NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 9/28-9/29/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 5:1-7

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

NOTICE BEGINNING OCTOBER 5 (FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER) THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL RESUME IN IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - <u>87858644763</u> Mon 7 pm!

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

One tap mobile

- +16699006833..87858644763# US (San Jose)
- +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

NOTICE BEGINNING OCTOBER 6 (FIRST TUESDAY IN OCTOBER) THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL RESUME IN IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - **85309150746** Tues 7 am!

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

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OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross – (3:00)

Isaac Watts, 1707 - The text arose out of Watts' meditation on Galatians 6:14: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . " The text is a meditation on Christ's atoning death: at the cross, God's love is revealed, to each believer, requiring total commitment to Christ-"my soul, my life, my all!" Watts' profound and awe-inspiring words provide an excellent example of how a hymn text by fine writer can pack a great amount of systematic theology into a few memorable lines.

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. Demands my soul, my life, my all.

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 5:1-7

Review

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Walk in Love

- Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
- Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
- Eph 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;
- Eph 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
- Eph 5:5 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.
- Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Eph 5:1 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear (beloved) children. (Luk

- 6:36) Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. (1Pe 1:14-16) as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; [15] but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, [16] because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
 - *Be imitators (mimics) of God as dear* (beloved) *children*. Walk in love like Christ! This is the highest statement of Christian doctrine that can conceived of or even imagined. It is really staggering, almost incredible! We must never forget this in all our thinking, conduct, practice and behavior. These verses are black and white. There are no shades of gray! It's perfectly clear!
 - *Be imitators of God* **Not with regard to His incommunicable** attributes, which are His alone! His Glory! His majesty! His omnipotence! His omnipresence! His omniscience! They are attributes of God, belonging to Him alone and they make Him God. They are in God because He is God! We are never called upon anywhere to imitate these attributes!
 - However, we are to imitate His communicable attributes! (kind, tenderhearted, forgiving.) Holiness! 'Be holy', says God, 'for I am holy'. His Righteousness! God is righteous—and believers are to be righteous. His justice! His goodness! His love! His mercy! His compassion! His

- **tenderness!** His **longsuffering!** His **lovingkindness!** His **faithfulness!** His **forgiveness!** We are expected to manifest them, to have them, to show these attributes! They are to be parts of our life and living.
- Why are we to be imitators of God? Because we are His children! We are to refrain from some things and to do others. God knows His children, like human parents loving their children, multiplied by infinity! He has looked down upon us, and He loves us! He is interested in us! We are dear to His heart!
- What, then, is to be our response to God's love? The greatest desire of my life should be to show my love to Him, and to please Him in everything! Nothing gives God greater joy than to see His children living in a manner that is worthy of Him. Our supreme desire in life should be to please Him and to give Him joy! Is that your and my supreme desire?
- Realizing the truth of this relationship, our greatest desire in life will be to be like God. Look at a little boy who desires to be like his father, trying to walk like his father, to speak like his father! He is imitating his father the whole time. He wants to grow up to be a man like his father! Cleanse it, multiply it by infinity, and you discover what the Apostle is telling us to do.
- How are we to imitate God? We are to do it by walking in love (and walk in love)! All our conduct and conversation must be carried on in the realm and in the sphere of love, for God is love. He says you should live in this way. As God's children we are to imitate God, and this means that our lives will be totally different.
- (Mat 5:48) Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. How can we do that on earth? It can, we have a Brother, who has been in it, and He has walked the streets of this same world, and this is how He walked—in love! He gave Himself, for us, a willing offering and a sacrifice, in our stead! He gave His life, His body to be broken, His blood to be shed, for His enemies, for vile sinners. It went up to God as a sweet-smelling aroma.
- As you and I imitate God and imitate the Lord Jesus Christ, our lives and our activities will go up into the presence of God *as a sweet-smelling aroma!* God's father-heart will swell with love and satisfaction as He sees His children imitating Him in the sight of men.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love (giving, not taking!), (1Th 4:9) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

- And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us The ultimate test of our Christian profession! All of our lives conduct and activities must be measured by this yardstick of love. Love is the test; everything in the Christian life is designed to bring us to this condition. We are to be like God, as the children of God. God is love, and therefore the greatest characteristic of our lives, is to be love!
- The highest manifestation of God's love is that which we see in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in His work on our behalf! 'Walk in love', we're told, 'as Christ also has loved us.' He then goes on to show us how our Lord has shown that love to us.
- In the Christian life, doctrine and behavior are totally linked together and must never be separated. Our conduct is always determined by our doctrine, that which influences us and becomes our example. (*Pro 23:7a*) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. Our behavior is determined by our thinking, coming out in our conduct. That's so necessary for us to continue in the texts given to us here!
- The *love* of God and of the Lord Jesus *Christ* is to be measured by the extent to which we are manifesting this love in our lives. Isaac Watts was right in writing, 'Love so amazing, so divine, demands'—my soul, my life, my all! You prove that He shall have it in your conduct, not as you sing, but as you behave in your home, at the workplace, wherever you are. It is much easier to sing it, than to practice it, but it is the practice alone that proves that you are really doing it.

as Christ also has loved (not if or because!) us and given (love gives; lust takes) Himself for (instead of, in our place) us, (Gal 1:4) who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

- As Christ also has loved us! There is the measure! All of our Lord's activity was produced and determined solely and entirely by His love. The measure of Christ's love is not how He loved the Father, but that He loved us! You will never know the love of Christ truly until you have grasped the Christian doctrine of sin, realizing the truth about yourself. (Rom 7:18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.
- As Christ has loved us, and has given himself for (instead of) us'. Not merely give up all His own things, but He gave Himself! His life! His very Self! He gave it all up, as a sacrifice. Not the things which He could command and lay aside, but His very Self! Submitted Himself; sacrificed

- Himself utterly, absolutely! It was not a passive submission. It was active, deliberate, and positive. We must emphasize the activity, the deliberate character of it all. As He *gave Himself* up! You can give without love, but you cannot love without giving!
- What is the lesson for us? 'Walk as Christ also has loved us.' The precept is obvious. Our love must flow from and correspond to that of our Lord Himself. He did not consider Himself! He did not demand His rights, He did not consider His innocence, His feelings, His comforts, His ease! He did not consider Himself at all. He gave Himself up! 'So we are to Walk in love, as Christ also has also has loved us, and has given himself for us.'

an <u>offering</u> (gives willingly) and a <u>sacrifice</u> (laying down life on behalf of someone else!) to God for a sweet-

smelling aroma. (2Co 2:14) Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. [15] For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

- 'an offering, and a sacrifice to God'. An offering is a gift that is presented, Not just a gift presented, but it was an offering given willingly and 'a sacrifice-laying down life! Beginning in Genesis, we are taught about sacrifices, offerings, and the shedding of blood. These types and symbols pointing forward to the Lord Jesus Christ, as the only way whereby, men could be reconciled to Him, who is the Sacrifice, telling us what was happening when the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross on Calvary, when His body was broken and His blood was shed, an offering and a sacrifice to Go
- **for a** *sweet-smelling aroma*! After the flood, one of the first things Noah did was to build an altar, to show his gratitude to God, taking clean animals, offering them upon the altar. He burns them, and the smell ascends, and it is pleasing to God.
- It means that God was indeed fully satisfied with what had been done. for us! Christ's offering on behalf of sinners came up before God as a sweet-smelling aroma! Our Lord said, 'It is finished'; and I believe the Father said, Yes, it is finished, it is enough, I require no more. The sacrifice offered on Calvary had ascended into the presence of God for a sweet-smelling aroma! God and His holy law are fully satisfied and pleased, and man is reconciled to God and can be forgiven.
- The Son gave Himself willingly, there was no compulsion. He set His face steadfastly. His one desire was to do His Father's will and thus to bring

- about our salvation. It is only as you see Him as the innocent Substitute, who has voluntarily put Himself in *our* place to receive *our* punishment, that you even begin to understand and to measure the eternal love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Our Lord accomplished His work for us in spite of us. What makes us Christians and proves that we are such, is that we do to others what He has done for us. When you and I meet difficult people, who attack us and persecute us and deal with us spitefully and malign us, we are to deal with them as our Lord dealt with us! Walk in love! Pray for them! Love your enemies! Bless them that curse you! Pray for them that persecute you and use you spitefully and malign you.
- Is there anything in the world which is comparable to the privilege of being a Christian? We are asked and invited and called upon to live as Christ lived; and we are the only people in the world who can do that. An unbeliever cannot live like that. He needs to be born again. He must have a new nature, a new life. He must have his eyes opened to the blessed truth of the Gospel. Nothing but that can ever enable and persuade men to walk in love even as Christ did. What a privilege, what an honor, what a high calling, to be imitators of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Eph 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or

covetousness(Col 3:5-7) 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.

- *But!* This is what isn't love! Moving from the positive to the negative from giving to taking! *But fornication* (*porneia*-sexual activity outside of marriage), *and all uncleanness* (impurity), *or covetousness* (idolatry, greed)! There are certain things which we as the children of God must never do, which are utterly incompatible with our life as the dear children of God, joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't like negatives, but the extent to which you do not like negatives is the measure of your lack of spirituality. The whole object here is to show the importance of the negative in emphasizing the positive!
- It is not enough just to contemplate our glorious position? We constantly need to be reminded, that the one grand end and object of Christianity and of salvation is to make us *holy*! As a result of the Fall and the sin that remains

in us, we are always reducing the ultimate end and objective of the Christian faith. We must, therefore, ever be reminded of it, so the negative becomes essential.

- We are always in danger of not applying the Christian faith to ourselves, but of being content to enjoy it in a theoretical manner. That can be done very easily. What is there more enjoyable than a great exposition of truth such as we have in this epistle? It is a great intellectual treat. How easy it is just to take it in general way, saying, How marvellous! how wonderful! and never applying it to ourselves at all. Because of that we need to be brought right down to earth; we need the negatives.
- There is the danger of thinking that having been saved, we can live any way we want, saying it does not matter much what I do. If my ultimate salvation is certain and assured, I can live as I like. No!
- We need reminding that our profession of the Christian faith is meant to show itself in every single detail of our life. Christianity is not something to be enjoyed only in a place of worship or when we are reading about it in the Bible; it must show itself in the most ordinary details of life, in everything that we do, everywhere in our lives.
- **Problems of** *fornication, uncleanness, covetousness* and all the rest of them, are to be dealt with in terms of our Christian doctrine. These evil things are not becoming, do not fit, do not suit, to believers in Christ. Then specifically: (*Eph 5:5*) 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
- *Covetousness* (idolatry) is condemned! There is no more terrible sin than idolatry. It means that you make a god of something, and you worship it. We are meant to worship GOD and to worship Him alone. There is but one God and He recognizes *none* other.

let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; (Luk 12:15) And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he

covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundant possesses."

• Let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints! How are we to avoid these evil things? We are not to do them! Furthermore, Don't even mention or hint at it nor come anywhere near to approaching it. Do not talk about them, do not mention them, they are unmentionable. They should not come in at all, either in your speech or even in your thought.

• Remember that you are a *saint!* Christians are dearly beloved children of God, those whom He has set apart for Himself, for His own delight and pleasure. Every true Christian is a saint! Remember who you are! Remind yourself of it the first thing in the morning! I am a saint. I am a separated person, in the world but I am not of it. There are certain things, therefore, which I must never do or even dream of doing! People watch a Christian going into a place he should not enter, and he says, Do you see what that Christian man is doing? Let us all take note! *As is fitting for saints!*

Eph 5:4 neither filthiness, (Mat 12:34) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, (Tit 3:9) But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

which are not fitting, (Rom 1:28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

but rather giving of thanks. (Php 4:6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

- Just think what we've been told in this epistle! First chapter you're in Christ! Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world! Predestined to adoption as His child! Accepted in the beloved! Washed in the blood of Christ! You read these things in the heavenlies, then God stoops way, way down—and here says "don't' tell dirty jokes"! Isn't that amazing? Words are an influence! Superbowl commercials are like \$5-10 million for 30 seconds!
- neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Continuing with the sinful areas which we were just told, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;
- *filthiness*. This includes obscenity, anything that is obscene in speech. It includes everything that is vile or disgusting in conduct. *filthiness*! It does not belong at all to the Christian life.
- *foolish talking*. This means empty, frivolous, senseless, thoughtless, foolish and sinful talk and speech. This is listed with other things that are foul and

- revolting, including empty, thoughtless chatter, do not belong to the Christian life either. The Christian's talk must never be empty, senseless, frivolous; a Christian man should never be a frivolous person, nor should he speak in a frivolous, light, empty manner.
- *jesting*, which is polished, witty talk, having a harmful and sinful tendency. The original word has got the idea of turning in it—changing the conversation to a clever, sophisticated, witty joke, suggestive or with double meaning, anything which is vulgar, in any sense-always lowering God's standard!
- which are not fitting Avoid in every shape and form anything that in any way is likely to draw us to do any one of these things—fornication, uncleanness, and all the rest of them. Keep watch against temptation at the beginning. If you allow temptation to get the slightest foothold in your mind, you will soon be overcome. We are to keep clear of everything and anything that does not belong to the Christian life.
- Rather giving of thanks! Here is the positive, let there be thanksgiving!

Eph 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater (worshipping another god), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (1Co 6:9-10) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

- For this you know! Warning and an alarming pronouncement concerning unclean living! For this you know, that no fornicator (porneiasexual sin), unclean person (unclean moral behavior), nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance —no place at all!—in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Here then is a warning that we have got to face. We must take Scripture as it is. It is a necessary warning for Christians in all ages and in all places.
- For this you know, this is something beyond any doubt, any dispute! It is self-evident. How can you be a Christian at all without knowing it? How can you have learned Christ in any real sense without being aware of this at once? God knows we need reminding! Christians are not sinless, but they should sin less and less, the more we grow in Christ and grace, separated

from this world!

- Our text appears several times in the Scriptures. Here in *Ephesians 5:5*. In (1Co 6:9-10) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- At the very end of the Bible, (Rev 21:27) But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev 22:14-15) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city. [15] But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.
- Note the distinction—outside!—there they are, having no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God, eternally outside and there they remain. They have no entrance into this holy city. Here is the great, objective, eternal statement! There is a city to enter. If we want to enter that city, then we must remember that it is a holy city and that the entrance to it is controlled by this category of holiness. Scripture speaks about holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they'—and nobody else—'shall see God.'
- 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. He is clearly being told that anyone whose habitual conduct (not just falling into one of these sins and then repenting) does mean that if such sins are the characteristic of a man's life, a persistence, a continuance, a settling down in sin, it means that they are not inside but outside the Kingdom! Men whose lives are characterized by things contrary to God's law, are not in the Kingdom of God; they have no inheritance there at all!
- Does anything matter but this? Do we want an entrance into that holy, eternal city of God? Do we want to spend our eternity there? That is the question! The first consideration, therefore, is holiness! 'Be holy', says God, 'for I am holy'! The thing is so obvious! this you know! 'Our God is a consuming fire'! 'God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all'! He stands out in His holiness, in His sanctity, in His eternal purity.

- It is the kingdom of Christ and of God, and the standard is not lower in the kingdom of Christ than it is in the kingdom of God. The kingdom is one, and holiness is ever the one and only standard. The Lord Jesus Christ did not come into this world to lower the standard as though we could enter saying, we believe in Christ, and yet be holding on to our sins. Our Lord said, (Mat 7:21-23) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

 [22] Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' [23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'
- Is this teaching justification by works? Are we saying that it is our life that admits us into the kingdom, that if a man is guilty of these things he is outside, whereas if he is not guilty he is inside? Is not that going right back to justification by works? How do we reconcile these things?
- By asserting again that justification is by faith *alone*. It was while we were yet ungodly, sinning enemies that we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son. But justification is only one step, an initial step, in a process, which includes not only justification but regeneration and sanctification and ultimate glorification. Justification and forgiveness of sins are not ends in and of themselves; they are only steps on a way that leads to final perfection. We cannot divorce justification and forgiveness from other parts of truth! If God justifies a man, God has brought that man into the process.
- If you can say that you are justified, you have been washed, sanctified, taken out, removed from the old, and you have been put into a new kingdom. You are in this process of God that is leading to your ultimate, entire perfection. If there is no evidence in our lives of this process into which God puts the people whom He justifies, then we have not been justified, but are merely saying, Lord! Lord! And His response will be I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'
- **Do you have that hope in you?** If you have really have this hope in you, the hope of entering the Holy City at the end and spending your eternity in it, every man that really has this hope in him, *purifies himself even as He is pure*. But the man who has only got the hope on his lips and not in his heart does not purify himself. If he, continues to live the old life, the truth about him is that he has no *inheritance* at all in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. (1Ti

5:22) Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

- *Therefore, do not be partakers with them!* Do not share their life! Realize where the world is going! Turn away from those who are growing in their sin, everyday getting themselves further from God, morally and spiritually! They're going somewhere else! Run from it! Flee from the wrath to come'!
- Humble yourself before God with a repentant and a contrite heart. Ask Him to have mercy and pity upon you. Repent and believe the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will not only be forgiven, but you will be given an inheritance in His glorious and everlasting Kingdom. May God open our eyes to the truth, and may we dedicate ourselves to unceasing prayer on behalf of a world that is being deceived by *empty* words. Believers are called to open men's eyes, to show them the deceit and the folly and the emptiness of their position and what they believe. Let us pray to God to give us power to do so.
- Also let us pray for a revival. Let us pray that the Spirit of God may descend again upon the Church as He did in 1859, so that she may rise up with such power, proclaiming the truth in such glorious calls and terms that even the dead shall be awakened. We cannot reason with people who are deceived by the devil; it needs the call of God, the power of the Spirit. Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to incessant, continuing prayer for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that we may make the truth known to the blinded nations and their leaders, so that they may be saved from the wrath to come, and begin to live a life to the glory of God.