of the condition on Calvary. If Christ had failed there, all had perished, but with His victory all in Him are saved. Are there souls depending on us for the word of salvation?

Then the hinder part of the ship was broken, reminding us of the bruising of the heel of the Seed of woman. Again all seemed hopeless.

But what a picture on the land! The viper was powerless to harm Paul, speaking of the victory of Christ over the serpent who has the power of death. Because the viper had no power, Paul was then really living in resurrection power and experience which was followed by healing.

From the arrest in Jerusalem to the safe arrival in Rome, Paul had indeed had fellowship in the death and resurrection of the Lord. Yet these were just the first steps. It was yet to be revealed to him that there was the experience of being raised and seated in the heavens.

-THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH-

This is an expression which we hear quite often. Many folks think the church they attend is the only true New Testament Church. They partake of so-called sacraments which are connected with the New Testament or Covenant. But few ever stop to think what these terms mean and what are really the requirements for a New Testament Church.

A CHURCH is a called out group of people. They are called out for a purpose. In ancient Greece an EKKLEESIA (the word translated CHURCH in your Bible) was a council which advised a ruler and acted as a go-between for him and the people over whom he ruled. In Acts 19:39, 41 it is translated ASSEMBLY. In passing, I might add that in olden times the word CHURCH was never used to describe a building. It was always a group of people. In the LXX the word EKKLEESIA is used to translate the Hebrew Kah-hal. In English it is CONGREGATION. Thus we can see the reason for the expression CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS in Acts 7:38. So a church refers to a CONGREGATION, ASSEMBLY, or a MEETING of people. In the earliest usage and from the form of the word itself, the idea was that the group was called together by a herald or some messenger.

The New Testament is clearly defined in Jer. 31. In verse 31 it is plainly stated with whom the Covenant is to be made. It is to be with THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, and with THE HOUSE OF JUDAH. Nowhere in all the Scriptures can you find any more than that included. Nowhere do Gentiles have a part in the New Covenant. It is emphatically stated in Eph. 2:12 that such Gentiles as had been in the Acts Church were STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS.

But as we go on, we find that in the New Covenant Church the Law will be IN THEIR INWARD PARTS. The Lord will be known by Israel so well that there will be no need for teachers in Israel to tell of the Lord. This is the true New Testament Church. Now I put it up to you, where is such a church today?

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #6.

1. How did the Lord know that the Pharisees had heard about His activities? John 4:1.
2. Did the Lord do any baptizing?
3. Which direction is Galilee from Judaea?
4. Since most Jews went across the Jordan and up to Galilee, can you think of any reason for the word NEEDS in 4:4?
5. What city in Samaria did the Lord and His disciples approach?
6. About what time of day would the 6th hour be?
7. Do you suppose the Lord was really thirsty, or was His request for a drink an excuse for opening a conversation?
8. Where were the disciples at this time?
9. How did the Jews and Samaritans get along together then?
10. What is the gift of God? Verse 10. See Rom. 6:23 and Eph. 2:8.
11. What is the source of the water of life?
12. Who was the first owner of the well?
13. What sign could we truthfully put on every well, spring, and fountain? 13.
14. What then does the Lord have to offer? 14.
15. What was the woman's response to the offer?
16. What was she told to do?
17. What in her life was then revealed?
18. What 3 titles did the woman give to the Lord? Verses 9,19,29.
19. Did the Lord get what He asked for in verse 7?
20. What kind of worshippers does God seek?
21. Which did the Lord decide was the true place of worship, Gerizim or Jerusalem?
22. Thru what nation did salvation come into the world?
23. Were the disciples surprised to find Him talking with this woman?
24. What was the testimony of the woman to the people of the city? 4:29.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Three more have joined the BML (Berean Missionary League) since last month. They are Mrs. Geo. Bamford of Terre Haute Ind., Mrs. Anne Hefferan of Newaygo Mich., and Irving Boettcher of Oshkosh Wis. If you have not joined us yet, do so now. Just send in your answers to the studies in John on this page. I will check them and send you your membership pin. Don't put it off any longer.

Unwittingly I have started a sort of "Pen Pal" corner in this column. At least that is what a little birdie told me.

Do you mark your favorite verses in your Bible? It is a good thing to do. Then it is so much easier to find them later. Shading them with a mechanical pencil with a red lead is a good way. You can also use blue for some particular topics. When you read your daily chapter, mark the verses that you like best. It will help you to remember them much better.

I am getting some printing equipment and would like to have your suggestions for some study materials. I would like these to be suitable for individuals as well as for classes. What do you say? Write right now.

Notice John 15. The fruit that the branch puts forth is a product of the vine, not the branch. Christ is the true vine. Fruit is the outcome of the branch abiding in or having fellowship with the true vine. Fruit that is tied on the branch from some outside source can never be satisfactory. Such is only hypocrisy. A branch that puts forth only leaves is bringing disgrace upon the vine. Selfishness can put forth the leaves, but no fruit. Love is the stimulus for real fruit bearing. Those who abide in Christ are called His friends. His friends love one another. By that sign all can know that they are His disciples. Let us abide in Him. We can be miserable only when out of fellowship with the Lord.

Write me your problems and also your prayer requests.

--Yours in HIS love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

Gluttered up as usual. Maybe your letter is in the pile and did not get answered. Sorry.

It is now quite likely that the radio program will be on AM about the last week in Nov. It will be at 1480 KC. Tune in about then.

Recently had visitors from Muskegon Mich. Mr. & Mrs. Garret Hazekamp, daughters Elaine and Lois, and Mrs. Hazekamp's sister, Jeanette Heethuis were with us for a couple of days.

If you can use some sample copies of TRUTH FOR TODAY to give out to friends, let me know how many you want. Will furnish return cards so they can send them in.

Will sell my accordion for \$300 so as to get some new equipment for TRUTH FOR TODAY. It is a large one, 4 & 5 sets reeds, made in Germany and has very full tone suitable for outdoor meetings or large halls. I also have a fine reed organ in a piano case, and a Pedler metal Eb clarinet in good condition. Would like to sell 2 gentle milch cows.

Thanks for all the new names sent in during the last month. The mailing list is growing rapidly.

According to present plans, I will be holding meetings at Lowell Ark. Nov. 11-18. From there will go to Springfield Mo. for a few days. Those in Lowell area should get in touch with Wm. C. Poulson, R 1. Those in the Springfield area should get in touch with Edmund

Mulack, 1235 E. Elm St.

Receipts for Sept. #337-348 with a total of \$51. Expense \$47.59.

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