

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 5:3-17

TAPE # WN 240 ~ DATE: January 28, 1998

TITLE:

"Things that Make us Fall"

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 Reading of the Text

vv. 3-17

LastWeek

"Being a Christian is Being Like Christ"

1.) Because We Are to Imitate God's Love

vv. 1

2.) Because We Are to Imitate Christ's Life

vv. 2

There are certain things that Jesus
would do... and not do!

THE FACT IS;

there are things that separate the self-proclaimed
Christian from the actual Christian

#1

The Christian walks in the light of God

The importance of walking in the light

- Doctrinal understanding of the Bible
 - Wisdom to follow Christ
 - Prophetic awareness
 - A desire to minister
- Battle-ready in spiritual matters

The Light of God Brings Life

Jesus Said - **Matthew 4:16**

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

The Light of God Brings Holiness

Matthew 6:22-23

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

The Light of God Brings Knowledge

2 Corinthians 4:6

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Light is an all-Important Issue

I John 1:6-7

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Our Final Destination is "Bright"

Revelation 21:23

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 22:5

There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.

The things associated with darkness

The things associated with light

Things That are Lining Up

Against Us

The Spirit of the World

I 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 Will of Satan

Matthew 4:3

Now when the **tempter** came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

The Nature of the Flesh

Ephesians 2:3

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.

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted (#1) - when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ (#2) - Then, when desire has conceived, (#3) - it gives birth to sin; (#4) - and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

“Things that Make us Fall“

1.) The Fruit of the World that Makes You Slip

vv. 3-4

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

A Model Home

- Is always impressive
- The yards, the driveway, the carpet, the furniture...
 - The fruit that you find in a model home

The fruit of the world makes us slip

Verse 3a

1a.) Sexual Sin is to be Watched Out for vv. 3

But **fornication** -- let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

The act of intercourse
between two unmarried people

Sexual sin is unlike any other type of sin
(Because it is such a spiritually destructive thing)

It can lead to damnation

Because it so affects the inner man

It's not fitting for saints

Verse 3b

1b.) Is to be Guarded Against vv. 3

all **uncleanness** -- let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

The act of anything and everything
that is sexual outside of marriage

“We’re Not Going all the Way...”

Matthew 13:33

"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

(A loaf of bread was to be made)

Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

(It spreads through the loaf)

1 Corinthians 5:7

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, (lumpy) since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Do You Have Leaven in Your Loaf

(Take it out and be clean)

By Taking it to Him

Verse 3c

1c.) Sin will Rob Us of Vision

vv. 3

or **covetousness**, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Covetousness,
of course that is at the heart of unloving actions. It's Self-love

It's not fitting for saints

Verse 4d

1d.) Sin will Ruin Our Witness

vv. 4

neither **filthiness** -- let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Obscenity or sensual words

It's not fitting for saints

Verse 4e

1e.) Sin Will Dull Our Senses

vv. 4

foolish talking -- let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Stupid or meaningless words

Verse 4f

1f.) Sin Will Callose Our Mind

vv. 4

nor coarse jesting -- let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Jesting is Fine

Vulgar words and or, vulgar reactions to what was said

Every once in a while, one of those dirty jokes or stories that I learned as a kid flashes across my mind., some kind of a sight, sound word will trigger a DNA molecule and it will pop that thing out of the file, flash it across my brain, and I think "Oh God help me that filth is still there"

Matthew 12:34

"How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

It's not fitting for saints

Verse 4g

1g.) Anything that does not Exalt Christ

vv.

things which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks

It doesn't fit

I've tried it on - it doesn't fit anymore
have you tried something on from the past

If I just lose a little bit of commitment,
it will fit again

If I just lose a little bit more of my prayer life,
it will fit again

If I just lose a little bit of Bible reading and Christ-center-ness,
my whole wardrobe will fit from the past

Ephesians 4:20-22

But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Colossians 3:6-8

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

“Things that Make us Fall”

2.) Avoid the Things that lead Us Away from Jesus vv. 5-7

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Verse 5

2a.) A Heart that is Given Over to Sin vv. 5

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

A Life that is “Travelling” in These Things is not Heaven Bound

Matthew 7:21 KJV

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of my father...

There are those who call Him Lord but He’s not Lord of their sex life, talk life, word life,

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.

There Must Be Change - If the Holy Spirit is Present

Verse 6

2b.) A Heart that Justifies It’s Wrong

vv. 6

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Let no one deceive you with empty words,

words that are contrary to their conduct

Empty

words that have no support

Colossians 3:6-7

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once **walked** when you **lived in them**

Lived in them

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Hebrews 6:7-9

For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸ but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. ⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation,**

Paul is Looking for Proof of their Salvation

James 2:14

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

Faith is, of itself - invisible

faith makes itself known through works of righteousness

Verse 7

2c.) Being Close with Those Who are Wounding Christ.

Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Do not “partnership” - “hang out” with them

“Things that Make us Fall”

3.) Waking and Talking in the Dark

vv. 8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Verse 8a

For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

WE ARE DIFFERENT NOW
we are not just like the world anymore
we're different

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Keeping the Light On - All the Time

Once darkness

We were the darkness

But now you are light

We are light

In the Lord. Walk as children of light

In Him, is the only way we can walk

Verse 9b

for (because) the fruit of the Spirit is in all
goodness, righteousness, and truth

I thought it was Love?

The Love of God has a wardrobe of it's Own

Verse 11

3c.) Stop Doing the Things that Hinder the Gospel vv.

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

To be better than them - no! To lead them to Jesus Christ - yes!

“I Think we need to reset the standards of the
presidency, it's too demanding”

Jesus Never changed the Standard of Righteousness to
make it Universally Attainable
(His Righteousness is Impossible without Him)

Walking in holiness

Do you own your own company,
belong to a club, or a special community,
are you proud of it?

(Then you walk in the consciousness of that thing)

Every one of us is promoting something

USC alumni - Jesus is lord

But rather expose them.

John 3:18-20

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Verse 12

3c.) Stop Approving those The Things of Darkness vv. 12

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Don't think for a moment that the world will embrace you for this

If you are insecure in your relationship with
Jesus because of unbelief,
you will be upset, hurt, and wounded when the
world comes after you

John 15:18-21a

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake,

"Things that Make us Fall"

4.) We Need to Wake Up or Stay Awake vv.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Verse 13a

4a.) The Light Invades the Darkness vv.

But all things that are **exposed** are made **manifest** by the light
for whatever makes manifest is light.

Paul, The Physicist

Light and darkness are mutually exclusive.

They cannot co-exist. Darkness by nature, must flee when light enters the room

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Spiritually you cannot walk in darkness and walk in light.

Verse 14a

4b.) The Call to Life and Light Comes from Jesus vv. 14

Therefore He says:

"**Awake**, you who sleep, **arise** from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Matthew 4:16

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

Awake Up & Get Up

Walking in darkness means that you're sleeping

Sleepwalking

People are saying to you "awake up"

People used to say

"Never wake up a sleepwalking - you'll frighten them!"

(Hanukkah)

John 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."

“Things that Make us Fall”

5.) Walking Like a Fool

vv. 15-17

See then that you walk **circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Verse 15

5a.) Is to Walk without Wisdom

vv. 15

See then that you walk **circumspectly**,
not as **fools** but as **wise**,

circumspectly
STRAIGHT UP

Verse 16

5b.) Is to be Wasting Time and Effort

vv. 16

redeeming the time,
because the days are **evil**.

redeeming

Use your time as though you are paying for it. to be buying back that which was taken and wasted

We are running out of time

“Things that Make us Fall”

Verse 17

5c.) Is to be Unaware of God’s Will

vv. 17

Therefore do not be **unwise**,
but understand what **the will** of the Lord is.

If you do not know what God's will is... then you're
walking as a fool

(You could even be a fool)

Because Fools can Walk... not knowing God's Will

That's a lot of people

“Things that Make us Fall“

“Things that We Allow to Make us Fall“