

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 4:30-32

TAPE # WN 237 ~ DATE: November 12, 1997

TITLE:

"The Victorious Christian" pt.2

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. 30-32

Remembering the Theme:

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,

Way back in Verse 17, Paul began his diagnostic evaluation, his physical examination of the New Man in Christ vs. The Old Man of the World!

Ephesians 4:22-24

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Example of This

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.

And That Requires a Conscience Effort - *On Our Part!*

Being renewed in the spirit of your mind

* **Renewed** GRK 365 **ananeo** (an-an-neh-o'-o);
to renovate!!!

- **If You Are a Christian:** Born By the Spirit of God, Sealed in Christ...
Then Change is a Great Part of Your Life

- **If Evolution is to ever be true...** it can only be true in the life of a Christian because we are constantly being change

True Evolution is This;

2 Corinthians 3:17b-18b

....where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
.....and we are being transformed into (His) same image from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

So, The Fact of the Matter is...

We're Growing More and More into the Image of Jesus Christ,
while at the same time we're dying more and more to the old us, the old ways of us...

2 Corinthians 4:16

THEREFORE WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. Even though our outward man is
perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

STOP LOSING HEART

No Wonder I Struggle... Look at Me

If you have ever watched someone die
there's a natural struggle to hang on to this Life

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.

Until the World Say's...

I Want to Be Like You - I Want to Live Like You Live
I Want to Know God Like You Know God

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Well - What Is The World Saying About You and Your Christianity Tonight ?

Are They saying that Christian's Lie	vv. 25
Are They saying that Christian's Angry	vv. 26
Are They saying that Christian's Steal	vv. 28
Are They saying that Christian's use Corrupt Language	vv. 29

Are They Saying Tonight That Christian's Are Bitter People

1.) The Victory Circle is Where We Originate vv. 30

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

Verse 30a

1a.) *The Internal-ness of Our Relationship with God* vv. 30a

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,

- There is This Huge Assumption Here;
- That We Are Indwelt by The Holy Spirit Himself

THIS IS A FANTASTIC TRUTH

Jesus Taught Us That The Holy Spirit is a Person

John 14:16-17a

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He** may abide with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows **Him**;

Jesus Taught Us That The Holy Spirit is Personal

John 14:17b-18

but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.
"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

*

Grieve

GRK 3076 lupeo (loo-peh'-o);

to distress; reflexively or passively, to be sad:
in heaviness, (be) sorrow (-ful), be (make) sorry.

When He's Grieved - I'm Grieved Too

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- Why is My Life Dry?
- Why is My Life Struggling?
- Why is All This Junk Happening to Me Now?

*It's Often Because You Haven't Been Putting Off the Old Ways
and Putting On the New*

You're Grieving Him

Isaiah 63:10

But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy,
and He fought against them.

Verse 30b

1b.) We No Longer Belong to Ourselves Anymore

vv. 30b

by whom you were sealed

*

Sealed GRK

4972 sphragizo (sfrag-id'-zo);

to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication, to keep secret, to attest:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts **as a guarantee.**

Verse 30c

1c.) Our Victor is Complete - Finished

vv. 30c

for the day of redemption.

*

Redemption

GRK 629 apolutrosis (ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis);

to ransom in full, in that of completing the delivery

REMEMBERING BACK;

The Blue Chip and Green Stamp Redemption Stores

**What About K-Mart
and the Lay-a-way Program**

The Seal on My Body, in My Heart and Mind, Guarantees That I Belong to God

REDEMPTION DAY IS COMING

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

2.) Being Victorious is Being Serious About Victor vv. 31

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Verse 31a

2a.) Know that Bitterness - Is the of Greatest Dangers vv. 31a

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor,

The Greek language here provides a neat word picture. One that shows us a landlord watching over his property while expelling 6 very nasty and unruly tenants...

* **Bitterness** **GRK 4088 pikria (pik-ree'-ah);**
at piercing smell, a pungent odor, a poisonous liquid or vapor

Bitterness is slow-moving cancer of the mind

The point is that Bitterness acts as a catalyst which ignites the wrath that is being stored within the human heart. The wrath causes an explosion of anger and after the explosion, clamor continues

After An Explosion, What Happens? ... The Sound of it Travels On

You may have unloaded your bitter feelings into someone and now you feel better - the truth is the sound of it continues and will eventually reach you again.

YOU'RE NOT BETTER - YOU'RE BITTER

It's The Greatest Danger Because;

I.) Bitterness Will Poison **YOUR** own Heart

Acts 8:22-23

Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are **poisoned** by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

It's The Greatest Danger Because;

II.) Bitterness Will Poison the Lives of **OTHERS**

Hebrews 12:14-15 NIV

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Acts 8:23 KJV

For I perceive that thou art in the **gall of bitterness**, and in the bond of iniquity.

The Only Answer is to Decide Now to Change Your Mind Toward The Situation

Acts 8:22 KJV

Repent (Change your Mind) therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

How Can I Tell If I Am Fighting With Bitterness?

I will be preoccupied with them in my thoughts or conversation

I will be seeking to justify my situation because of their mistreatment of me

I will be set on edge with just the thought of them or even the hearing of their name

My own life will begin to dry up - ministry or involvement will cease

I then become critical of others

At This Point, Satan Now Begins to Capitalize on Me

You and Me, You and Me, You and Me, You and Me, You and Me, You and Me, You and Me,

- * **Wrath GRK 2372 thumos (thoo-mos');**
passion (as if breathing hard): fierceness, indignation
- * **Anger GRK 3709 orge (or-gay');**
the excitement of the mind, violent feelings which led to vengeance
- * **Clamor GRK 2906 krauge (krow-gay');**
to cry with a loud voice, to shout and carry-on with an elevated voice. clamoring

Verse 31b

2b.) The Danger of Evil Words and Conversation

vv. 31a

and **evil** speaking

The Thought is That these sins take feet and go about destroying a people and a church
(The Evil Speaking, Lies, Gossip, Making Fun of People) All of these things will quench and grieve the work of the Holy Spirit

Just Like Samson's 300 Foxes Set All and Everything Ablaze

Judges 15:4

so does the mouth of those who speak evil

Romans 3:13-18

Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips; ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Verse 31c

2c.) *Taking a Violent Stand Against Evil*

vv. 31a

put away from you, with all **malice**.
(and malice also)

* Put away GRK 142 airo (ah'-ee-ro);
to lift up and to throw out. to evict

To shove off or throw off - like a Spider !

* Malice GRK
rejoicing when evil befalls them. being glad when something bad happens to them. ("well that's what happens when you...")

3.) The Victorious Christian is Happy

vv. 32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
just as God in Christ forgave you.

Happy
is a word that we must be careful with because it can mean
temporary things or unstable things...

Luke 11:28b

"blessed (happy) are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

* **Blessed** **GRK 3107 makarios (mak-ar'-ee-os);**
a prolonged form of the poetical makar (meaning the same);
supremely blest; by extension, **fortunate, well off: happy or happy (-ier).**

Ephesians 1:3-5

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, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Verse 32a

3a.) The Positive Side of Our Victory

vv. 32a

And **be** kind to one another, tenderhearted,

How Many of You Want to be Happy

+ + + + be kind - be tenderhearted - be forgiving + + + +

Stress The Positive Side - The God Side

The **Friendships** That Would Be Healed, The **Business** Situations That Would Be Healed,
The **Families** That Would Be Healed, The **Marriages** That Would Be Healed,

**YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THAT WOULD BE HEALED**

**What About The Church That Decides to be
be Kind - be Tenderhearted - Forgiving**

Verse 32b

3b.) The Secret Weapon to Winning the War

vv. 32b

forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

What's Going On In Your Life

Whatever it is - God has either Allowed it or Ordained it

Verse 32c

3c.) We Can be Victorious Because we've been Forgiven vv. 32c

just as God in Christ forgave you

I read this week about man who stepped in to a church and asked to speak to the pastor about getting married. The pastor said that he didn't perform weddings for strangers, then the man explained. You see, I'd like to marry my wife again. Thirty years ago we got into an argument and walked out of the house, she changed the lock on the door, we went ahead and got a divorce. We want to be married again because we just made up this week!

it's difficult to be upset and a bitter toward someone when you're
focused on God's goodness

God the Father Loves Us

But God the Father Hates Sin

God the Father Loves God the Son

And Because God the Son Died for Us, God the Father Has Forgiven Us All Sin

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Victory over Bitterness

comes through obedience to the Lord's desires

What are His desires?

THAT AN ATMOSPHERE OF RECONSELATION EXIST

Romans 12:9-21

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have ^[c] regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

WARREN WEISBE writes that

“learning how to forgive is the key to a happy Christian life”

- Do not forgive them because of them
- Do not forgive them because of you
- But forgive them because of Christ

Every time you forgive someone - you’re acting like Christ

If you’re going to choose to be like Christ - the word to be Christ-like is the word we know as ‘Christian’

Psalm 133:1-2a KJV

Oh’ how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head....

(3) Three reasons why we need to avoid bitterness:

#1 It Grieves God the Holy Spirit - #2 It Grieves God the Father - #3 It Grieves God the Son

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We can't lose our salvation,
but we can sure lose our joy and peace*

THE RULE OF GOOD COMMUNICATIONS
has nothing to do with electronics or satellite dishes

It's Fellowship and Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

TURN TO MATTHEW 18:23-35

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**Many Christians are in Spiritual Coma's
because they refuse to forgive someone else**

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.