

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 4:20-26

TAPE # WN 235 ~ DATE: October 15, 1997

TITLE:

"The Christian, and his New Clothes"

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. 20-26

All of us have seen the "Before and After"
Pictures of People...

"The Christian, and his New Clothes"

Bibles Teaches US That We Have Been "Clothed" in the Righteousness of Christ Jesus. It speaks of us being adorned in fine white apparel

The Church - The Bride of Christ

Revelation 19:7-8

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Revelation 19:14

And the **armies** in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

The Bride of Christ is One Interesting Girl...

She's Dressed for a wedding and all the trimmings

But Paul Says She's also wearing a helmet, and a shield. She has a bouquet of flowers in one hand and sword in the other - she's one special woman - and she belongs to Jesus

- **What does it mean to be “clothed”?**

We have been washed, clothed and presented in Christ

And what does it do for us?

God has now accepted us in Christ (like a gift-wrapped package)

- **Where do we get this new kind of clothing?**

Now you are clean by the washing by the water of the Word

And how do I wear this new outfit?

In faith, everyday, before the entire world

All this is because we are now walking in the Spirit

Before you can put on new clothes you have to take off the old ones

Chapter 1

Paul teaches us that we are chosen and sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption

Chapter 2

Paul teaches us that we are saved by grace through faith... and that is a gift!

Chapter 3

And that we have been united in the body of Christ because we have become one in Him

Chapter 4

We are to be serving the body via the gifts that we have been given by the Holy Spirit to the edification of the body.

Chapter 4:17

Paul challenged us regarding the old life without God in view of the new life that is Christ!

Are You Really A Christian?

1.) The New Life that is After Christ

vv. 20-21

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

vv. 20

Verse 20

But you have not so learned Christ,

Paul Focuses on the “Mind” - the Christians outlook on life

(NOTICE WHAT HE DID NOT SAY:

But you have not so learned (about) Christ,

You can learn about George Washington, but you cannot learn George Washington. to do that is to become him in conduct - you can't because he's dead!

Not So With Jesus

John 14:19b

....Because I live, you will live also.

I John 4:6-7

We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

The position

(Angle or setting of the mind)

makes a huge difference in all that you do...

This is not salvation stuff. This day to day living stuff!

What he did then,
is what we do now

Ephesians 4:15

we will in all things **grow up** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

but **grow in** the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.

To **grow up** in knowledge, is not knowledge about him,
but becoming more like him in action

1.) The New Life that is After Christ

vv. 20-21

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

vv. 21

Verse 21

*if indeed you have **heard** Him*

and

*have been **taught** by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

What is the Truth That is In Jesus?

THAT WE HAVE BECOME A NEW CREATIONS BY GOD

In Jesus - it is possible to begin all over again

*The Christian forgets this truth
and the non-Christian doubts it!*

But it is true none the less

Jesus, by being raised

from the dead, delivered to us the Power of the Holy Spirit, for the regeneration of our person.

2 Corinthians 4:14

knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2.) The Activity and Actions of the New Life

vv. 22-24

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

vv. 22

The Evidence That a Man Has Heard From Jesus there will be some changes taking place

Verse 22

*that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct,
the old man **which grows** corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

The Flesh and Spirit

Romans 8:6-10

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Galatians 5:16-17

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, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

The Flesh, The Spirit and the Daily Death

Matthew 16:24

Jesus said.... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

The Death to the Self Life

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IS THE NUMBER GOAL OF EARTHLINGS

Living For Others

BECAUSE OF CHRIST IN YOU AT WORK

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me

EARS & NOSES

(As a person grows older everything begins to shrink and shrivel except two things the ears and the nose, they just keep growing... the old man will grow daily if not slain by the word)

keep “putting off” of the old ways

Galatians 5:24-25

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The battle will continue until the day you die

Hebrews 12:3-4

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

Colossians 3:2-3

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2b.) Giving to the Mind What is Good vv. 23

Verse 23

and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

* Renewed GRK 365 ananeoo (an-an-neh-o'-o);
 to renovate the house. To reform the wayward

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

* **Mind GRK** 3563 nous (nooce)
the intellect, i.e. mind (divine or human; in thought, feeling, or will);
by implication meaning:

The mind needs constant renewing
(Because it is constantly exposed)

Note: - “the spirit of the mind” - *the situation of*

My Heart has been Changed - But My Mind Needs to Be Renewed

Colossians 3:4-10a

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore **put to death** your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ 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. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man...

2c.) We are to 'Keep' Putting On the New vv. 24

Verse 24

*and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

The world, the flesh, and sin created
me (it molded me to its image)

James 1:12-16

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ 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 when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

But Now Christianity is the “Putting On” of what is Good!

True Christian Faith is a faith of doing what is good

Romans 6:3-4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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.

Romans 7:5-6

For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. 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.

I John 2:5-6

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶
He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Verse 24a

*the new man which was created
according to God*

#1

He was created (when jack, when)
created *at spiritual conception*

#2

According to God
(He has a specific plan for you)
according *at His Command*

2 Corinthians 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 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 graves clothes were only good for one thing - covering the face of death.

- Those grave clothes represented the past life of Mr. Lazarus

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.

Romans 6:11-12

Likewise you also, **reckon** yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - AND HERE IS THE VICTORY - 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

If it were Nap Time

I 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'

3.) The New Life Will be Obvious to All

vv. 25-26

3a.) A New Life of Integrity

vv. 25

Verse 25

*Therefore, **putting away** lying,
"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"
for we are members of one another.*

Verse 25a

*Therefore, **putting away** lying,*

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:20-22

Imagine an apartment complex with thousands of people living in it with all the open windows and light on

we having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord,²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

People yelling, crying, arguing...
or people worshipping and signing and praising

3b.) An Awareness of Community

vv. 25b

Ephesians 2:21

in whom the whole building, being joined together,
grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

* [Grows] 'is growing' continually. The Church has the growth of a living organism besides the solid increase of building.

1 Peter 2:1-5a

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a **spiritual house...**

Ephesians 4:15-16

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ-- 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.

Philippians 2:3-5

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

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

vv. 26

Verse 26

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

An anger that is not sinful

Verse 26a

do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

!!! Making a foundation water tight !!!

in northern climates contractors will through great lengths to seal a foundation or a cement project from cracks. Because if a droplet of water goes down into a crack and night comes and temperature drops below freezing that droplet will expand and crack the concrete. Eventually pushing two firm pieces farther and farther apart.

Cut off Division

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you (is there a brother upset with you?), 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

(I have rarely met a Christian this mature and spiritual)

Most Christians, when their upset, gossip all round town, eat up and spit out the other Christian long before they ever go and talk to then face to face and that that is a great sin

A Warning to those who Listen

Proverbs 26:17

He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel that is not his own is like a man who takes a dog by the ears.

Matthew 18:15-17

"Moreover if your brother sins (you think) against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

“Every Christian Has The Gift of Making Up”

If you have a problem with any Christian and you have not gone to them - you're wrong! - if you think a Christ

I John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.