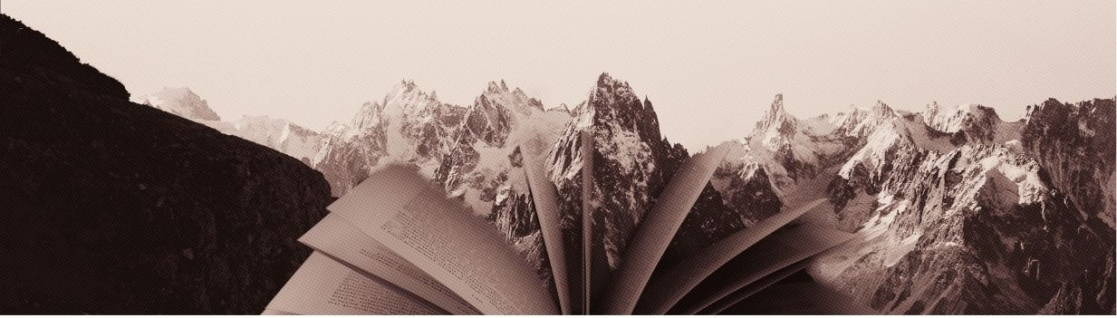


THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Daily Devotions

Get the most out of the
book of Ephesians by
spending regular time
reading and pondering
the word of God



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 29

Read: **Ephesians 5:1-5**

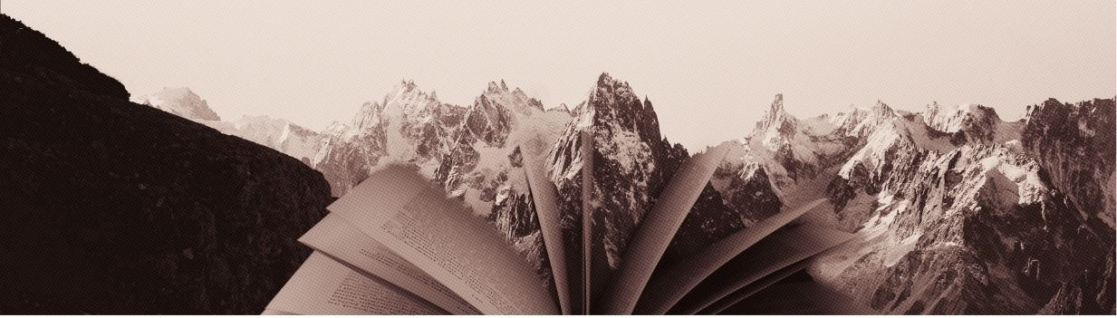
Therefore – holding to truth and letting go of our old self – our most defining marker of being like Christ is to live in love. Christ loved us by giving Himself for us.

While He was on earth, Jesus told the disciples to “love one another as I have loved you”, and Paul makes the same point. He has established God’s great love for US, His great power at work in US, and our role as those called into service. Paul wants to make sure we don’t disdain our great privilege.

There should be love instead of immorality, impurity, and greed.

There should be thanksgiving instead of vulgarity, foolish talk, and off jokes.

Because we are those who belong to the kingdom.



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Day 30

Read: **Ephesians 5:6-14**

Paul continues to expound on what we, as followers of Jesus, should have as fruit of our lives. This time he uses “light” and “dark” to compare and contrast. Like saying “now live worthily of your calling”, he is saying: you now belong to the light – act like it! Act with goodness, righteousness, and truth; these would encompass all the behaviours he has urged them to live with.

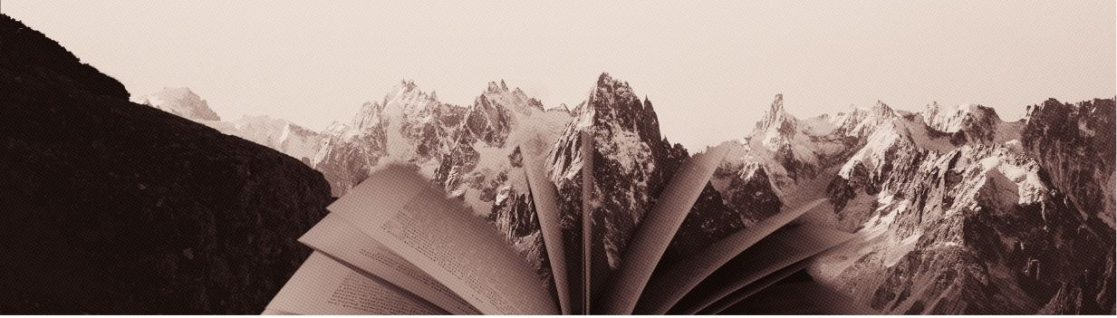
If we were to pour what we were about to do, say, or think, through a filter of “is this good? Is this righteous? Is this true?”, that would help us! It may make us very quiet and very still though...

There is something powerful that happens when something that has been buried, hidden, shamefully squired away is brought out into the light. You see the weight of the world drop off a person. Yes, there is stuff to deal with, but it is as though years are added back to their face...



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Confession is life giving.
The idea here is of living in light and freedom!



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Day 31

Read: **Ephesians 5:15-21**

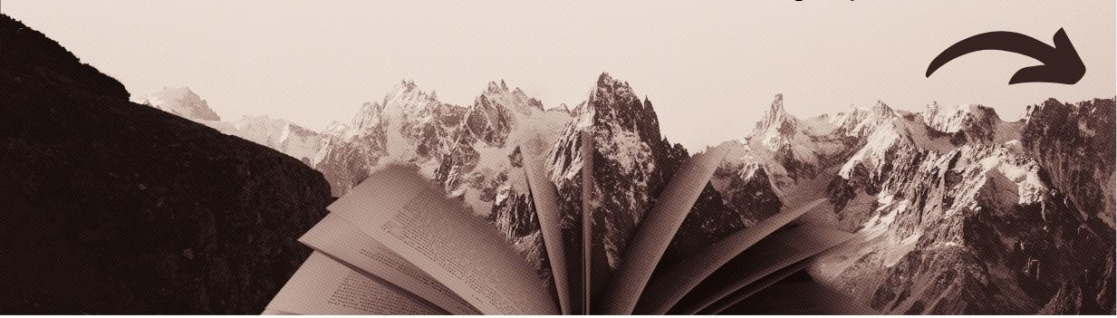
This is the last of Paul's broad exhortations for right living before he moves into situational instructions.

He says that getting drunk leads to mistakes and consequences (and everybody said...amen). That's just true. Can't get around it. So, Paul plainly says, if you were wondering, Don't. Get. Drunk.

BUT be filled with the Spirit instead, and this results of outpourings of expressions of thanks to God, through speaking, singing, and making music.

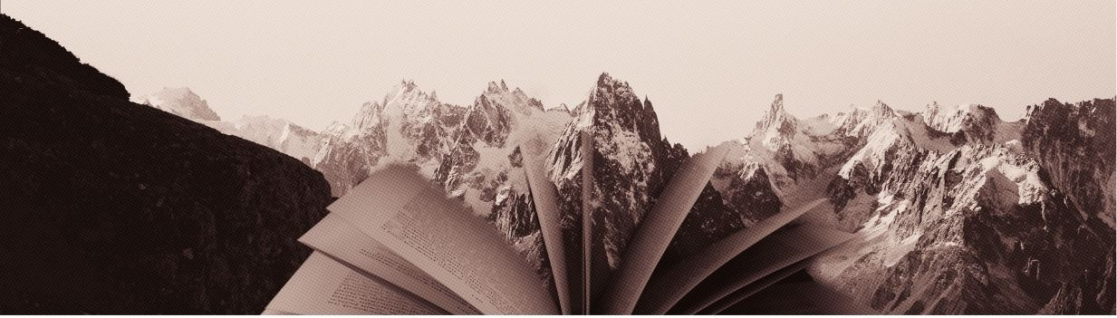
I was having my quiet time the other day, loving being in the Word, loving praying, and in thinking about how I could express thanks to God that day, singing came to mind. We had been on holidays, so we'd only been in one service for each of the 3 Sundays, and for 2 of those, we'd arrived a little late (true confessions time).

I hadn't sung to God outside of those 6 songs in 3 weeks, and I could feel that in my spirit.



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I got in the car, asked Siri to shuffle Maverick City Music, and skipped until the song wasn't about me but about our great God. My mind wandered, and I brought it back by singing out loud, just me, Chandler Moore, and Naomi Raine, singing "Jireh! You are enough!" My spirit clicked into a better gear, thinking more on the heavenly plane, and the words Paul writes here were proved to be right.



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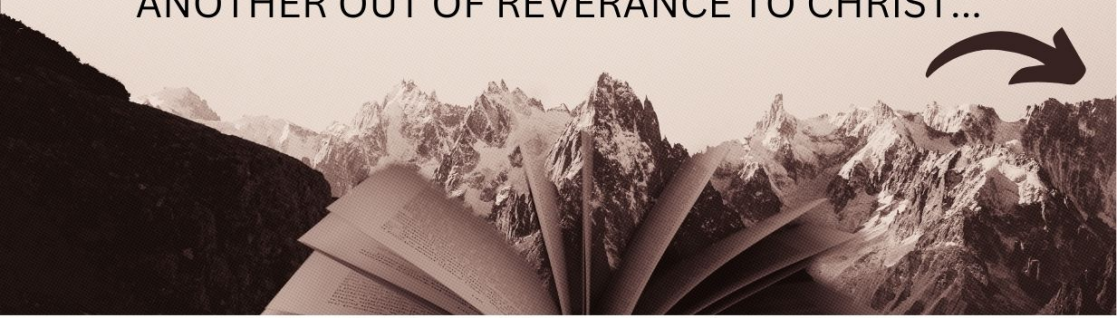
Day 32

Read: **Ephesians 5:21-6:9**

If you've been to Christian weddings, at some point you've heard this passage, either referenced, preached, or prayed through. Paul is getting down to the nitty gritty of Christian living, having established our privilege and promise. What now, does this look like, in our household?

You can tell a lot by instruction that is given. If you hear me say "get away from the fire!" you know that someone near me is about to be in danger from a fire. You can look at the time spent on a subject and the matter of the subject and conclude what the issues were at the time.

This passage has prompted controversy, so what I would like us to do as we read this passage is find the instruction given to **you** – not to anyone else. The first part is addressed to all of us. **SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERANCE TO CHRIST...**



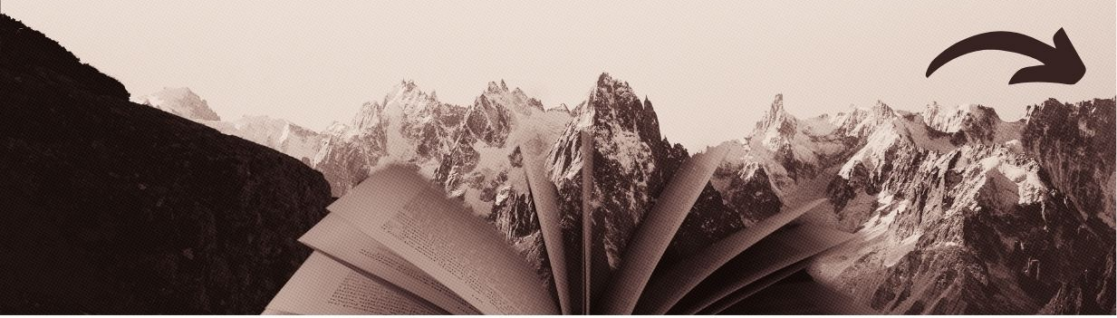
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Now, Paul unpacks what that looks like for each of us. What is he asking you to do? Would Paul need to spend more or less time on his instruction to you today?

What do you conclude about what the presenting issues for slaves, masters, children, fathers, husbands, and wives, from the subject matter, and from the length of the instruction?

Are there things there that were more of a given than others?

Note: This passage was revolutionary by asking for consideration of those at the bottom of the cultural power structures: women, children, and slaves. This was truly looking after the “little ones” that Jesus asked His disciples to treat with honour...

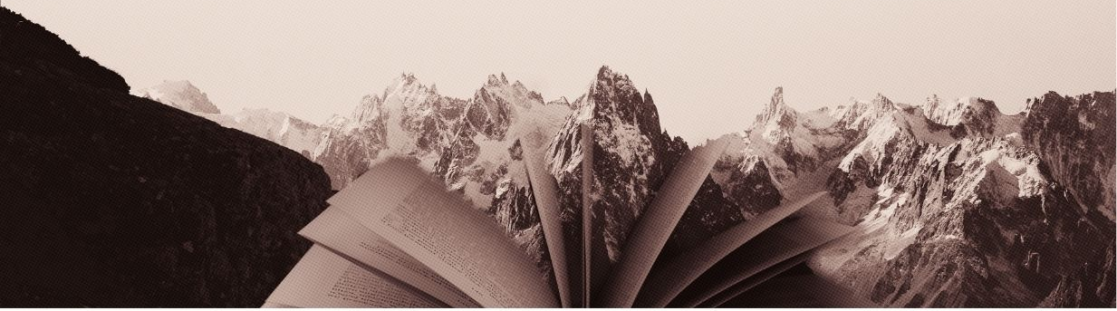


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Secondly, this passage is not condoning slavery, but as God did all through the word of God, He is condescending to their level and bringing them in a next step of understanding of who He is. Historians say that slavery then was a way out of complete ruin, rather than the “in chains” picture we see when we think of slavery. Either way, we thank God for the trajectory of history toward abolition and need to continue to pray against the current human trafficking and slavery industry.

This passage follows the instruction to be filled with the Spirit, so obviously we need His help in carrying it out.

Pray: Holy Spirit, what is my one next step in obedience to You as it relates to the instructions given to me?



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Day 33

Read: **Ephesians 6:10-24**

As with many of these passages, this really deserves its own spiritual growth campaign. Consider doing a YouVersion plan on the armour of God with others. On our final day, let's look at some observations on this passage.

1. We are strengthened IN THE LORD and in HIS power. "In Christ" is always important, and all the more so for the reasons expressed here. His power, His armour – if we attempt this battleground of life in our own strength, we are doomed.

2. We have an enemy, but it is not each other, the church down the road, your boss, or your mother-in-law. Our enemy seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, and he has an army waging war against us. He is a crafty beggar...



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3. It is incumbent upon us to fasten, put on, fit, take up...our weapons are provided, but it is up to us whether we arm ourselves with them.

4. Once we have our armour, we stand firm. Our defensive weapons will protect us from attack – standing is our strategy.

5. Our offensive weapon, the gladius of the Spirit, a short (60 cm) sword, is the Word of God, and connected with what follows, we do what Jesus did when the enemy came at Him: we speak the Word of God back to him. We pray the Word of God over each other as we take our place in the shield wall, and together IN CHRIST we push back the darkness.

Whether a worship song with strong biblical lyrics, or a bible passage, declare out into the atmosphere the Word of God, and know that as you do, you are pushing back the darkness...



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PEACE TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND LOVE
WITH FAITH FROM GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST. GRACE BE WITH ALL THOSE WHO LOVE
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH AN UNDYING LOVE.

Peace out brothers and sisters.

Book of Ephesians, that's a wrap.

