

Daily Devotions

Ephesians – Week 4

in our lives. The question is what grieves Him? Vs 31 tells us what grieves Him and Vs 32 tells us what we should live like.

Friday: Ephesians 5: 1-17

We are continuing on seeing the results of our standing in Christ.

(Vs 1-8) This is about the walk of a child of God. The warning is about sin. How terrible is sin? (Vs 5-6) So this is the reason for vs. 3-4. Why would we talk about sin, joke about sin or fool around with sin? We are admonished in Vs 7-8!

(Vs 9-17) These verse are a continuation on from Vs 1-8, but the key verse is Vs 17.

What could the will of God be? The answer is found in the “theology of our salvation” Why did God save us? He chose us before the foundation of the world for His purpose and His glory! He did not devise redemptions plan to get us to heaven and have us waiting around till then. He has a purpose and a plan. Could sin be part of it? God forbid! We are dead to sin so that we could be joined unto Christ!

You are not an accident; you are part of God’s plan. We are to walk as His children!

Saturday/Sunday: Ephesians 5:18

For space we will see only one verse. This verse references control, who is controlling us? We should be under the control of the Spirit. Only then can God bring His character into our lives.

Are you listening to the “still small voice” of the Spirit through the Word? Are you resisting the Spirit of God today? God’s life can only be manifest in us when we yield to the Spirit’s influence in our lives.

Monday: (Ephesians 4:1-3)

I am fascinated with the book of Ephesians for the scope of its teaching. For instance; It begins with the high purpose of God before the foundation of the world and moves to the nitty gritty everyday life we live. In a way the whole Christian life is explained.

(Vs 1) Notice the word “therefore” this is there for a reason. It implies the previously mentioned things will bring about the following statements. This is the transitional verse in Ephesians; it shifts from our standing in Christ to the outworking of our new life.

I am absolutely convinced the more we study our position in Christ, the more we will have a desire to live up to our standing. (*See Philemon 1:6*) Paul just spent 3 chapters dealing with the theology of our salvation, and then he begins to tell us what the knowledge of this should do for us.

Let me give you an example; my wife began piano lessons a year ago. At first I thought she would learn a song a week and awaited this great development. I was disappointed, she just learned “Fundamentals of Music!” However, now, she can pick up a book and play a song with little concern. Beneath the act of playing a song are some understandings that she learned.

As a Christian you need to know the “Theology” beneath what we do and the rest will care for itself. In my opinion we have made Christianity too “ready made.” Preachers deliver a package, people take it, but they do not learn the underlying doctrines such as, Atonement, Election, Adoption and others. All of these lend me great strength in tough times that no human could give me. In LBC I desire every person to be able to grasp Bible doctrine and its gift to our lives.

Purpose to be faithful to church, SS and Bible study to this end.

Tuesday: (Ephesians 4:4-11)

(Vs 4-6) These verses are intended to show the singularity of God. The faith Paul was preaching to these Gentiles was not a separate faith, baptism etc, but a single body.

(Vs 7-11) These verses introduce “gifts” to the Ephesians. “Gifts” are supernatural enablements given to EVERY Christian to be used in ministering to the body (the church)

Gifts are not a spooky thing but the workings of God through us as a teacher, pastor, gift of mercy, etc. *(The bible speaks more of gifts here: Romans 12:5-8, 1 Cor 12)*

If you are saved God has gifted you to serve in His church. The tragedy today is that many people are saved but are not exercising their gifts in a church.

How is God working through you? Read these passages on gifts and ask God to show you why He saved you for his purpose.

Wednesday: (Ephesians 4:11-16)

God has placed leaders in the church to accomplish specific things for Him.

(Vs 12-13) This verse teaches that a pastor’s ministry is to “perfect(equip) the saints” so they can “do the work of the ministry” so the body can be edified.

My job as pastor is to help you to be equipped so you can serve the Lord in your calling. This is what I am doing right now, I am writing this devotion so you can serve the Lord better.

(Vs 14-15) Pastors (and those listed in Vs 11) have the job of grounding you in the faith so you don’t get “blown about” We are to speak the truth in love, even if its unpopular.

(Vs 16) God puts the church “fitly joined together” so it can edify itself through the gifts He places within.

This is the description of a “local church” where people joined and served and had a very real part in the health of the church.

Let’s stop here and think about what we have seen. We saw the purpose of God in salvation before the world began, we saw His great power towards us and the est. of a body called the church and this is where God works through people to edify one another.

With this in mind, do you see how wrong it is to minimize the “local church” and promote “para-church organizations” Do you see how listening to a radio preacher cannot be church? There are good stations and good organizations, but Christ’s bride is His local New Testament Church where people join unto, have a place of service and minister according to their calling.

The downplaying of the church is an attack against the truth that God has delivered to His church. If you are saved you need to be a member of a church not because of what you can get, but what you were saved to give.

Thursday: Ephesians 4:17-32

(Vs 17-22) Salvation is supposed to bring a change. The Ephesians were saved out great wickedness, they were not to follow the world for their example (Vs 17) but someone else. Who should be our example (Vs 20)

(Vs 23) The Bible says much about our mind and thoughts. The way we think affects our actions; at salvation God wants to begin a “mind renewal” We should read the Bible and try to memorize the Bible to this end.

(Vs 24-29) There is a new man and a old man after we get saved. This is the battle we are in. I believe the way to get the new man thriving is to obey vs 23.

(Vs 30-32) The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us at salvation. We are warned against grieving Him and thereby stopping His workings