

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 9/14-9/15/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 4:15-24*

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

NOTICE BEGINNING OCTOBER 5 (FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER) THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL RESUME IN IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon 7 pm!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

NOTICE BEGINNING OCTOBER 6 (FIRST TUESDAY IN OCTOBER) THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL RESUME IN IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Tues 7 am!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

One tap mobile

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OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

Cornerstone (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) (3:28)

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 4:15-24

Review: Now To Walk in Unity Moving Toward the Ultimate – the Perfect Man

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

(Eph 1:22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

- ***But, speaking the truth in love*** - We were just warned in the preceding verse not to continue as children, ***but*** now, being exhorted to ***speaking*** (professing, having or holding onto) ***the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*** not merely *speaking*. We must no more be *children, tossed to and fro*, but rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we must *grow up in all things into Him*.
- **Often misquoted out of context!** This phrase, together with ***John 17:21 - That they all may be one***, are the two favorite texts of those who advocate a great ‘World Church’, total unity at all costs. Together they have virtually become a slogan.
- ***Speaking the truth in love does not mean merely being nice and loving***, especially at the expense of turning our backs on the Biblical truth, which is being done by those overemphasizing church unity, who put fellowship and unity as supreme, even if it means totally compromising on *truth!*
- **We are told that we must tolerate almost anything and everything;** that as long as a man is nice and loving, showing a friendly spirit, doing good works, especially if he makes a sacrifice in order to do so, then what he believes or does not believe is comparatively unimportant. What a man is, and does, we are told, is of much greater importance than his doctrinal views. This is how the phrase ‘*speaking the truth in love*’ is being commonly misinterpreted.
- ***but speaking the truth***’ emphasizes the contrast (*vs. 14*) that we are not to be ‘*children, tossed to and fro, and carried about*, but the very opposite of that. We are to have or to hold onto something particular and definite, even the truth, ***the truth in love!*** We must be stable, holding on to and walking in the truth as it is made known in the Scriptures. Holding the truth is the antithesis of being carried about by every wind of doctrine. How important it is to observe the context!
- **How we are to hold on to the *truth in love*?** You cannot ‘*hold on*’ to the truth unless you know what the truth is. There are certain doctrines which are absolutely essential to the Christian faith.

- **The authority of the Bible.** Without the absolute authority of the Word of God in matters of faith and of conduct, how can one discriminate between truth and error?
- **The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.** There must be no argument that He is Son of God and Son of man, fully God and fully man, His miraculous birth, His sacrificial atonement, and His literal physical resurrection. If His bodily resurrection is not true and factual, ‘*our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain, you are yet in your sins*’. It is as vital as that!
- **Doctrine of the Atonement.** (2Co 5:21) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
- **The crucial doctrine of justification by faith.** He would make no concession at this point because to do so would be ‘to preach another gospel. We must hold on to the essential truths!
- **But we must be equally careful to *hold the truth in love*.** We are to watch our spirits. False teachers are liable to disturb us and to annoy us, and we have to oppose them, and to do so strongly. But we must not do so in a wrong or bitter spirit. – Especially with one another!
- **This *truth* must never be approached with the intellect only.** If my heart is not moved by the truth, feeling it and its power, my spirit is wrong. *Truth* must produce passion, and in a truly Christian profession there is emotion and feeling. We must hold it in this way of *love* in order to persuade people and to win them and to try to enlighten them.

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Col 2:19) and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

- **‘*joined and knit together*’.** *Joined* means ‘several parts bound together’, fitting into one another. Speaking then of us as members of the Church, he says that the Head of the body is Christ and that we are members in particular, being fit together in the right position just as the ball and socket

are to be articulated in our body joints. The surfaces of both are smooth so that there is no friction, and everything works easily and harmoniously and in an effective manner.

- **'knit together' is added** to emphasize the point of being *'brought and held together'*, suggesting a kind of mental unity, in one accord, changing the emphasis slightly from the purely mechanical, to the notion of minds fitting in *together*, compacted, closely *knit*. This is essential for a true organic unity, and for proper functioning. Christ is the Head, and we as parts of the body are to be *joined and knit together*.
- **Brought into being and maintained?** We're told, *'by what every joint supplies'*. The word *joint* is a new term, having a somewhat different meaning and could well be translated *band, connecting link or ligament*, which not only unite us together, but they do something much more important, suppling life and energy to every part of the body – *which every joint supplies*, or 'through every joint which serves for supply'. (vine and the branch?) This vital supply is communicated through every band.
- **Supplies** – This means an *'abundant or super abundant supply'*. It comes to the various members of the body through these bands of communication, these channels of supply along which it passes.
- **according to the effective working by which every part does its share.** Yet even more is added! *Effective working* means energy that does something. *'every part does its share'*, means 'the capacity of each part, giving exactly the right amount needed.
- **Growth of the body** is the object of all this, in order that the body may be *'built up, for the edifying of itself in love* - Love is the final perfection, the highest and end result! In this matter of unity nothing is more important than love. If the Head is love, the body must be love. We are to conform to Him and to His everlasting, eternal love.
- **Every member is vitally important!** If the whole body is to grow and to develop and to build itself up in love, then it is very important that every particular part should be filled up to its capacity with this vital life and energy, and be functioning as it is designed to do. Are you fulfilling your function? Is this vital energy of Christ the Head in you, whatever you are, whatever your place in the Church?

The New Life

Eph 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles

walk, in the futility of their mind, (Eph 2:2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (Eph 4:22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

- **We reach a very important junction**, because this is the last great division in the Epistle. It's good for us to take a general view of the remainder of this Epistle.
 - *Eph. 4:1-6* – Walk in Unity
 - *Eph. 4:7-16* – Spiritual Gifts
 - ***Eph. 4:17-24*** – The New Man
 - ***Eph. 4:25-32*** - Do not Grieve the Holy Spirit
 - ***Eph. 5:1-7*** – Walk in Love
 - ***Eph. 5:8-14*** – Walk in Light
 - ***Eph. 5:15-21*** – Walk in Wisdom
 - ***Eph. 5:22-33*** - Marriage – Christ and the Church
 - ***Eph. 6:1-4*** – Children and Parents
 - ***Eph. 6:5-9*** – Bondservants and Masters
 - ***Eph. 6:10-20*** - The Whole Armor of God
 - ***Eph. 6:20-24*** – A Gracious Greeting
 - **Divided into three main sections: first, chapters 1, 2 and 3**, where Paul lays down the great doctrine of salvation; then, next, in chapter 4, **verses 1 to 16**, we find the doctrine of the Church and all that brings us into the Church; following that, in the third section, we have the outworking of the doctrines in our daily lives and conduct and experience, and in all the contacts of life.

- ***Eph. 4:17-24*** - Paul tells us that we must realize that we are entirely new creatures in Christ. Now, in moving on to matters of practical conduct and behavior, he starts by saying, *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind*; but, as he says later, *that you put off the old man and put on the new man*. As Christian people we must realize that in Christ we are entirely new creatures.

- **He wants to call attention** to something that is of vital importance. ‘*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord.*’ He is not content with the strong saying *This I say therefore*, but he adds to it—*This I say therefore, and testify* (solemnly to enjoin, bearing witness) in the Lord (as an apostle, having unique authority!)
- ***that you should no longer walk ...***’ Here is the divine authority speaking through the Apostle, and the first thing we have is *negative*, NOT! We must be taught first and foremost what we are not to be and not to do.
- **‘You must not, walk** (whole life and conversation) ***as the rest of the Gentiles walk***. Our *walk* is not confined to the outward, it involves the inward also as what determines the outward is the inward. A man is as he thinks, and his walk in life tells you what he is thinking.
- ***no longer walk as the rest of the (non-Christian) Gentiles*** – Paul, testifying in the Lord -- That you must *no longer walk* as the Gentiles do. You once walked like that, but you are to do so no longer. Why? Because of the tremendous change that has taken place in you. What a profound change, how those born again are indeed new - old things are passed away behold, all things are become new! Whereas I was once blind, now I see!— Therefore, no longer! Thank God for a gospel that enables us to speak like that and to say, therefore, we have a new beginning, a new start, a new life!
- ***in the futility* (emptiness) ***of their mind***** - the terrible description of the life of the unregenerate, the life of the pagan world! Reminding us from chapter 2, *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*
- ***In the futility of their mind!*** What an accurate description of life in this modern world without Christ, leaving you at the end empty, indeed with nothing at all? *Futility!*—empty, aimless, futile, with nothing whatsoever to look forward to!
- **But the victory for the believer!** (*1Jn 5:4*) *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.* It is faith, it is the gospel, that opens one’s eyes to the *futility* and *futility* of this world and its mind, its life, and its outlook. Thank God that in His infinite grace He has ever caused the light of His Spirit to shine into our hearts and to give us an understanding. Thank God!

Eph 4:18 *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness (hardness) of*

their heart; *(Rom 1:21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

- **Why is it that these people are ignorant and their hearts are blinded or hardened?** Because their *understandings are darkened*, they are full of *ignorance*, their *hearts are hardened*, and those two things in turn lead to *their being alienated from God*. The *darkening of the understanding* (especially the intellect) leads to *ignorance*, to *hardening of the heart*, and these two obviously *lead to an alienation from the life of God*.
- **The *understanding*, the intellect is *darkened*** in these people; their intellects are blinded. And what a terrible thing this is! A kind of fog has descended upon and is covering the minds of all people who are not Christian.
- **It is because something is standing between them and the truth**, so that they cannot see it. *(2Co 4:3-4) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, [4] whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. The god of this world has blinded the mind!* It is precisely another way of saying that their *understandings have been darkened*.
- **The word *fool* is frequently used in the Bible regarding unbelievers.** The sinner is just a *fool*, a foolish man who lacks understanding, doing a thing because he does not know better; he blunders into something without thinking at all. It is the *fool* who has said in his heart, There is no God! Of course, because he has not got understanding.
- **But we see the good news giving light into the darkness,** *(Act 26:18) to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'*
- **The whole gospel of evangelism is that men's eyes should be opened** to turn them from darkness to light and to knowledge. *(Joh 8:12) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me*

shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." Do you believe this gospel? Is this everything to you?

- **We need to pray!** For those Christians who enjoy and see these things, your supreme duty and mine is to pray for revival, to pray that the Holy Spirit will so descend upon the Church that we shall speak in such a manner that men will see. I cannot do it; No human agency can do it. **But the Holy Spirit can!**
- **Pray day by day** that your pastor might be filled with the Spirit of power, that he might preach in demonstration of the Spirit and of power! Do we pray for the Holy Spirit to possess us? Do we pray for revival? How we need the Spirit of God, a visitation in revival power. We are called to pray for that, every one of us.

Eph 4:19 who, being past feeling, (1Ti 4:2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

- ***Who, being past feelings*** – Dealing primarily with the intellect being darkened and hardness or blindness of heart, we see this leading to an absence of feeling- men are no longer susceptible to the truth. Not only do they not believe, but they are no longer susceptible to truth, for their hearts are hard.
- Note this example in ***(Eze 36:26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*** The heart is no longer supple, no longer sensitive, but hard. It is *past feelings!*
- In ***(Heb 3:15-16) while it is said: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION"*** [16] *For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?* For the purposes of sin, men and women deliberately harden their hearts, which you must do if you want to enjoy sin!
- ***(1Ti 4:2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared (cauterized) with a hot iron,*** Putting a red-hot iron on a wound, cauterizes or hardens it! When that has happened to men's consciences; they have been seared with a hot iron, the nerves are destroyed, the sensitivity has gone, they can no longer feel, they can no longer react. That is how they have dealt with their consciences, and that is how this kind of life is always lived.

have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (1Pe 4:3) For we have spent enough of

our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

- What does all this lead to? Being what they are, how do men live? Here again the Apostle gives us the terrible truth!
- They *have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*. They gradually harden themselves into conformity, becoming *past feeling* altogether and ‘*give themselves over to lewdness*’, meaning they abandon themselves to it, letting themselves go, abandoning all restraint, all attempts at self-control and discipline; they care nothing at all for conscience or for public opinion, tradition, decency, morality, or anything else. Divine threatening, thoughts of death or of judgment, leave them unmoved. Nothing matters!
- *to work all uncleanness with greediness*.? ‘*Lewdness*’! This means wantonness, open and unrestrained and shameless lust! The conduct of people even on the streets, the brazenness, the openness of it all!
- *Uncleanness* means *lewdness*, unchastity, all the foulness of life in a moral sense. All this is accompanied with *greediness*, the spirit of covetousness and of extortion. It really means that self is everything, nothing matters but self. Men will spend fortunes on the gratification of their lusts, displaying their selfishness and greed.
- Men have abandoned themselves in the blindness of their hearts and the hardness of their conscience, being *past feeling*; they have given themselves over to *lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*

Eph 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ,

- ***But you!*** Once again, using the words “*but you*” to get our attention to this extraordinary, dramatic, vivid, statement which the Apostle makes the tremendous contrast that he has in mind. The ***you*** in contrast with those other Gentiles; and the ***but*** standing here as a great word of contrast to bring out this strong difference.
- **No longer there – relief and thanksgiving!** We are no longer there, *as the rest of the Gentiles!* How profoundly grateful that we are covered by His blood for this!
- **There is something else! There is the Christian,** the Christian Church, this new humanity that is in Christ! There is yet a remnant according to the election of grace! ***But you!*** After all, there is a bridgehead from heaven in this world of sin and shame! A sense of hope after all!

- ***You have not so learned Christ:*** Putting on the new man has a strong aspect of learning and education to it. *You* have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus . . . and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- ***Learned Christ*** - The Ephesian Christians *learned Christ*, not only learning about Jesus, but also learning Him. This means a living, abiding knowledge of Jesus will keep us from the kind of sinful conduct spoken here! Just knowing about Jesus isn't enough to keep us pure.

Eph 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

- ***if indeed you have heard Him*** - Not heard Him preach, but heard Him preached, not merely with the outward hearing of the ear but internally, so as to know Him, understand His word, and distinguish His voice; so as to approve of Him and love Him, and believe in Him; to feel the power of His Gospel, relish His truths, and obey His ordinances, and so bring forth fruit to His glory!
- ***and have been taught by Him:*** not personally, but by His Spirit and ministers; for Christ is not only the subject of the ministry of the word, and whom the Spirit of God teaches and directs souls to for righteousness, pardon, cleansing, and for every supply of grace; but He is the efficient cause of teaching; and there is none who teaches like Him: and those who are taught by Him!
- ***as the truth is in Jesus;*** as the Gospel is in Him, for He is truth itself, and grace and truth came by Him; and as it was preached by Him, and so is pure and unmixed. *(1Jn 5:20) And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.* Although His life on earth cannot be imitated by anyone, the very life of Jesus is an example to the believer, here on earth! He is the One who also went through the doorway of death for us. There is no reason for any believer to be in the dark today or to be ignorant or to be blind.

Eph 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (Col 3:8) But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

- ***Put off . . . the old man . . . put on the new man:*** This has the same idea of putting off, our former manner of life, the old man, the old nature, the Adamic nature, or putting on a set of clothes, changing into a different kind of conduct, like a prisoner who is released from prison, but still wears his prison clothes and acts like a prisoner, not a free man. There must be a break with the past. Jesus isn't merely added to our old life; the old life dies and He becomes our new life.
- ***Concerning the former conduct*** – Lay aside all your habits of life, all that pertained to a corrupt and fallen nature, everything aside that formerly pertained to you. The special characteristics of an unconverted man you are to put off, and are to assume those which are the proper fruits of a renewed heart.
- ***Grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts*** - There is no greater *deceit* than lusts . They lead us astray. They plunge us into ruin. All the passions and pleasures of the world are illusive. They promise more than they perform, leaving their deluded devotees to disappointment and to tears.

Eph 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

(Rom 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- ***Be renewed!*** - ***that you go on being constantly renewed!*** The new man. *renewed in the spirit* (breath, wind, power) *of your mind*, the sort of *spirit of the mind* that controls the whole working of the mind. The power of the mind; not simply the abilities of the mind, but the power that controls and directs the abilities. We are obviously dealing with something very profound here, something to enjoy and to revel in!
- ***Be re-newed!*** First, we see here what sin and the fall of man have really done to us. This word *re-new* tells us that. What the Christian needs is to be brought back to where he was with respect to his mind. His mind needs to be renovated, *renewed*, made new again, as it once was,
- ***The spirit of man's mind went wrong when he fell!*** Not only did Adam become a transgressor. He began to feel miserable and unhappy, losing a number of benefits that he had previously enjoyed. The most devastating thing that happened was that the spirit of man's mind went wrong! ***(1Co 2:14) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

- **How are we renewed?** This is the thing that happens in regeneration. A man does not need to have a new brain in order to become a Christian; the same brain will serve him as long as its spirit is changed. What we receive is this new spirit that controls, a new disposition is put into us, a new principle of life begins to operate. The new spirit enters into the mind and controls it and directs it; so that whereas formerly it went in a wrong direction, it is now going in a right direction. It is the control that matters. It is this life-giving principle.
- **Renewed!** By the renewing, the mind is enlightened, no longer totally disabled by reason of the Fall, becoming capable of receiving the things of the Spirit of God, and the brain that was useless to him before in spiritual matters, now becomes invaluable to him, leading him to be enabled to think in a new way! If a man's inward mind is changed he will soon deal with the outward actions. *Renewed in spirit!*

Eph 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and

holiness. (Rom 6:4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom 7:6) But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

- ***Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness: (2Co 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*** The new man is the new creation, created in us at conversion. It is the person created according to the image of Jesus Christ and is instinctively righteous and holy. It is in contrast to the old man, who is the person inherited from Adam and instinctively rebels against God.
- ***Put on the new man!*** Be what you are! ***(Php 2:12-13) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; [13] for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*** We are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, because it is God that works in us. It is because of what God has done in us that we are able to do it, and we must do it because God has done

it in us. Because He has worked it in, we are to work it out. We are to realize what we are, and to live accordingly.

- ***which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.***
The opposite of lusts!
- ***true righteousness*** - A just and right relationship among the powers of the soul. Man again becomes as he was at the beginning, with everything in the right position in his make-up. He is no longer governed by his body but by the higher things, by the spirit and by the mind. The new man loves that which is right, and therefore does that which is right in all his relationships in life.
- ***Holiness*** suggests something which is entirely separate from evil, something which is put on one side and which separates itself. It not only separates itself from evil, but it hates evil! *Holiness* in the new man is a reflection of this essential characteristic or attribute of God—*holiness!* purity! Something which we cannot describe because of the inadequacy of our language, but something which is eternally different from sin and evil in its essence and in all its manifestations. The Holiness of God! God is holy!
- ***True righteousness and the holiness are of the truth!*** These are the two characteristics which are most prominent in the new nature, this new life, this seed that has been put into the new man, but something added even to that. The entire life of the new man is something which is characterized by truth. Here surely is something which is quite foundational and fundamental, different between these two lives—the horrible character of the life of deceit -- The truth and the beauty and the wonder of the life of righteousness and of holiness! We see why we should be quick to put off the old man and to put on the new man.
- ***What is this truth that leads to righteousness and holiness?*** It is the truth about God, the Father, which is the great message of the Bible from beginning to end. It does not end even at the Lord Jesus Christ. He brings us to God! It is because we forget this that we are in trouble on the ethical and moral level. There is only one way to ensure that men and women shall live a righteous and a holy life, and that is that they know God.
- ***Our destiny!*** How we need to remind ourselves of where we are going! (*Rom 13:11*) *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.* We are moving on! Every day takes us nearer to The day of

Christ, the day of the Lord, the day of His coming back, the day of the Last Judgment, the day when all men will have to appear before Him, the final end of history.

- **Or listen to John. (1Jn 3:2-3)** *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. [3] And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Our very bodies glorified, we shall be perfect and spotless!*
- **Let us no longer sleep, let us prepare** for the crowning day that is coming, for our final glorification, for our entry into the eternal city, for the joy and the bliss and the glory of sharing the life of God throughout eternity. That is putting on the new man, reminding yourself of this truth. Hallelujah, Amen!
- **Are you ready for that day?**

Closing Prayer