

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 4:27-29

TAPE # WN 236 ~ DATE: October 29, 1997

TITLE:

"The Victorious Christian"

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS

SUB-TITLE:

"The Growing Up" of a Healthy Church

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Introduction: *The New Life that is in Christ*

vv. 27-29

"The Christian, and his New Clothes"

...and the bride of Christ

Putting On the New Man After Christ

IT'S OUR CHOICE, EVERY DAY

An Awesome White Gown

or

Punch-Soaked Poncho

1.) The New Life that is After Christ

vv. 20-21

1a.) It's in Contrast to the Life of the World

vv. 20

Romans 6:6

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

1b.) Is in Agreement with the Will of God

vv. 21

2.) The Activity and Actions of the New Life

vv. 22-24

2a.) We are to 'Keep' Putting Off the Old

vv. 22

Galatians 5:16-17a

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another....

THE NEW LIFE

The Best Illustration:

John 11:21

the resurrection of Lazarus & the changing of his clothes

- Those clothes had been dipped in spices and perfumes to hide the smell of death.
- Those grave clothes had been wrapped around him tightly to bind up the body.
- Those grave clothes were only good for one thing - covering the face of death.
- Those grave clothes represented the past life of Mr. Lazarus

If it were Nap Time

would you go to a park, or the beach... possibly. But the best place to catch a nap a graveyard... why would you go lie down in a graveyard? Because the dead aren't going to bother you there...

To The Old Man We Need To Say... 'Sit Down and Shut Up'

2b.) Feeding the Mind on What is Good

vv. 23

2c.) We are to 'Keep' Putting On the New

vv. 24

3.) The New Life Will be Obvious to All

vv. 25-26

3a.) A New Life of Integrity

vv. 25

3b.) A New Life of Awareness, of Community

vv. 25b

3c.) A New Life Will Foster Right-ness

vv. 26

Now, With You Making So Much Progress in the Faith, as a real Christian

- Attending Church Like You Do • Praying Like You Do
- Giving of Your Time and Resources Like You Do • Serving In the Church Like You Do

What Will Be Satan's Response?

I John 4:4b

...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

An Old Testament Example

Zechariah 3:1-4

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"** Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him

A Key Verse to This Section is...

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1.) The New Life is a Victorious Life

vv. 27

1a.) Over Satan and his Advancements

vv. 27

Verse 27

nor give place to the devil.

Verse 26

***"Be angry, and do not sin":
do not let the sun go down on your wrath,***

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ **lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

*Martin Luther's Encounter with Satan
(anger)*

The fire of anger if not quenched by loving forgiving will spread and defile and destroy the work of God

It was by anger that Satan was able to convert Cain into a murderer

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

* **Devil** **GRK 1228 diabolos (dee-ab'-ol-os);**
The false accuser, The slanderer, The Thief

SATAN OR SALANDER

Whoever Slanders Another - Is being used by Satan

* **Do Not** **GRK mede (may-deh');**
not even; in a continued negation, keep shutting the door!

- Satan is NOT an opposite to God
- Satan is NOT all Powerful
- Satan is NOT God
- Satan is a Created Being:
- Satan has Limitations

* **Place** **GRK 5117 topos (top'-os);**
a spot of ground. a breath. a position or inside tract. Opportunity. a license to operate,

How do we give Satan a license to Operate

#1

We stop advancing in the Kingdom life (being challenged in our walks)

**Are you in a spiritually
challenging situation?**

- *The workplace (what you do for a job)*
- *The home (spouses or children)*
- *The church (are you needed at church)*
- *Are you pretty much asleep, spiritually in the workplace?*
- *Are you pretty much asleep, spiritually in the home?*
- *Are you pretty much asleep, spiritually in the church?*

#2

We fail to obey God's commands

#3

We become lazy in our Christian witness

#4

We forget that we have been delivered from hell

A Guaranteed Victory

James 4:7-8a

Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ **Draw** near to God and He will draw near to you.

* **Submit** *GRK*

Continue to bow to all His decisions,

"Submit," as a good soldier puts himself in subjection to his captain.

Resist the devil He cannot conquer you if you continue to resist. Strong as he is, God never permits him to conquer the man who continues to resist him

He Cannot Force You To Sin

he cannot force the human will. He who, in the terrible name of Jesus, opposes even the Devil himself, is sure to have a speedy and glorious conquest. He flees from that name, and from his conquering blood.

[He will flee]-- a promise of God: he shall flee worsted, as he did from Christ.

MATTHEW 4

JESUS DID NOT FIGHT AGAINST SATAN - THE WORD OF GOD DID !!!

Draw near to God, Approach HIM, in the name of Jesus, by faith and prayer, and He will draw near to you-- He will meet you at your coming.

When a soul sets out to seek God, God sets out to meet that soul; so that while we are drawing near to Him, He is drawing near to us.

The Example Jesus Gave Us

if Satan Himself Should Appear, What would you do?
after that... you would fight him with the

James 4:8 KJV

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Think Real Hard Now

isn't it true that whenever you've sinned, it was because you would
not listen to the voice of the Lord

When we let emotions take charge, we lose our way, and we go
with the demands of the flesh.

We so often resist God and submit to the Devil

Satan Traffics in the area of the mind, the soul.
And the tools that he uses are the flesh and the world scene

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world-- the lust of **the flesh**, the lust of **the eyes**, and **the pride** of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. **the flesh**, (is our natural-man desires - vices) the lust of **the eyes**, (sensual pleasures of materism) and **the pride** (position, power and control)

Satan is very much like a mechanic
systematic in his attack - thorough at his work

The lust of **the eyes**: Mind Control

INTENDING TO DECIEVE YOU

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your **minds** may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Once The Mind is engaged in the Temptation, the
fleshly appetite arises

The lust of **the flesh**: Body Control

INTENDING TO CRIPPLE YOU

And **the pride** of life: Spirit Control

INTENDING TO ROB YOU

Taking Spiritual Inventory

A Checklist for Survival Against Satan's Attacks

- (1) Do I spend time daily reading God's Word and meditating on it?
- (2) Do I systematically seek to memorize Scripture?
- (3) Do I find myself automatically "thinking Bible" when I am tempted or when I am faced with a decision, or must I telephone my Christian friends to get guidance or advice?
- (4) Do I find myself getting better at being able to detect Satan's lies?
- (5) Are there any lies in my mind right now that I am believing?
- (6) Do I know God's will for my life? Do I really want to know?
- (7) Am I delighting in God's will and doing it from my heart?
- (8) Am I guilty of telling lies? Why do I do it?
- (9) Am I willing to receive as truth, everything God's Word says about everything area of my life? Or do I occasionally ask, "Has God really said that?" Do I argue with God's Word?
- (10) Is the Word of God becoming more wonderful to me? Do I enjoy it more than the natural pleasure of life, including eating and sleeping?

2.) The New Life is a Victorious Life

vv. 28

2a.) Over Our Old Ways and Lifestyle

vv. 28

Verse 28

*Let him who stole steal (klepto) no longer,
but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something
to give him who has need.*

Let him who stole steal no longer

Converted Slaves and Thieves

In the world, the gospel is like fresh water. Many outcasts had come to Christ and many a vile people. Many thieves had been converted and when hard times arose in the church, the ease of thievery was a real temptation to them

(It's Human Nature to Steal as it is to Lie)

WE MUST BE TAUGHT NOT TO STEAL

It's easy to steal. Stealing can occur without premeditation
(Finding a company eraser in your pocket)

*But rather let him labor (to the point of exhaustion)
working with his hands what is good*

Satan made a Thief out of Eve,
Eve made a thief out Adam and

The First Adam was a Thief
and cast out of Paradise

The Last Adam (JESUS) turned to a thief and said
"today you will be with me in paradise"

Verse 28

*working with his (GRK OWN) hands what is good
(To Be Laboring Hard...)*

2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

CLOCK WATCHING - ROBBERY

Verse 28

that he may have something to give him who has need.

**Our Lives Are to be Dedicated to Others,
Not to THINGS and Acquiring of Things**

**We Are Consumed With Things
& Things and More Things**

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Matthew 13:22

"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:6

Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Matthew 19:23-24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

An Observation:

**EVERYONE OF THE MEN THAT GOD CALLED INTO FULLTIME
MINISTRY, HE CALLED THEM WHILE THEY WERE FULLY
EMPLOYED**

Verse 29

*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,
but what is good for necessary edification,
that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

Here we can See The Power of God at Work

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,

The Power and Work of the Spirit...

(CHANGE THE HEART AND YOU CHANGE THE MOUTH)

THE POWER OF GOD IS AVAILABLE...
We Need to Plug In

* **Corrupt** GRK
decaying conversation (filthy speaking), rotting words or words that cause a stench

**foul language and/or
foul meaning language**

James 3:11-12

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

Romans 3:10-15

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." "Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

*But what is good for necessary edification,
that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Ephesians 5:19

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.