

---

---

# ◆ EPHESIANS ◆

---

---

Volume 2 Issue 1

c Ministry of the Saviour

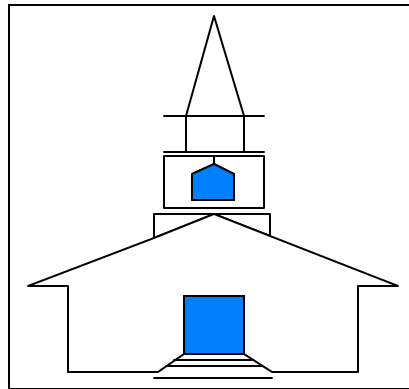
March, 1997

---

---

## Believers Chosen To God's Praise and Glory in Christ

**P**aul the apostle of Jesus Christ, not of his own decision to be and apostle but by the will of God, is writing to the faithful in Christ Jesus. He brings words of praise to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenlies which is in contradistinction to the earthly. That is that the believer's spiritual experience is identified with Christ in nature. He has given us all things by his divine power through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue. He has given us great and precious promises that we might be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the nature and lusts of the world. It is Christ who is our life and sends us into the world even as he came into the world to the glory of God. As a believer, I am a heavenly man in an alien place as a stranger and pilgrim on the earth with the purpose of telling others the good news that Jesus is the saviour of the world until he calls me to come home. I was predestinated by the effective exercise of the will of God to become his child. God in complete foreknowledge with love and grace chose me for



*Please read: Eph.1, Col.3, John 17, Heb. 2 & 3, I Pet. 2, II Pet. 1, Rom. 8, Phil. 1*

himself that he would predestinated me to be shaped and formed and conformed into the image of Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of his grace by which we were made acceptable to him through the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. All that I am, I am because of the grace of God because of his great love toward us that believe.

---

### *Inside This Issue*

Election vs Free will  
Life in Christ

New life in Jesus  
The Great Secret Revealed  
Gifts for the Believer  
Lifestyle Imitators of God  
Godly Relationships  
Prepare to Fight

I cease not to give thanks for you in my prayers.

**M**y prayer for you is that God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and Father of glory will give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: That the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened that you may know what is the hope of his calling and what is the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe according to the the working of his mighty power which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this world but in that which is to come also. He has put all things under the feet of Jesus and given him to be the head over all things to the true church which is his body and and complementary to him in fullness that fileth all in all.

Glory to God the Father and to Jesus the anointed Son and to the Holy Spirit. Let all earth praise the Glory of God.

PRAISE GOD!!

---

---

## ELECTION VS. FREE WILL IN SALVATION

**U**nderstanding election. In the original Greek and Hebrew, the words that are rendered “elect” or “election” could just as well be translated “choose” or “chosen” and the same original word is used to express choices of both man and God. First, it is good to define the words so that we will all be speaking the same language.

1. Election (A)The sovereign act of God in grace whereby certain are chosen for himself. An example of this is in John 15:16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (B) The sovereign act of God so that certain persons are chosen for distinctive service for him as in Luke 6:13: And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; (C) Election is according to the foreknowledge of God as stated in I Peter 1:2: Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus

2 Foreknowledge God has a knowledge of all things past, present, and future. Not one thought of man in the past nor any to come in the future will ever escape without God

knowing about it before the foundations of the earth. In fact it was in this foreknowledge that God provided for the forgiveness of sins. I Peter 1:18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21: Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the

*The goal of Christian life is to be perfect and holy.*

*...The paradox of the Bible....*

dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

(3) Predestinated The will of God to bring to pass things that are predetermined by him. This word is found in the Bible only four times, Ephesians 1:Eph:1:5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph:1:11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Rom:8:29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.Rom:8:30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Those who believe strongly in the doctrine of Predestination and election would say that the foundation and first cause of all blessings of God is in election. Election was used early in the Old Testament in electing to work through Israel to fulfill the purpose of God. Man is predestinated to salvation but it does not stop there, one who is saved, is predestinated to be conformed in the image of Christ. The goal of Christian life is to be perfect and holy.

The Paradox of the Bible is that the sovereign purpose of God is taught and at the same time an emphasis is put on man's free will to follow Christ or to reject him. Did God mark us who believe before the foundations of the earth and there was no choice or did he foreknow that we would we would heed the calling of the Holy Spirit to salvation and the order of events was (1) foreknowledge (2) election (3) predestination?

## A LOOK AT “WHOSOEVER” AND FREE WILL

**W**hosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely. This verse from Rev. 22 does not sound like there is no choice involved in our relationship with God. Look at the following verses: Mk:3:35: For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother. Mk:10:15: Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. Mk:10:43: But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: Mk:10:44: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. Lk:14:33: So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Lk:18:17: Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. Jn:3:15: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Jn:3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jn:4:14: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Jn:11:26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?  
 Jn:12:46: I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.  
 Acts:2:21: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
 Acts:10:43: To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.  
 Rom:10:11: For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.  
 Rom:10:13: For whosoever shall

*MAN ENTERS THE KINGDOM AT THE ONLY GATE AT THE URGING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR HE IS LOST FOREVER.*

call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
 1Jn:3:6: Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.  
 1Jn:3:9: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.  
 1Jn:3:10: In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

1Jn:4:15: Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

1Jn:5:1: Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

It is clear from these verses that man does have some option in believing and salvation. However if election is carried to an extreme, then God made Eve and every person after her to sin which does not line up with the teachings of the Bible. If free choice is taken to the extreme, then you can decide to come to God when you get good and ready. What God is telling us through these two ideas is that we are given an opportunity to come to salvation but it is not on man's terms but the sovereignty of God determines when and for how long the Holy Spirit will call you to salvation and He needs no explanation for the exercise of His will. Man does not sneak into the kingdom through a window or over a wall, man enters the only gate at the urging of the Holy Spirit or he is lost and will experience damnation forever. Shall we pass up such a wonderful thing? Is there anything to compare with the fellowship of Almighty God?

## A GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE HAS RAISED US FROM THE DEAD TO NEW LIFE IN JESUS

**Y**ou gentiles were dead in sin and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead has raised you to new life. Before, you were of this world and thought as well as acted out your life under the dominion of the evil one as a slave to this world fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and the desires of the flesh as children of the kingdom wrath. You let the evil of this present age sway your mind to pervert your behavior into corrupt and sensual obeying of the impulses of the flesh.

But God who is so rich in his glorious love and mercy, decided to show this wonderful and intense love that he has for us so that while we were dead in sin, he by the blood of Christ and his grace, raised us up and made us alive to fellowship with and be in union with Christ. He gave to us the same new life that is in Christ Jesus himself. It was by grace, the favor and mercy of God, that we were saved and delivered from sure judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation giving us a seat at the table of Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One. He did this to demonstrate for all times, his limitless, immeasurable riches of free grace in kindness and goodness of heart toward us through Jesus the Anointed One. It must be clear that you are saved by the grace of God through faith by the

gift of God, Salvation is not of your own doing, it cannot come through your own striving or works nor from the keeping of the law. No one can do anything to cause his salvation. It is a free gift from God to those who believe. In every case, it comes from God because of his love, mercy and grace. There is no other way to come to salvation. If there was a way for man to earn salvation, he would take pride in not needing God. That cannot happen.

We are a product of God's

### *CAN WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD WHILE FEUDING WITH OUR FELLOW MAN?*

workmanship, we were created and then recreated anew in Christ that we might do the good works that God had planned for us to do before the foundations of the earth.

We are a masterpiece of his work made to do the work that he has planned for us along a path that he has prepared for us to walk along at this time living this wonderful life which he prearranged and made ready for us to live. It is not good works that bring us to salvation but salvation brings us to good works or something is very wrong. Every believer is instilled with a desire to do the things and live

the kind of life that will bring joy to the heart of God. Where we were once far from God, we are brought near to him by the blood of Jesus which is the only hope that we ever have had or ever shall have.

There is no longer Jew and Gentile but we are one in Christ. In Christ, all things that separate are broken down, age, sex, race, denominations, and cultures must be taken away so that we are one in Christ. We must not make the cross of non-effect by our rules and regulations but look to Jesus by whose blood we were bought and our sin debt paid and made acceptable in the sight of Almighty God. How can we be reconciled to God when we live without love toward our fellow man? Can we have peace with God while feuding with man?

Having Jesus, we now have the Holy Spirit to give us access to the Father so that we are able to approach him. It follows then that we are no longer an alien to the kingdom of God but we are members and citizens with all other saints so that we are consecrated and set apart for God and a part of his own household. We have a strong foundation of apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. The whole structure is bonded together and grows into a sanctuary dedicated to the presence of the Lord.

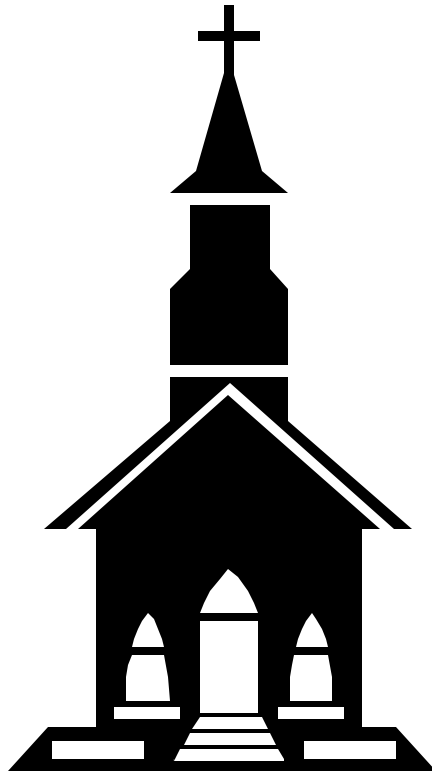
## THE GREAT SECRET IS REVEALED.

It was for others for the cause of Christ that Paul was in prison. He was given revelation by the Holy Spirit and not being able to deliver it personally, he put it into writing which we have today.

Throughout all of the Old Testament, there was a hidden mystery and God working through the Holy Spirit gave Paul revelation knowledge concerning the mystery of Christ. The revelation was that Gentiles should be fellowheirs with the Jews and share the same divine promise in Christ through accepting him as Lord and Saviour. This fellowship was foretold in the Old Testament that we Gentiles should be grafted into the vine and share the promises of Abraham by the blood of Jesus. The purpose of the revelation is that through the vast, complicated, wisdom of God in all of its many infinite aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers or principalities and authorities or rulers in the heavenly sphere.

Paul's prayer :

To be strengthened in the inner man. The "inner man" is a Greek term and would have been understood to be saying (1) May your reasoning ability be increased. He wanted them to be better able to discern between that which was right or wrong and be able to passions and instincts and desires by the wisdom that Christ would give



*MAY YOUR WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO EVERY GOOD THING THAT YOUR MIND KNOWS OF.*

them to keep their life pure and safe.

(2) There was conscience. Paul's prayer was that the conscience be tender and sensitive not dulled by abuse but alert. (3) The will.

How many have known what was right and good to do and even mean to do it but did not have will enough to follow through and do what we knew to do? May your will be strong enough to carry out every good intention that God reveals to you by the Holy Spirit and the reading of the word. Strength

comes as Christ dwells in you. The Greek word used is katoikein which is saying that Christ makes a permanent residence in your heart. It is a fact that Christ never forces his way into a person's heart. The secret of strength is the presence of Christ within our lives and he will come in when he is asked to and to the extent that he is asked to. Oh that we should want to be totally filled by an indwelling God so that we walk in his power and minister in his power and have the boldness to raise the standard if God in a deprived wicked world.

May you really come to know through the practical experience for yourself the love of Christ. May you be filled through all of your being even unto the fullness of God and have the richest measure of divine presence and become a body wholly filled and flooded and running over with God himself.

Glory to Christ Jesus in the church through all ages. For God is will able to, by his power that is at work in us, do superabundantly far over and above all that we dare to ask or think. It was God that gave us thoughts and for as great a thing as we can dream or have a vision of, God is able to even greater and bless us more. God's hand is not short that he cannot reach us nor weak that he should not have the strength to bring to pass all things that we bring to him. Man is limited by lack of vision not the weakness of God.

## GIFTS FOR THE BELIEVER

**M**ake your lifestyle worthy of the divine calling to which you were called and let your behavior be as a good report of your calling. Live a quiet, mild, gentle, and unselfish life with patience and bear the burdens of others in love for each other. Be in harmony and oneness and continually work at being one body and in one Spirit for there is one Lord and one faith and one baptism and one God and Father of us all. Being brothers and sisters in Christ, let us so act as one family for there is not one that is esteemed higher than another. It was our sovereign God's grace which was given to each of us for salvation and it was the Father who gave each of us in the church a portion of the limitless gift which was in Christ. He bestowed gifts on men that the church could carry on the ministry of Christ to all of the world.

The gifts that he gave were varied. He appointed some to be apostles or special messengers to give the flock direction. He appointed some to be prophets to speak out and proclaim the inspired message given them. He appointed some to be evangelists to preach the Gospel, travel, and be as a missionary with the desire to see the lost saved. He appointed some to be pastors and shepherds of His flock with a loving and caring heart which seeks to minister to the needs and hurts of the flock. He appointed

some teachers to teach and explain the the message of the word and bring it to life to those who listen.

These gifts were given to believers that they might bring fellow saints to perfection in the faith and to have them fully equipped as God's special and consecrated people that they(the people) should do the work of ministering to the lost and building up fellow believers in the body of Christ (the church) that the church might develop until we all attain oneness in the faith and the comprehension of the full and accurate knowledge of Christ. That we might

### *Therefore be imitators of God... Walk in love...*

develop and mature to the completeness of Christ's own perfection and fullness. At that point, we will no longer be like a small boat in a large sea, tossed in this direction or that as the wind blows and unable to determine if teachings are true or have error invented for personal gain.

We need to live in the truth in all things. Every thing that comes from our lips should be true. Every deal that we make should be done with truth as the first order of business and done with the love of Jesus toward those with whom we are dealing. Because of Jesus, the whole body (church) is properly joined and

placed together with each part given power according to it's need to work properly and is held together by Jesus who is the head of the church.

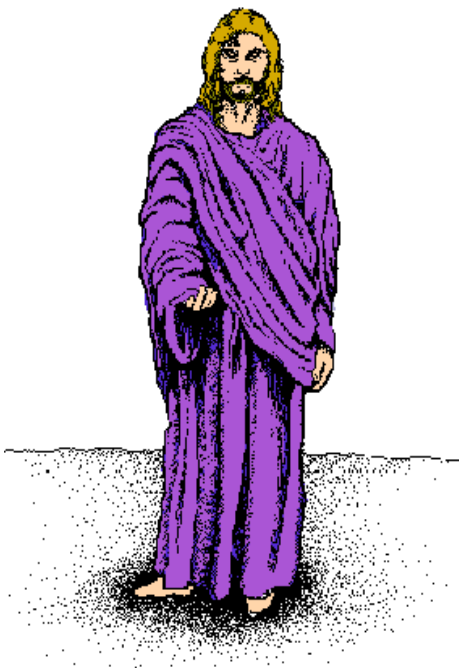
Live differently than you did when you were lost and were blind to the laws and will of God and put away those things which tear down or are vain, foolish, and empty. Be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind so that you have a fresh and spiritual mental attitude and put on the new nature created in God's image in true righteousness and holiness. Do not leave room for the devil to get a foothold or opportunity in your life. Do not cause the Holy Spirit, by which you are sealed for the day of redemption, to be sad by your actions.

Remember that bitterness, rage, anger, resentment, brawling, contention, slander and abusive language are from Satan and he delights in causing people to exhibit these attitudes which are in conflict with the nature of God.

*To be kind, compassionate, understanding, loving, forgiving, helpful, and tenderhearted comes from God and he delights in believers who exhibits his characteristics. Walk in love as God walks in love and has shown that love toward us even while we were lost sinners he called us to believe in Jesus who has paid our sin debt that we might be forgiven. Therefore be imitators of God and walk in love.*

## LIVE “JUST LIKE JESUS”

**C**opy and follow the example of God as children follow the example of their father. Now that we have the unbelievable privilege and grace of being his beloved, we are to respond in showing self-forgetting kindness and love. Our imitation of God



should increase from simply forgiving to a spirit of love in every other way as he has loved us and consistently walk with him along the daily road of life being an example in human flesh of the qualities of God with our motivation being love which is made possible by the love which Christ first showed us. Oh God, let us walk holy and pleasing before you.

If you are to train to be a good believer, you must imitate the

one in whom you believe. Training to be God like in actions requires three things: first, theory, or understanding the known concepts and laws which come from the mouth of God, second, imitation, which is to try to do and act as God does in a spirit of love and self-giving for others, and third, practice, which is to do more than be by words only a Christian but one that does and acts and ministers on every road that life leads so that doing the things pleasing to God is a part of our deepest character and who we are in Christ Jesus. When the sacrifice was on the altar, the burning meat would

*IF YOU ARE TO TRAIN TO BE A GOOD BELIEVER, YOU MUST IMITATE THE ONE IN WHOM YOU BELIEVE.*

send a sweet fragrance up to heaven and find favor with God. The believer who walks in love and forgiveness is producing a sacrifice which sends a sweet fragrance which is especially pleasing and especially acceptable to God to whom it was offered. The sacrifice of Jesus which was well-pleasing to God was a life of perfect obedience to God and perfect love to men, an obedience which was so complete and a love which was so without limits that he accepted the cross. If we imitate Jesus then we must love people with a sacrificial love and we must forgive them in love as

God has done. We must reproduce the love and kindness and forgiveness and mercy in our lives that reflects the attitudes that we have seen in God.

For all lust, greed, and filthy talk is to be eliminated from the believer and replaced with kindly goodness, uprightness of heart and trueness of life. **LEARN WHAT IS PLEASING TO THE LORD AND BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.**

Do not be fooled, those who practice impurity in thought or life with lust, greed and indecent talk will have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Eph. 5:5.

Wake up, arise and Christ shall cause the day to dawn upon you. Evaluate closely your walk. Live purposefully and worthily and accurately as wise, sensible, intelligent people making the most of the time and of each opportunity because the days are evil. Do not be vague or thoughtless but understand what is the will of God and grasp it firmly. Do not drink wine but be filled and stimulated with the Holy Spirit. Speak to others in spiritual songs and offer praise with voices and instruments letting your heart praise Him in song. This shows that the early church gatherings had (1) singing (2) giving of thanks (3) love for each other. Be able to give thanks for everything. If God allows it, it is good toward shaping us to be more Christlike.

## Family Relationships that are Pleasing to God

**B**e subject one to another out of a motivation of reverence for Christ the Anointed One.

The order of the family is that the husband should be the head of the household and the wife should be submissive and adapt to her husband as a service to the Lord. Husbands are to love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. The husband should love his own wife as he loves himself and would not want to have pain or dishonor come to her as he would not enjoy it himself. This is a joint commitment that the wife respects and reverences her husband, that she regards him, esteems him and defers to him, praises him and loves him while the husband nourishes and protects and cherishes his wife who is an extension of his own body and he love for his wife is necessary to love himself. A man and a woman shall leave their parents and become one. The order is that there must be a break from parents to set up a new household. There is no place in the Bible that gives a man a right to hit or beat a wife into submission and there should be no physical violence in marriage. It is a sad thing that in America today, women are taught to be aggressive so that many men are not the head of the household in their family because the wife is not submissive to his being the leader in the family. The man's recourse at this point

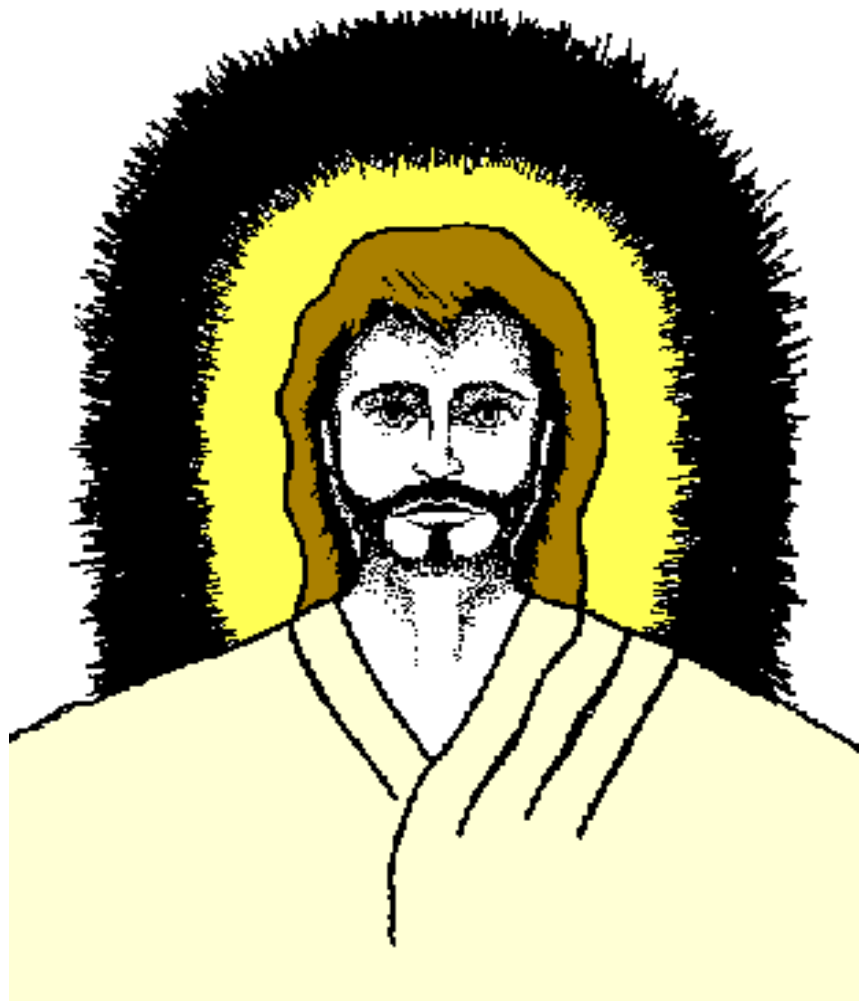
is to do the best that he can for his family, divorce is not an option for the believer nor is

*LOVE HAS FOR IT'S STANDARD AND MODEL THE LOVE OF CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCH..... A wife's Submissiveness demands that a husband have a self-giving love.*

physical force. Even though your spouse has error, you should be in constant prayer and continue to lift your mate up with a spirit of love. But flee violence.

Fathers should train, discipline, and counsel tenderly in the knowledge of the Lord. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord and esteem and value them and their teachings because it is the right and just thing to do.

No matter if you are a servant or a master, serve well or lead well remembering that you are subject to God who is no respecter of persons and your heavenly Father will reward you for the good that you do so do everything as doing it to the Lord.



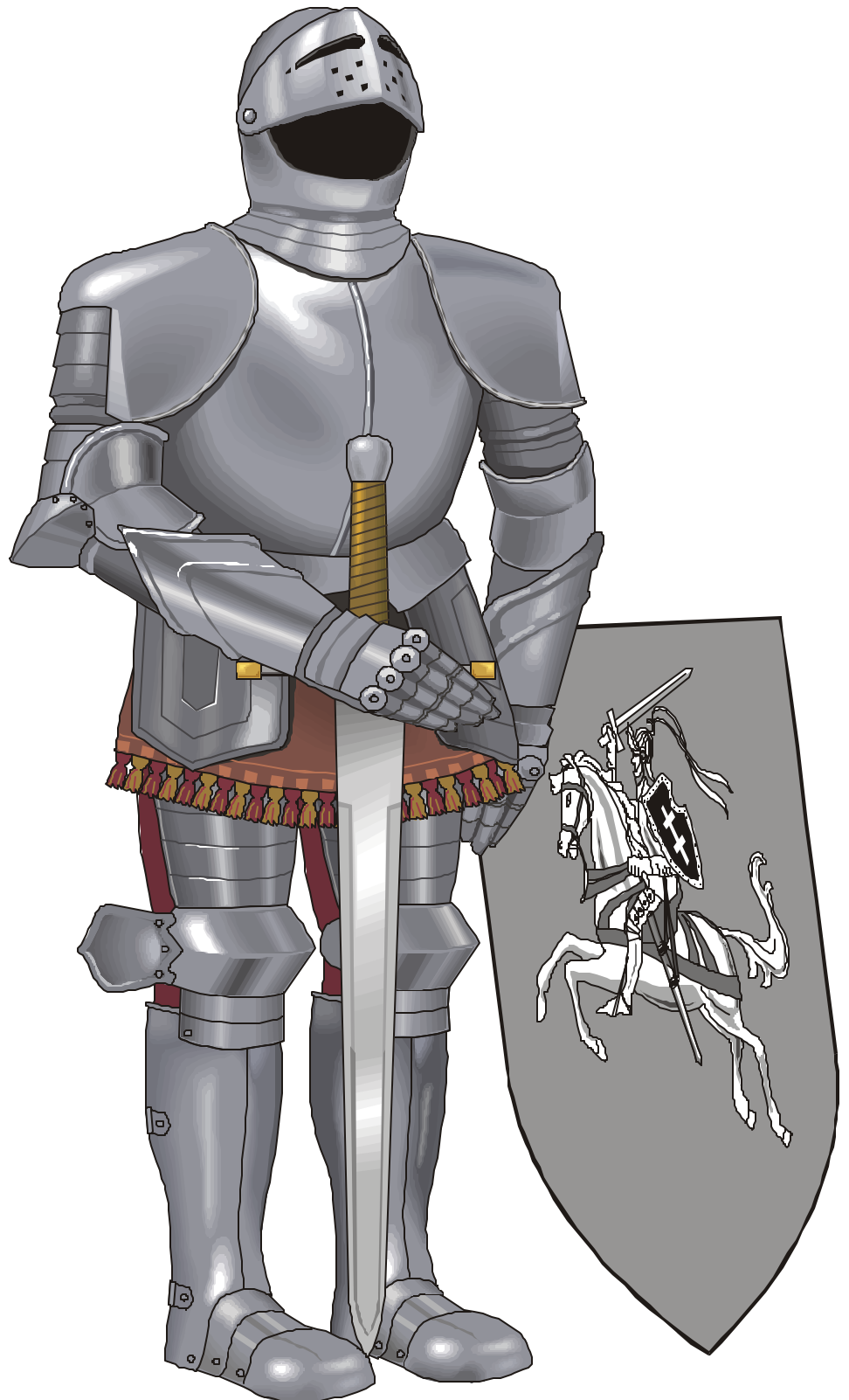


## Put On God's Whole Armor — Prepare to Stand!

**B**e strong in the Lord or be empowered by him and

he provides and endless and great strength. Put on God's armor which is that of a well equipped soldier that you might draw your strength from him that you be successful to stand up against all the strategies and deceits of the devil. For you are not fighting with flesh and blood but against powers or master spirits who are world rulers of this present darkness and against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly or supernatural sphere. Put on God's complete armor that you will be able to stand your ground and have victory when evil attacks you. The first thing in the morning is to pray and ask God to dress you in his armor spiritually by placing the belt of truth around your loins and the breastplate of righteousness and integrity. Place on your feet the preparation and readiness produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace. Lift up over all the shield or covering of saving faith by which you can quench all the flaming missiles of Satan. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Now that you are dressed for battle, you need to be in constant communication with the commander in chief which is our God and Father by prayer. Constantly be alert and watch and pray and about everything at every time in all manner of prayer both in your mind and in the Spirit. Intercede in behalf of all of the other believers and their needs.

Yes there is a war going on and believers must be ready for battle to stand their ground and resist the evil of the day. It cannot be won by human strength but by the empowering of God toward us who believe.

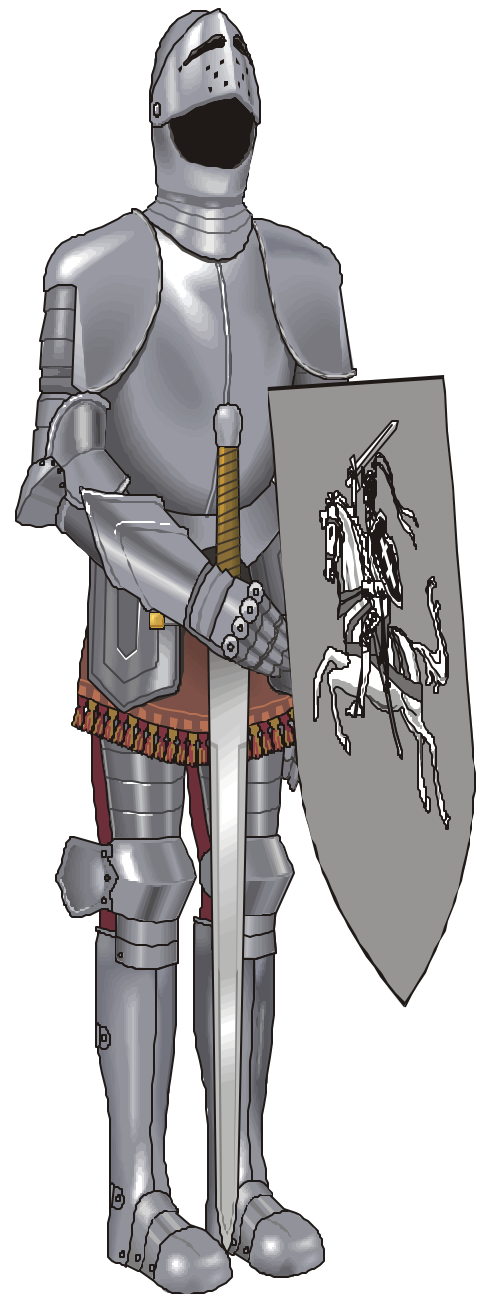


## SUMMARY:



### **Ministry of the Saviour**

The teaching ministry  
Of Wayne Deer  
Baker, La.



Ephesians points to the oneness of the believers in spirit, in the body of Christ, as the family of God. We must as individuals and as the body of Christ, set our focus on God and his many good qualities and imitate those qualities in our life in the way that we think, act and relate to others both in our personal family and our church family and to the world in general. How shall we go wrong living in righteousness that is birthed in love of both God and our fellow man and seeking to have the mind of Christ in us so that we live our lives as he would live life through us. While we seek to do good, we must be constantly alert to evil and have our armor on and ready to defend ourselves from the temptations of this world and be constantly in prayer and in the word so that the Holy Spirit has the word of God to work with in our lives.

---