

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH
“CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL”
MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 2021

KEY TEXT: Colossians 3:11

INTRODUCTION:

-compare 1 Thessalonians 5:14-28; 2 Peter 1:12-15: both Paul and Peter were concerned for the churches, so that they would not f_____ the important truths about Jesus

I/ ALL THINGS IN CHRIST: Colossians 1:12-20 (compare Ephesians 1:3-14)

1. The Person of Christ: What We Learn Of Him

- *His relation to the Father:* God’s “wonderful works” of Creator and Redeemer (Psalms 66; 77-78; 104-105; 147-149); God’s dear S____ (1:13); the i_____ of God (1:15); all f_____ of God is in Him (1:19; 2:9)
- *His relation to Creation:* as the “firstborn of creation” He is its rightful r_____ (Psalm 89:26-29); all things made b_____ Him for sure, but also f_____ Him
- *His relation to the Church:* 1:18: h_____ of the body, the firstborn from the dead

2. The Provision in Christ: What Comes From Him

- redemption: d_____ (1:13: from the dominion of darkness) and f_____ (1:14)
- reconciliation: 1:20: p_____ through the blood of His cross (see Ephesians 1:9-11; 2:11-22)

3. The Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 3:11: “Christ is all and in all”

- a) In Our Worship: the One in whom all t_____ of wisdom and knowledge are to be found (Colossians 2:1-3); our understanding must be a_____ to Christ, Colossians 2:1-4, 8
- b) In Our Walk: why call Him Lord, if we don’t do what He says? Colossians 3:1-17
 - a Christian is r_____ with Christ, and sets affections on things a_____, and *therefore:* 3:5-11, be h_____; 3:12-17, be bound together by l_____: in short, walk w_____ of the Lord (1:9-10)

II/ ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST: Philippians 4:12-13

1. The Christian’s Challenges

- abounding: it *should* lead to g_____
- abased: it *could* lead to b_____ – but it should not!

2. The Christian’s Contentment

- how is it learned? T_____ is often used wisely by God to sharpen our faith so that we learn that Christ s_____ us (Philippians 4:19)
- how is it lived? Paul lived it out by fulfilling his c_____ to glorify Christ

III/ ALL THINGS FOR CHRIST: Philippians 1:12-24

1. Satisfied with Christ and His Will

-Paul is in p_____! But with g_____, he r_____ that Christ is p_____

2. Serving the People of Christ

-willing to provide what is n_____: Timothy (2:19-24) follows the p_____ of Christ

3. Standing Firm to the End

-2 Timothy speaks of his finishing the r_____: but until then, he presses on to k_____ the Lord (3:12-14)
-we must w_____ on the Lord; s_____ the Scriptures humbly; and s_____ the church for Christ

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH
EPHESIANS: GATHERING EVERYTHING IN CHRIST
5. THE GUARDED FORTRESS: GOD AND THE WORD OF HIS GRACE
EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 2021

KEY TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:10-24; ACTS 20:32

INTRODUCTION:

“I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32)

I/ THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ARMOUR: Ephesians 6:10-13; Isaiah 59:

1. The Evil Day We Face: Isaiah 59 and the nature of sin; compare 2 Corinthians 2:11
 - divisiveness: 2 Corinthians 2 dealing with lack of forgiveness; compare 1 Corinthians 1-4 calling for unity
 - discouragement: Hebrews 3:12-13: Christians are to be actively engaged in encouraging one another
 - dullness: 1 Peter 5:8: because the devil seeks to devour, be sober and vigilant; see also 2 Timothy 2:22-26
2. The Effective Armour We Wear: Isaiah 59 and the weapons God has
 - if we see our need of great resources, then we can rejoice in the great provisions of the armour: Isaiah 59:15b-17
 - note Isaiah 59:1-15a describes an unjust, deceitful, violent society without hope: compare Romans 3:10-18
 - sin separates from God: in judgment, we are abandoned – justly!
 - except that does not account for the grace of God! Isaiah 59:15b everything changes! God steps in to redeem the lost, justifying sinners and affirming His covenant of the Word and His Spirit!

II/ THE INSTALLATION OF THE ARMOUR: Ephesians 6:14-17

1. Truth and Righteousness: 6:14
 - i) truth: 1:13, 17: “word of truth” saved; prayer for understanding; 4:15-16 spoken in love; 4:20-24: “truth as it is in Jesus”
 - ii) righteousness: 4:22-24, taught that you are made new in God’s image – righteousness and true holiness; see 4:25-5:17-if we know that we have the truth, and we are walking worthy of our calling, our lives become a witness (5:11-14)
2. The Gospel of Peace: 6:15
 - the “gospel of peace”, prepared and ready for action on the basis of the Gospel: able to stand our ground with good shoes
 - that it is related to “peace” is important: 2:11-22 with Christ as our peace – the foundation of the church; compare Isaiah 52:7 (“beautiful feet”) and 57:14-21 – peace to those far, and to those near
3. Faith and Salvation: 6:16-17a
 - i) “faith” can be seen in three ways in this letter: *first*, “the faith” is *what* we believe (content): Eph.4:13-16; *second*, it is *the act* of believing: Eph.2:8-9; see 1:13 “trusted in Christ”; *third*, it is how we live: *faithfulness*: 4:15, 25
 - ii) salvation: “salvation” is linked to faith in 1:13 and 2:8, which is stirred up by the Gospel of Truth; as armour, it serves as that which is past (2:8, “ye are saved”), and in 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10, the helmet is the “hope of salvation”

III/ THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ARMOUR: THE WORD AND PRAYER: Ephesians 6:17b-24; Acts 20:32

1. The Spirit’s Sword, the Word of God: compare Acts 20:32; Hebrews 4:11-12
 - Paul commended the Ephesians to God “and the word of His grace”; this “gracious Word” is a mighty sword that is alive and powerful and sharp
 - so Paul also asks them to pray for him as he seeks to give utterance (6:19-20), as a faithful ambassador even in bonds
2. The Spirit’s Help in Prayer
 - pray always, for the enemy never rests; if we prayed more before we spoke, we would do more good and less damage!
 - pray with “all prayer and supplication”: all kinds of prayer (“Adoration–Confession–Thanksgiving–Supplication”)
 - pray with all perseverance and supplication: remember, we know about the wiles of the devil
 - pray for all the saints: do not be narrow; do not be self-centred: be priests of the living God, interceding widely and constantly because need abounds throughout the world
 - with that, I commend you to God, and the word of His grace, knowing that you lack nothing in Christ!