

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Ephesians 6

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing and powerful letter that the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes to the saints in Ephesus – and by extension, to you and me here this morning, about the tremendous spiritual riches we have in Christ – right now.

And we currently find ourselves in the portion of Paul's letter – where he addresses the practical portion of our walk.

That we are to walk in His wisdom

His light

His love

And in order to do this – we need to be continually filled with the Spirit

This is not something that we can do on our own or through religion or by trying to be good or apart from Christ

And the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit – is that we will be believers who are joyful, believers that are thankful and humble and submissive to one another.

And so Paul has carried this idea of submission into our relationships.

Submission is so important because it has to do with order, it has to do with harmony and unity in every relationship that we have.

So being filled with the Holy Spirit – affects every area of our lives.

Once again – being filled with the Holy Spirit will affect every area of our lives – including our relationships.

We have seen this over the last two weeks

We looked at how wives are to relate to their husband

And how husbands are to relate to their wife.

The wife has a role and the husband has a role

One of submission and one of love

We look to Jesus as the example of submission and love

This morning, Paul is going to address the family –

How children are to relate to their parents and how a spirit filled parent is to relate to their children.

Let's pray...

Read Text

There was a survey conducted back in the 90's

American parents were asked to select five valuable characteristics that "children can be encouraged to learn at home,"

What are the priorities?

Some of the top characteristics selected

Healthy lifestyle

Hard worker

Self love

Confidence

Courage

only 39% put "obedience" on the list.

If you think that's bad, by 2017 that number fell to 21%.

Among the other countries that were included in the study –

The US ranked dead last in valuing "good manners" in children

Just 28% of Americans say "not being selfish" is an important quality in children and only 32% said religious faith matters.

7 out of 10 parents don't think it matters if their kid is unselfish.

6 out 10 don't think obedience matters.

7 out of 10 don't think religious faith matters.

This is what parents think – these are their priorities

But what about God's priorities?

What is on God's priority list for children and parents?

A spirit filled believer submits to God's priorities, to His will.

Remember, a spirit filled believer begins to think like Jesus, love like Jesus and walk like Jesus – as He continues to do a work in us.

So we ask ourselves? What is the path that God has chosen for us in our roles.

And it is important to understand and grasp this because one way the enemy comes against the church is by attacking the family / by attacking the home – by going against God's perfect plan for the family.

God has set apart the family –

It (the family) is an illustration between Christ and His church – much in the same way we saw it in marriage.

So we must protect the family – because the family is the building block to society.

This is where it starts.

The world tries to bring order in society through legislation, through education, through psychology – and other methods

We need more laws

It is a money issue – throw money at it

But nothing works to answer the problem of the breakdown in the home

So Paul's solution to this antagonism, to this division in the home and in society is to be filled in the Holy Spirit

We need regeneration

And so here in our text – Paul is going to give us this balance between the parents and the children

How parents should raise the children

And how the children shall obey the parents

How Christian families are supposed to be different than non Christian families

It is all within being filled with the Holy Spirit – because Christian Fathers, mothers and children – submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We don't delegate the raising of our own children to the government or even to the church

The church isn't the primary instrument to instruct the children - It is the parents obligation to know what is best for their children

And what is best for their children is contained in the word of God

We don't have to go to the bookstore and look for books on how to raise our children – we have it right here in our hands.

Let's look at our text.

[Eph 6:1-4 NKJV] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

First thing I want us to notice –

Here in verse 1 – Paul is not speaking to the parents.

Paul is speaking to the children directly

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord”

This is a command to the children

It is not a command to mom and dad to force upon their children

Much like we saw two weeks ago – with wives, submit to your husband – it is a command to the wife – not the husband to club the wife with.

And the word children here – had you make a note of it – it means offspring.

There is no age limit

Paul doesn't say – children obey your parents until you are 18 – or you move out of the house –

He says, offspring – obey your parents in the Lord.

And this obedience addresses the actions and the attitudes of the children

The word that Paul uses here for obedience – is where we get the word acoustics.

We listen to a song, we listen to the music playing – we listen to the acoustic

We are listening under

It is the habitual listening with the intention to obey

It is not simply listening – there is every intention to obey

It is the willingly to submit under the authority of one's parents.

We live in a time and in a world where there is very little respect to parents.

But we should understand that this is an indication that we are living in very perilous and dangerous times.

Paul in his 2 letter to Timothy –

Listen to what he writes –

Timmy!

[2Ti 3:1-2 NKJV] 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2

For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Children – obey your parents in the Lord

It's not just about doing what they're told, it starts with the tilt of the heart:

Do I believe God can be trusted?

Because remember – the theme in the portion of this letter is submission.

And it is out of the conviction of submission – that is the will of God, we would submit to our parents.

Submission is the will of God

Submission is God's wisdom for our lives

And it is God's wisdom and will that we would submit

And it is because we are in the Lord – that we should submit to the Lord and submit to our parents.

[Eph 5:21 NKJV] 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

We obey, we submit, we humble ourself – in God's fear

We obey our parents because we are obeying the Lord

This is about the Lord

This is about our personal obedience before God

[Col 3:20 NKJV] 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

This is what pleases God

So not obeying your parents, not honoring your father and mother – even as an adult – you are not pleasing God

And in the scriptures – we know that to obey is better than to sacrifice.

And again – I have to stress that obedience doesn't mean blind obedience.

If a parent asks us to do something illegal or immoral – we don't do it

Because there are parents who abuse this verse.

So – obedience is one reason – but Paul gives us one more reason at the end of the verse.

For this is right

In other words - This is the right thing to do

In the order of nature – in the order of how God has ordained things – how God has designed things

He has designed it

He has desired it

That children obey their parents

God determines between what is right and what is wrong – because He is sovereign and over all things

He is the one who determines that moral law

He has written that moral law in our hearts to know the difference between right and wrong

And so He has determined that this is right – that children obey their parents.

It's not just what seems right to me, but what is right before God.

It is right that a children obeys

It is right that a children submits to his or her parents because the parent has more wisdom, more knowledge, more experience.

But by nature – we are rebellious

By nature we are selfish

Parents ask us to do something – our response is “no”

We want something – our response is “mine”

We don't have to be taught that as a young child.

By nature we are rejecting what is right

A child has to be taught what is right

Now – modern culture says, “parents, obey your children if you want peace at home”

“Parents, be friends with your children”

Give them what they want

But all of this contradicts what the word of God says

And the response from many is -

“But everyone is doing it” –

As believers – we are set apart. We are not part of the everyone

We are to stand by God's word

You see loved ones – submission for every child begins in the home

Parents are to teach them submission

If a child is not able to submit to their parents at home, they will not submit to God outside the home.

They will not submit to authority outside of the home

They are going to be reckless and proud

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Here we find the motivation behind the action

The attitude behind the action

Because in obeying our father and mother, we honor them.

Paul is quoting from Exodus here – Exodus 20:12

It is not in our nature to honor our parents

Parents have to teach their children what honor is.

Parents have to teach their children what respect means

So children are to obey their parents but also honor their parents in how they live their life.

This is a commandment of God

It is the 5th commandment in the 10 commandments

Someone might say – yes, but we are not under the law anymore.

That is correct – but the law of God reveals the righteousness of God

It reveals the holiness of God

And as we are filled with the Holy Spirit – both child and parent – He is enabling us /

He is empowering us to practice righteousness in our daily lives.

Children obey your parents

Children honor your parents

The requirement of both of these commands – is humility

And we live in time – where it is all about me

What can I get

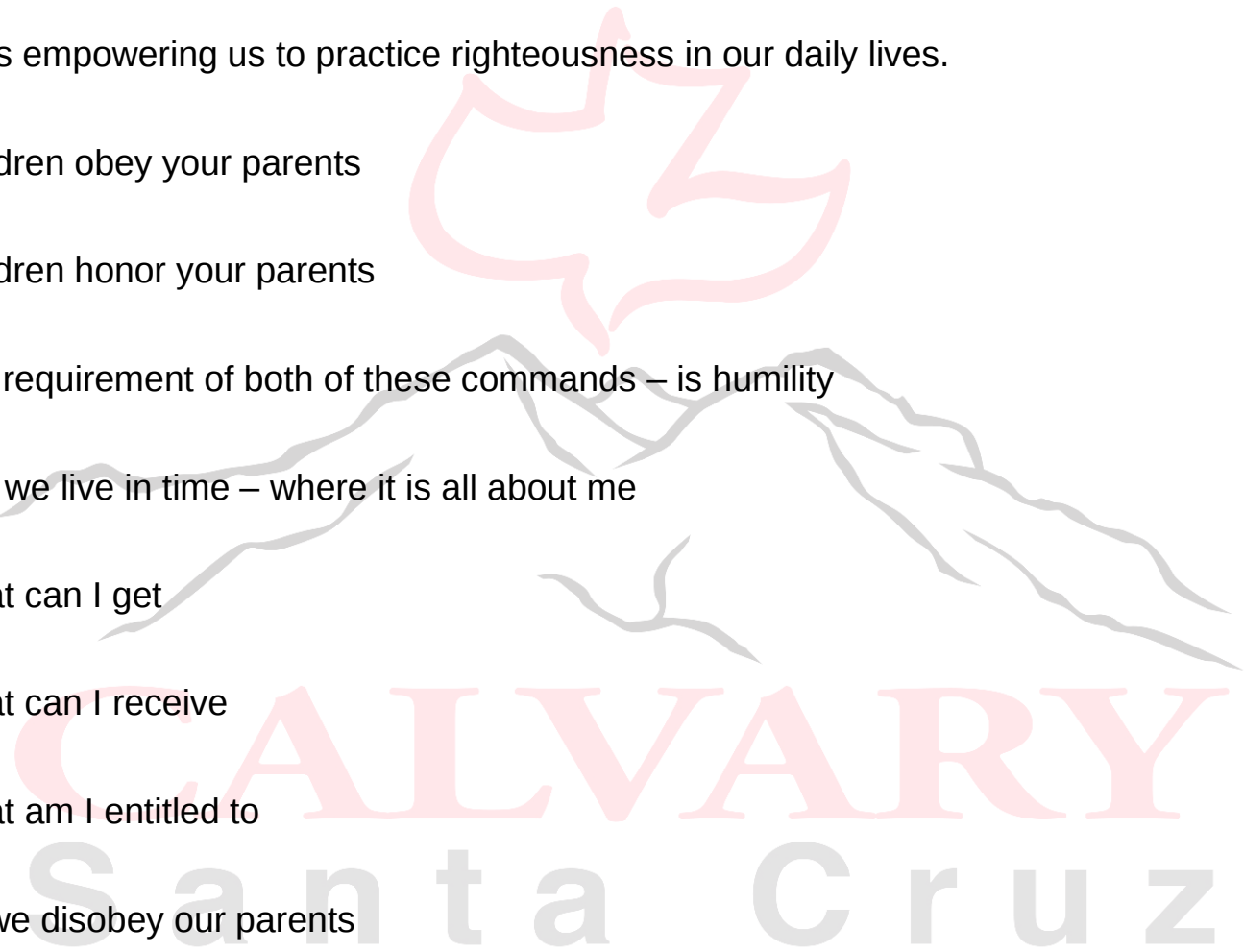
What can I receive

What am I entitled to

So we disobey our parents

We dishonor our parents

Turn with me to 1 Peter 5



[1Pe 5:5 NKJV] 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

God resists the proud

God doesn't want anything to do with the proud

But He gives grace and receives the humble

And Paul wants to make sure that we understand that obedience brings a blessing

This obedience brings blessing into the home

This obedience brings blessing into the life of a child

There is a gracious added promise / a special blessing for those who walk in obedience to their parents and honor their parents.

What is the promise –

Verse 3 describes the promise

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

The promise speaks of both the quality of life for the child but also the quantity of life for the child.

SO what Paul is saying is -

“Don’t let yourself be cut short of the blessings that God has intended for you and God wants to give you – if you obey and honor your parents.”

What happens when you obey your parents?

We tend to not find ourselves in situations that rob us – because that is what sin does.

When we don’t listen to their instruction, when we don’t listen to their council – we find ourselves in situations where we get robbed of what God has for us.

But obedience blesses us – it doesn’t rob us.

Now – we must understand that this passage doesn’t mean that every single child that obeys their parents is going to live a very long life.

Because it is possible that a child can live a very short life and be very obedient.

And it is also possible that a very disobedient child can live a very long life

A child who is submitted will be more likely in life – in his or her later years, to have a stable and fruitful life, in Christ

Than the one who has been disrespectful and disobedient because they have drifted into bad company, because they resent all type of rule and authority and they live a life of very painful regrets.

Life doesn’t have to be this hard – if we simply obeyed our parents

Think of Absalom in the bible – he didn't obey his father and what happened, he divided the kingdom

Samson – who God had given strength.

He didn't obey his father – in staying separate unto the Lord – “Dad, I really like this Phillistine woman?”

Don't do it son

And Samson did what he wanted and brought shame to the nation of Israel.

But we also see Samuel and Joseph who were obedient and God used them.

Disobedience to parents is rebellion against them and against God's word.

[Pro 30:17 NKJV] 17 The eye [that] mocks [his] father, And scorns obedience to [his] mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

This is a good bedtime story – that one would listen to their parents.

But again – this obedience is taught by the parents.

Because children are a byproduct of their parents

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

The NLT

[Eph 6:4 NLT] 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Again, in a Christian family, the husband and father has the greatest responsibility of all the members. It is his duty to lead his family as the greatest servant and to focus his attention on their spiritual provision and development.

Men, you are called to lead your wife

Men you are called to lead your children

This is the ministry in the home

Paul has been addressing the children

Now, his focus is on the fathers

Paul says – don't provoke your children

That word provoke – means don't exasperate them

Don't discourage them

Don't make them resentful

Don't make them bitter

Do not break their spirit

The purpose of discipline is to make them sorry not to make them angry

The bible tells us that godly sorrow produces repentance

So it is not about having this rigid dominating authority

So often we hear the argument –

I am going to raise my kid the old school way

I am going to raise them the way my parents raised me and the way their parents raise them.

That is not what the bible says

Remember – family is an illustration of how God treats us

And if God doesn't treat us that way then why do we treat our children that way

The father is a direct representation to their children of their Heavenly Father

So we don't misrepresent God to our kids in the home

We don't provoke them

We don't say we are going to do something and do something totally opposite –

Because God always does what He says

We don't reject them

Because God didn't reject us

That is provoking them

We don't neglect them – that is provoking them

Constant nagging and humiliation – that is provoking them

Unfairness and partiality – that is provoking them

We are to be patient and we are to be loving to them because that is how our heavenly Father treats us

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

That's the way fathers are to treat their children

We're called to gentleness toward our children. Not weakness - not just allowing kids to do whatever they want, but gentleness like Jesus is gentle.

Patience like Jesus is patient.

Gracious like Jesus is gracious.

The goal of Christian parenting is not that their kids get the finest education or the highest paying job or how to throw a football.

Those might be a part of your kid's life, but your goal is to bring your child to spiritual maturity.

Your goal is to introduce your children to the Lord Jesus, teaching them His ways and His Word, and then show them how to walk worthy on their own - teaching them to know God and love God and how to hear from God and how to follow Him.

Paul says we accomplish this goal with "training and instruction."

We are to develop their character

We are to nourish them and nurture them

And part of that nourishing and nurturing comes by confronting our children, by disciplining our children

And so many times today – parents don't confront their kids

Because they want their kids to like them – never in the scriptures do we find the command, children, like your parents.

We are to be their parent – not their friends

We are to confront them, we are to correct them and then we are to conform our love for them

That is what the bible says

That is how our heavenly Father disciplines us / corrects us

[Pro 3:11-12 NKJV] 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son [in whom] he delights.

Our Heavenly Father does that to us because He loves us

He disciplines us in love – not anger

We are to exercise self discipline when we are exercising discipline

How can we teach someone to be disciplined if our life is not under the discipline or the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

We can't

We have to be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the training to be fair and consistent

We invest in them spiritually through discipline and love

We teach them the gospel

We teach them about who God is

We teach them how to pray

We teach them to submit to one another

To serve one another

The father and mother is the primary teacher of your children

It is not the pastor of the church

The home is the first place where the children learn about God

This is where we prepare our children to accomplish God's purpose in their life through the preparation of the word of God

Amen!

Let's pray...

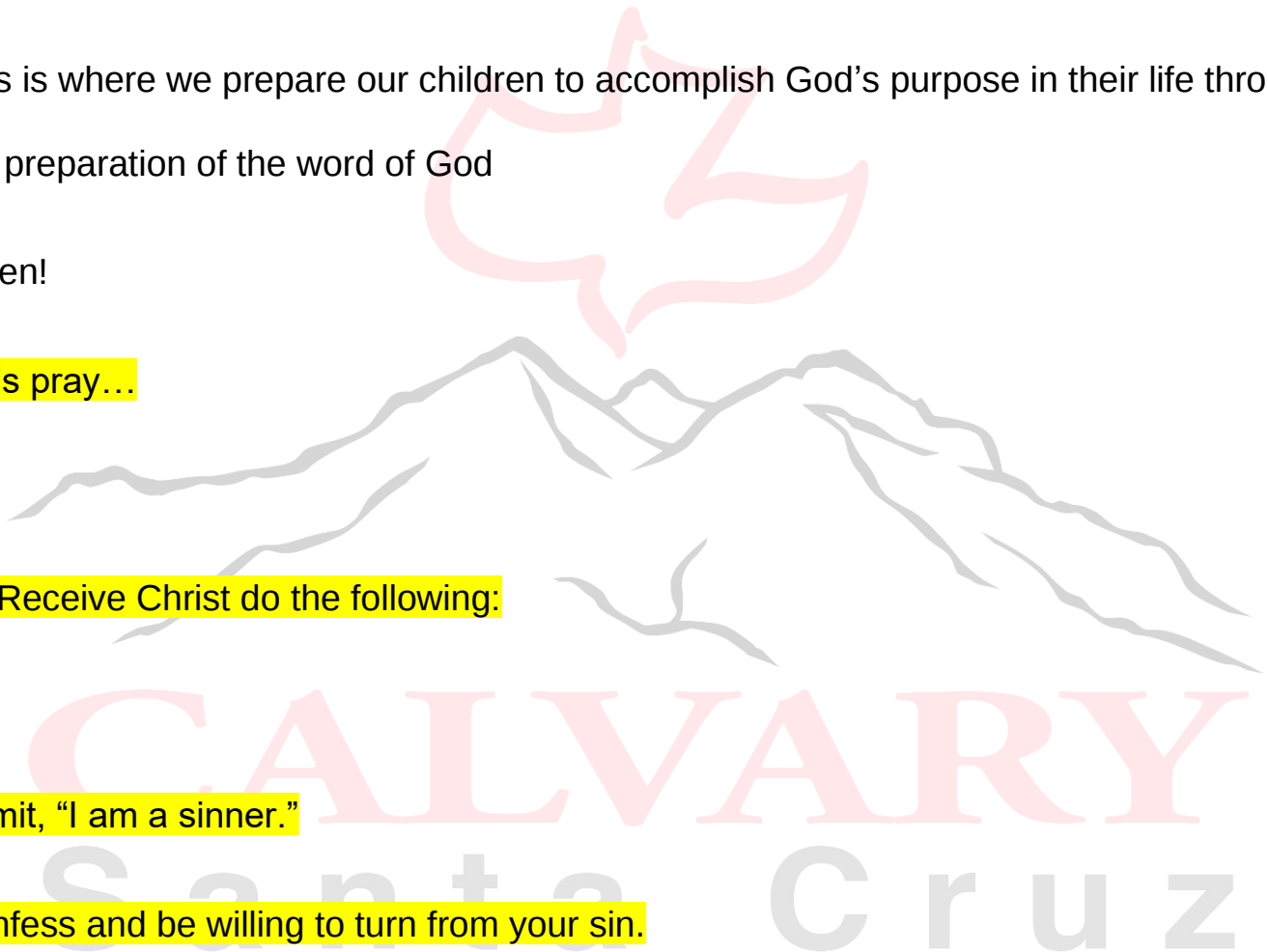
To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.



Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

As believer's we are called to have a Christ centered home – not a child centered home.

You can't have a Christ centered home – if you don't have a Christ centered father and a Christ centered mother and Christ centered children

Unity and peace in the church begins in the home.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'