

Paul's Letter to the

Ephesians



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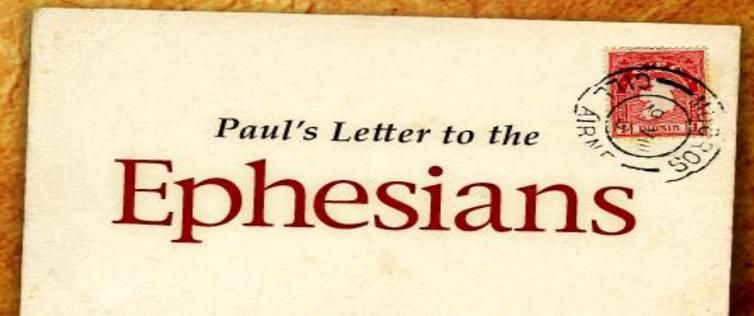
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Value of Ephesians

- Presents the purpose and plan of God for the Church
- Relation between positional truth and experiencing it in one's life – Position and Practice
- Supremacy of Christ in God's eternal plan
- Emphasizes God's sovereign grace in the lives of believers



EPHESIANS

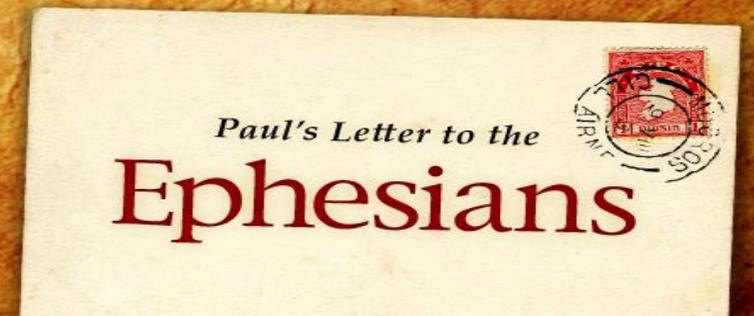
	Our Position in Christ	Our Practice on Earth
Introduction (1:1-2)	Section 1: What God has done for us (1) Emphasis: sovereignty Section 2: What Christ has done in us (2:1-10) Emphasis: grace Section 3: What Christ has done between us (2:11-3:21) Emphasis: reconciliation CHAPTERS 1-3	Section 1: Our new unity (4:1-16) Section 2: Our new walk (4:17-6:9) Section 3: Our new strength (6:10-20) CHAPTERS 4-6
Emphasis	Doctrinal: vertical relationship with God	Practical: horizontal relationship with others
Core Phrase	"He chose us in Him." (1:4)	"Walk in a manner worthy of the calling." (4:1)
Subjects	Declarations of heavenly truths (God's accomplishments)	Exhortations for earthly living (Christians' assignments)
Prayers	Paul's prayer for Ephesians (1:15-23)	Paul's prayer for the whole church (3:14-21) Christians' prayers for one another (6:18-20)
Theme	The holy community God is creating and how it is to live out its calling	
Key Verses	1:9-10; 4:1-3	
Christ in Ephesians	Jesus is the source of spiritual blessing, the Cornerstone of the church, and the goal of spiritual maturity (1:3; 2:20; 4:11-16).	

Conclusion (6:21-24)



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- What it means to be in Christ
- What it means to be one with Christ
- What it means to be a part of the body of Christ, the church of which He is the head
- What it means to be master-planned into the body before the world began



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OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS

FOCUS	CALLING OF THE BODY		CONDUCT OF THE BODY	
REFERENCE	1	3	4	6
TOPICS	Spiritual Wealth		Spiritual Walk	
	Being: Who We Are		Doing: How We Are to Act	
	Positional Truth: Belief		Practical Truth: Behavior	
	Doctrine: No Commands		Exhortation: 35 Commands	
LOCATION	Sent from Rome to Ephesus			
TIME	A.D. 60-61			

Key Principle: Who we are in Christ should be the basis for what we do; our high and holy calling and position in the heavenly realms is the foundation and source of power for our holy conduct and practice.

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EPHESIANS 1-3

The Believer's Wealth
Our position
Being (Who We Are)
Identification with Christ
Our Calling
Being
Life in the Heavenly Places
We Are **Spiritual** Beings
Divine Sovereignty
The Foundation
Doctrine

EPHESIANS 4-6

The Believer's Walk
Our Practice
Doing (How We Live)
Imitation of Christ
Our Conduct
Becoming
Life in this Present Age
We Are **Embodied** Beings
Human Responsibility
The Superstructure
Discipline

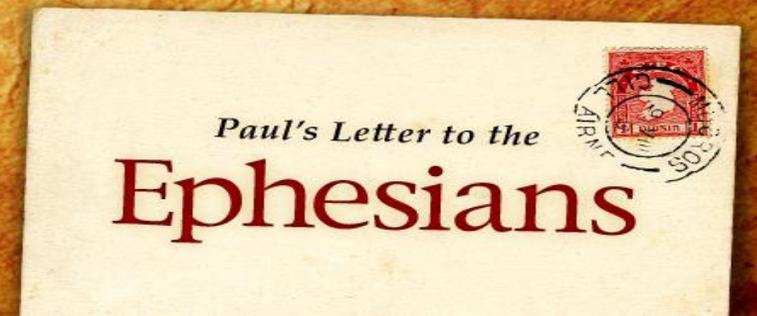
To sum up, we are called to progressively become in our practice who we already are in our position.

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KNOWLEDGE	UNDERSTANDING	WISDOM
facts	meaning	what to do next
information	principles	application
memory	reason	action
scholars	teachers	prophets



Ephesians 5:8-14 (KJV)

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.



Ephesians 5:8-14 (KJV) cont.

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

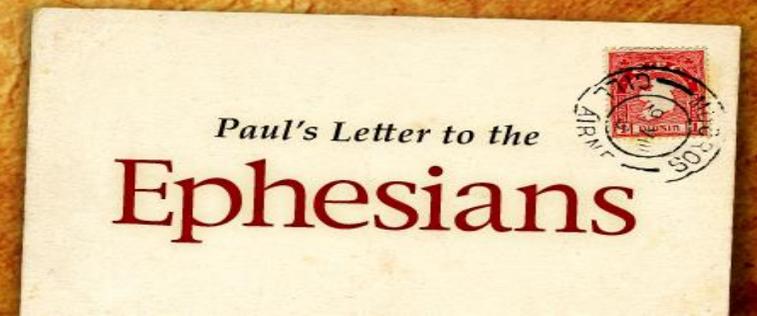
13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

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



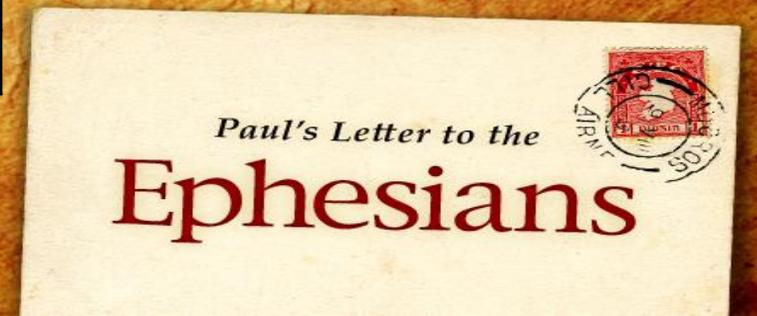
Process for Spirit-Filled Living

- **Salvation:** Christ gave His life **for us**
- **Sanctification:** Christ gives His life **to us**
- **Service:** Christ lives His life **through us – as us**



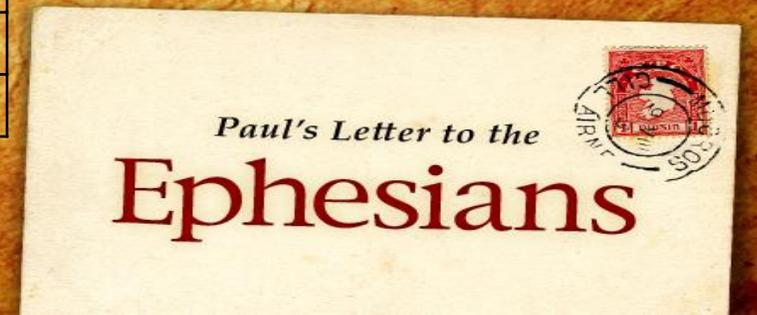
Law vs Grace

	Law	Grace
Says	Do	Done
Emphasizes	What we do	What God does
Lives out of	The flesh (self-life)	The Spirit (Christ-life)
Draws on	Our resources	God's resources
Deals with	External rules, regulations, standards	Inner heart attitude
Primarily focuses on	Ought to, should, must	Want to
Creates	Bondage, duty, obligation	Freedom
Lives life from the	Outside in	Inside out
Declares	Do in order to be	You are; therefore do
Produces	Guilt and condemnation	Acceptance and security
Leads to	Defeat	Victory



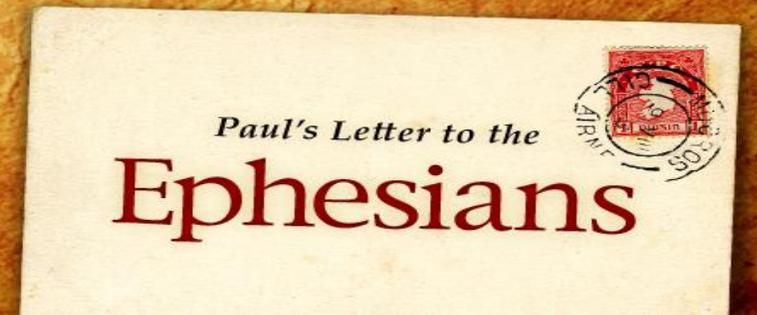
Our Position and Our Practice

Our Position	Our Practice
Belief	Behavior
Who we are	What we do
Attitudes	Actions
Standing	State
Being	Becoming
Determined	Developing
Spiritual wealth	Spiritual walk
Birth in Christ	Growth in Christ
Based on Christ's death	Based on Christ's life
Our relationship with God	Our fellowship with God
By grace through faith	By grace through faith
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Romans 1-11	Romans 12-16
Ephesians 1-3	Ephesians 4-6
Colossians 1-2	Colossians 3-4



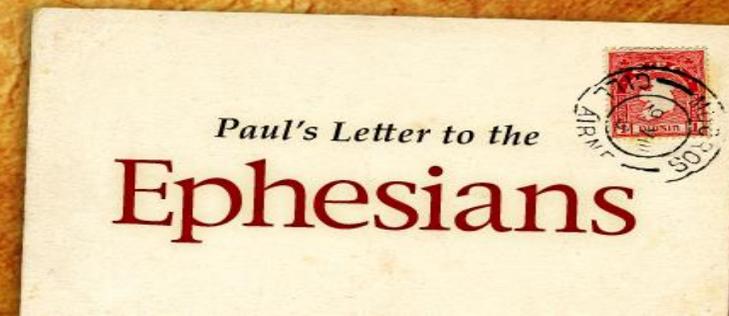
What Does the Worthy Walk Involve?

- **Walk in Humility** – Ephesians 4:1-3
- **Walk in Unity** – Ephesians 4:4-16
- **A Different Walk** – Ephesians 4:17-32
- **Ephesians 5:**
 - **Love Walk**
 - **Light Walk**
 - **Wisdom Walk**
 - **Spirit Walk**



An Inside-Out Life

- Process vs Product
- Being vs Doing
- Trust, Gratitude, and Contentment
 - Deliverance in the past
 - Benefits in the present
 - Promises for the future



Spiritual Life

OPPORTUNITIES	OBEDIENCE	OUTCOMES
DS	HR + DS	DS

DS = DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY
HR = HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

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ADOPTION

NEW DERIVATION

NEW DIGNITY

NEW DESTINY

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

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How Then Shall We Live?

“... that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach

Character

in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,

Culture

among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory...”

Calling

**Coming
of
Christ**

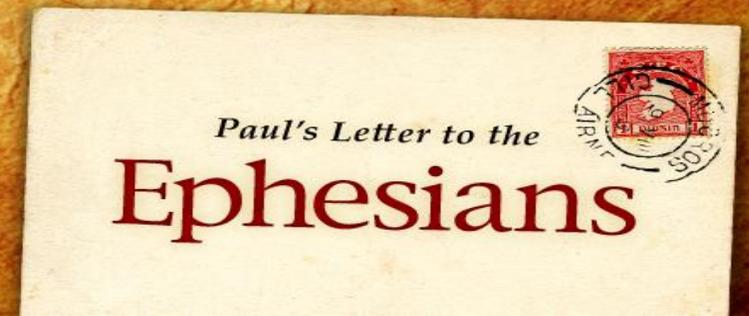
Phillipians 2:15-16

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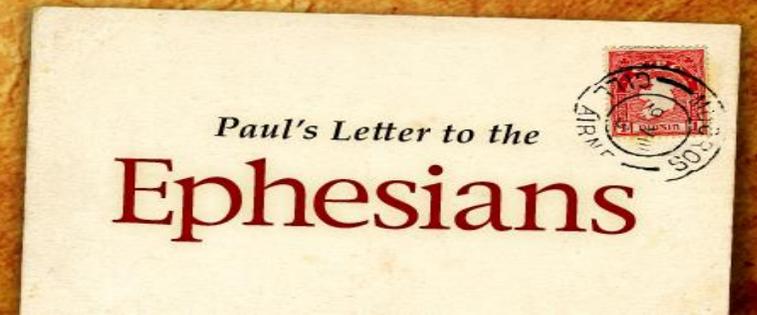
Universal Principles of Sin

- The pain of temptation is never as great as the pain of the consequences of sin
- The deceitfulness of temptation is that it only presents its pleasures, never the consequences
- You can never gain through sacrifice what you lose through disobedience



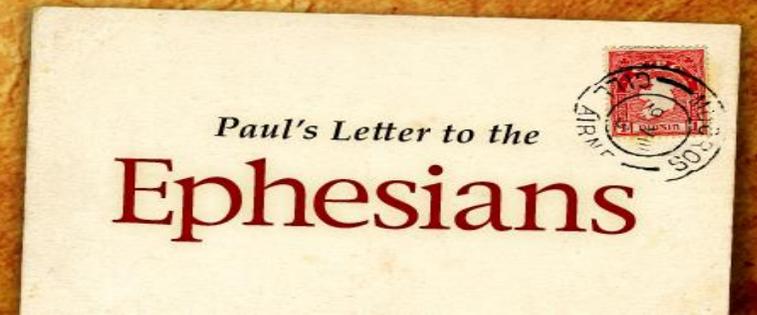
Walking in Light

- II Corinthians 6:14
- Colossians 1:12
- I Thessalonians 5:4-5
- I Peter 2:9



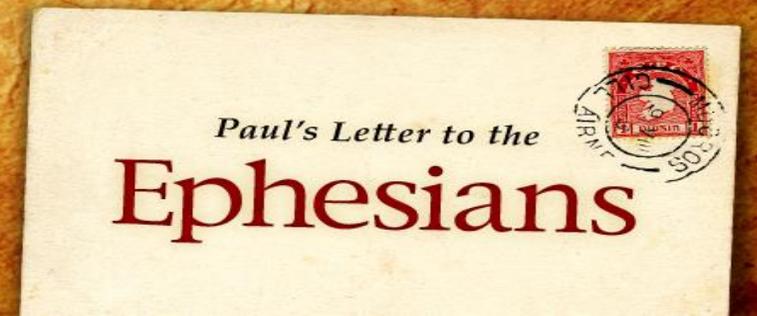
Things Darkness Represents

- Depravity – the human condition in sin
- Deception – the darkness of the mind
- Death – the spiritual condition of nonbelieving people, people outside the kingdom of God
- Destruction – describes the destruction of hell, a place of darkness
- Divine Judgment – darkness when Jesus was dying



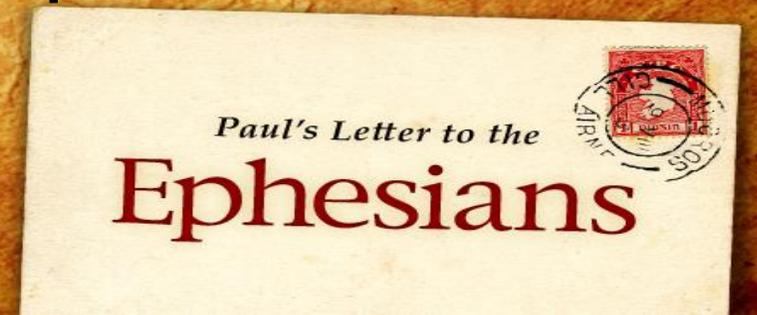
Contrast Light vs Darkness

- Light
 - Intellectual side – Truth
 - Moral side – Holiness
- Light is the intake and output, the truth and the life, receiving the truth and living a holy life
- Darkness
 - Intellectual side – Ignorance
 - Moral side – Evil



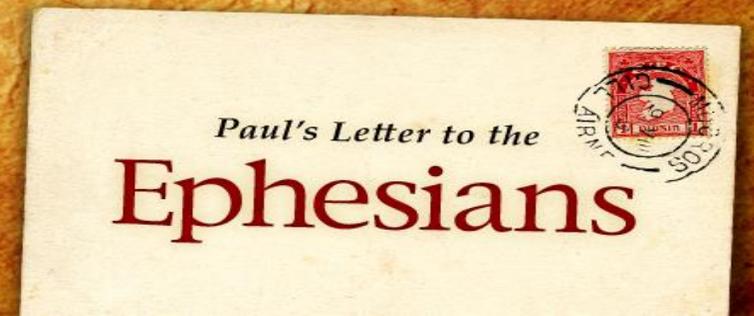
Exchanged Life Spirituality

- The substitution of Christ's life for the self-life.
- Our identification with Christ in his crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- Our freedom from the law of sin and of death through the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
- We must know these truths, acknowledge them by faith to be true regardless of feelings to the contrary, and present ourselves to God as people who are alive from the dead.



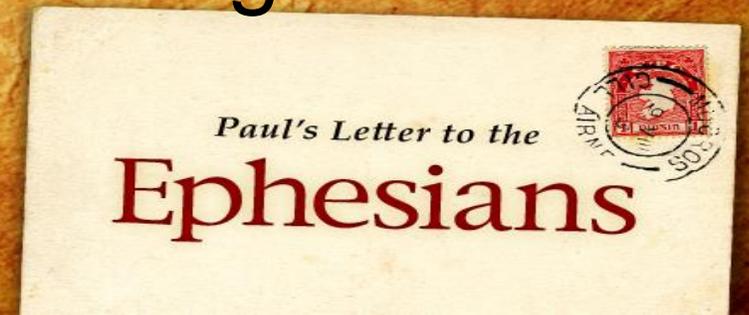
Exchanged Life Spirituality, cont.

- The basis of our salvation is also the basis of our sanctification.
- Brokenness or realizing the bankruptcy of our own resources and efforts, and unconditional surrender are part of the process of appropriating Christ as life.
- Only Christ himself can live the Christian life, and he does this in us and through us.



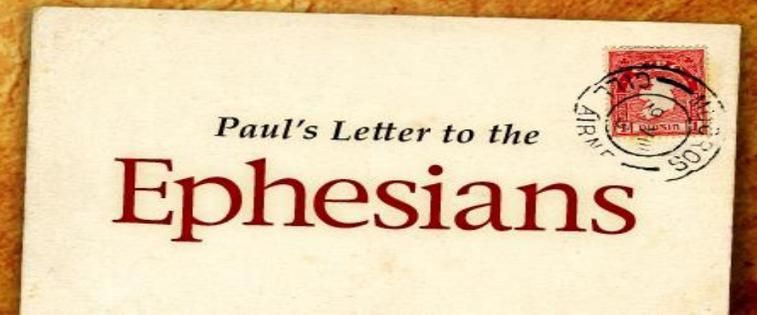
Exchanged Life Spirituality, cont.

- We require “a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him” to move from a cognitive to a personal and experiential knowledge of these spiritual truths.
- The spiritual life is an inside-out rather than an outside-in process.
- The exchanged life is a matter not of trying to do things for Jesus but of claiming and resting in what he has already done for us.



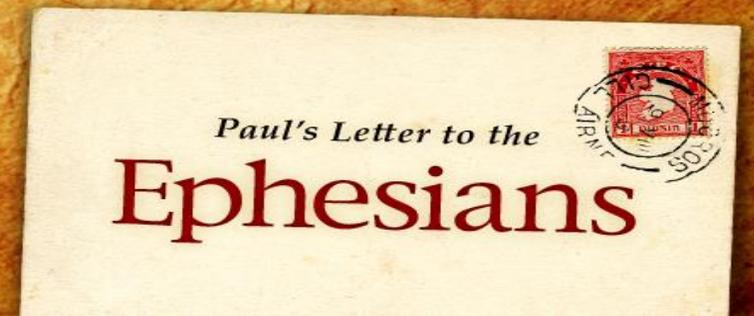
Principles from Ephesians 5:8-14

- Becoming a Christian involves a change of sphere from darkness to light. (5:8)
- Imbibing the light of the Lord affects our behavior. (5:9)
- Christians must constantly test the standards for pleasing the Lord. (5:10)
- Light is fundamentally incompatible with the values of darkness. (5:11)



Principles from Ephesians 5:8-14

- Light reveals what darkness conceals. (5:12)
- The best way to reprove darkness is to shed light. (5:13)
- It is possible for Christians to experience living out of fellowship with God. (5:14)



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