



Built Up A Spiritual House

By F.T. Paterson

Since the church was established God has been revealing his plan and purpose to the church. Much of what the early church enjoyed went into decline and Joel laments that the cankerworm, caterpillar and palmerworm had devastated the land of Israel, much like the decline of authority and power that the early church experienced. It is a sad commentary on the history of the church that as she became less dependent on the Holy Spirit and more on carnal organization, there came a decline in her authority and power. The light of the Spirit at times burned very low but never completely went out, because there were those who longed for revival and sought God for the moving of His Holy Spirit. So it has been that God, in answer to the earnest prayers of his people, has at different times and places poured out his Spirit and revived the church. I believe that once again there is a heart felt cry for God to move and he is moving by his Spirit. Praise God He is restoring the years that the cankerworm, caterpillar and palmerworm have eaten and establishing in the church that which is her rightful inheritance (Joel 2:25).

Ephesians 2:19-22 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner (stone); In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." We are

temples of the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 3:16,2 Cor. 6:16, and are being built as living stones into a spiritual house for the Lord. **I Peter 2:5** "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

I do not believe the spiritual house is complete as yet, but that God is in the process of building it by his Holy Spirit. Salvation was complete on the cross. When Jesus cried "It is finished" the work of redemption was complete. It remains that we enter into the finished work of the cross.

Philippians 2:12 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

II Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

Hebrews 4:9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Hebrews 4:3 "For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world."

The foundation is laid and the building material of living stones is being gathered from the four corners of the earth. Man has tried unsuccessfully to build upon this foundation using wood, hay and stubble as his building material. There is only one type of building material that is suitable for the building that

God is building, that is, the afore - mentioned lively stones. The spiritual house will only be constructed according to the pattern laid out in scripture. He gave the gift of the five - fold ministry to the church to build according to the pattern and bring us to perfection.

Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

Ephesians 4:11-13 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

Collectively and individually we are God's habitation and members one of another.

I Corinthians 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

Since 1948, when God poured out his Spirit in a wonderful way, the promise of unity and coming together of the Body of Christ has been ever before us. The scripture is plain, **Ephesians 4:3-6** "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (There is) one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and father of all, who (is) above all, and through all, and in you all."

I do not believe that we can achieve

the unity of the Spirit by just deciding to agree. It will take a renewing of our minds by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, (which is) your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what (is) that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

There have been many attempts to put aside things that divide the church, but with little success, because the carnal mind can never bring spiritual goals to pass. The Holy Spirit will bring about his glory in the church as the fruits of the Spirit are developed in us. The spiritual fruits of love, joy, peace, etc. are necessary for this to take place and as they are developed we will see love and unity arise in the church. We must seek the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit so that as we abide in him we will bear that spiritual fruit.

John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Most of these fruits are again listed in 2 Peter 1: 5-7, Verse 8 and nine tell us that if these things are in us we will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we lack these things it is as if we were blind and unfruitful. It seems today there is much emphasis on the spectacular and less on the work of the Holy Spirit within us. In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus tells of those who tried to justify themselves by miracles and the wonderful works they had performed. Jesus answered them saying, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." When the nations stood before the son of man on his throne to be judged, (Matt. 25:31-46), they were judged on their acts of mercy and were rewarded or rejected on the basis of how they treated those less fortunate than themselves.

Matthew 25:40 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done (it) unto one of the least of these my brethren,

ye have done (it) unto me."

These things are greatly lacking in the world today and even in the church they are not always visible. The spiritual house that is being built will be a refuge for all the 'least of these' in the world.

Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, (that) the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

At first this house may seem insignificant at the present time but it is growing and will depose all the governments of man and they will become the governments of God. Daniel tells of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon concerning a dream which he had and could not remember. This is a wonderful story of how God predicted what would happen in the last days, it is found in the second chapter of Daniel. All the kingdoms of history were portrayed as a great image with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet partly of iron and clay. Of interest to us are the feet and toes of iron and clay, they stand for the governments of the last days, a mix of nations that cannot get along with each other. Surely this is the condition that we see in the world today. In the last days God is setting up a kingdom which shall bring to naught all the governments of man, a kingdom that can never be destroyed. This kingdom appeared first as a small stone cut out of a mountain which grew until it filled the whole earth. This is the spiritual house that is being built. It may seem small at first but, Praise God, it is growing. We have a tendency to look back to the glory of the early church and long for that which was, because we may feel their experience is greater than we have experienced. I believe it is time we cast our eyes beyond what has been and look ahead to what God has promised.

Haggai 2:9 "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts."

I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Joel 2:23 "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to

come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first (month)."

Zechariah 10:1 "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; (so) the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field."

Acts 2:16-20 "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:"

Surely God has poured out of his Spirit and is still pouring out of his Spirit and as we see the last days approach "Look up for your redemption draweth nigh." The church is being built up a spiritual house to manifest to the world and to principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God.

Ephesians 3:9-II "And to make all (men) see what (is) the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly (places) might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

We are being groomed to deliver creation from the bondage that now enslaves it.

Romans 8:18-23 (Phillips) "In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tip toe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited- yet it has been given hope. And that hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent

liberty which can only belong to the children of God.

It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in sort of universal travail. And it

is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realized our full sonship

in him."

The spiritual house that God is building will not only be a refuge for the nations but will bring deliverance to the whole of creation.

Is It Time?

In a vision that's recorded
Of the king of Babylon
A mighty image standing filled the scene.
It stood on feet that mingled
Of iron and of clay
The prophecy of Daniel for our day.

Without hands a stone was fashioned
Until it grew and filled the earth
Deposing all the governments of man
And the wind that was a blowing
Swept them out the door
Like the chaff
Upon the summer threshing floor.

Now I seem to see before me
The feet of iron clay
And I seem to feel a deep despairing cry,
Of the whole creation groaning
For deliverance to come
While a little stone is growing every day.

From the book of Revelation Veiled in
mystery throughout time, The veil
begins to slowly fall away And the
pinnacle of ages Counted foolishness
by man Is revealed by God A
wondrous glorious plan.

I sense an awesome struggle Between
forces I can't see And I see upheavals
now are going on But though all around
be shaken And men's hearts fail them
for fear I know God's Kingdom now is
near.

Now I have many wishes
And many self-made plans
And I often think I'm master of my fate,
But after some soul searching
I seem to think they too
Will be swept away
Along with human rule.

So let's pause for just a moment
And consider things that be,
Don't you also feel the shaking going on?
Don't you feel the crumbling?
Don't you feel the awesome cry
Of creation longing to be free.

And don't you feel another yearning
To fall upon your knees
Proclaiming Jesus Christ as King of Kings?
Returning He shall rise
The Son of God with healing in His wings.

Don't you feel another calling,
As God calls out His own,
To reign with Christ
While fitting in His plan?
And the Holy Spirit whispers
You are a living stone
To be built into a temple of the Lord.

There's not only shaking coming
And upheavals going on
Beneath the rubble, stands foundation sure,
And there is a building rising
Built from living stone
A holy habitation unto God.

The building that is rising
Will grow and fill the earth
I don't know how, I only know, that it will
be.
The stone that was rejected By the
architects of man Will soon be more
important than them all.

And Jesus said,
"When these things begin to happen,
Then look up, and lift up your heads,
For your redemption draweth nigh."

— F.T. Paterson

Knowing The Difference

By E. H. Kubassek

Eph. 5:17 "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand, what the will of God is."

How often do we stand back and accept a particular situation to be the will of God instead of resisting and overcoming an obstacle of Satan?

As babes in Christ we primarily depend on Divine interventions to protect us from what Satan schemes against us. A child because of his state in life has parents who are constantly looking out for his welfare. Meanwhile the child may be totally oblivious of lurking dangers and the great lengths to which the parents have gone in his best interest.

Now when Christ matures within us, the responsibility falls upon us to know what power is initiating any given situation. Once we are able to rightly discern who is at work, and what the Lord's intent is in allowing the scenario. We can confidently direct all our energy in being "workers together with God."

The saints of God have been nearly run ragged by the constant vicious attacks of the enemy. It is time, thus says the Lord, for the saints to take the Kingdom! Stand up as soldiers and face the enemy head on, and no longer rationalize defeat to be the will of God.

We can count on Satan attempting to have an input into most of what happens in the Spiritual realm. Therefore Jesus said, "be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." We need to have absolute trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who overcame death, hell and the grave! Let none of us be deceived into trusting our own abilities or that of another person when it comes to dealing with spiritual powers. The human spirit is no match for the deceiver of the nations. "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4.

The Kingdom of God

by: A Hinchliff

The kingdom of God is the realm of which God is the owner and ruler. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." In the six creative days God created everything to His satisfaction and saw that it was good. It was a beautiful kingdom.

Sometime in the history of the creation rebellion appeared in the kingdom of God. Lucifer, a created being, called son of the morning, attempts to establish his throne over God's. (Isa. 14:12-17 and Ezek. 28:13-19) These scriptures tell of lucifer's or satan's, as we better know him, attempts to overthrow the work of God. They also prophecy of his complete destruction. Many angels shared in satan's rebellion as witnessed in 2 Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6. Their judgment is also spoken of.

When Adam and Eve were created and put in the garden of Eden there was a wonderful relationship between them and God as they communed in the cool of the evening. God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16, 17. After Eve was created Adam must have passed this instruction on to her. Gen. 3:2,3.

Satan came and first of all tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. She gave some to Adam and he also partook. (1 Timothy 2:14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.)

Satan has established his kingdom in opposition to God's kingdom. When Adam partook of the fruit that God had forbidden him to eat, he partook of satan's rebellious nature. Every descendant of Adam has inherited that nature. The only way that nature can be overcome is to partake of the nature of Christ. We partake of that nature by believing in Him as our personal Saviour and learning to walk with Him and be led by the Holy Spirit. We must believe that His death on the cross was substitutionary on our behalf. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

As citizens of God's kingdom, it is

plain from Paul's writing in Ephesians that we are in a constant battle. Ephesians 6:10-18. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Paul also speaks of this warfare that is being waged in Romans seven. Romans 7:22 "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

When we accept Christ into our life the kingdom of God is established in our heart. Christ is the king of our life and we are a subject of His kingdom. We desire in our hearts to walk with Him and serve Him but we have the constant battle, as we pointed out, with the nature of Adam and sin. Romans 7:22 "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me

into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

God has established examples of His kingdom. A family that is established according to the order of God is an example of the kingdom of God. The man is the head of the family. His wife is given to him by God as his helper and the children are the subjects of that little kingdom. They all walk together in submission to the plan and will of God.

A local church is also an example of the working of the kingdom of God. The elders assume the role of headship and the deacons are set by God as their helpers. The people are the subjects of that little kingdom.

All these things are fashioned after that greater kingdom of which God Himself is the king eternal. Praise His Name for His matchless wisdom!

Faith Without Works Is Dead

By Peter Siemens

As I write this article, I am not belittling anything God has done, or is doing, but I want God to raise our sights to a greater relationship with God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ by abiding in the Holy Spirit.

James 2:17,18 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

Faith will be made alive by us demonstrating in our walk, what we believe. Faith in God, as a believer should will produce the fruit of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus said if you don't believe me for what I say, believe me for my works sake. Jesus, the twelve disciples, the seventy, all demonstrated what they said, with signs following. In Mark 16:17 Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe;....." This is what we need, and this is what the world needs to hear and see. When we look at what Jesus did, and what He did in His disciples and what He did through the Apostles, - we are seeing it in part, but how we need the fulness!

James 2: 19-20 - "Thou believest that there is one God, thou doest well, the demons also believe, and tremble." (We can tell how much we really believe God by how we walk. We are, and should be aware that our testimony is right before men, but if it is right before God, we would not have to worry what man thinks.) "But wilt thou know, O vain man, (he is talking to you and me, not the world) that faith without works is dead?"

Continuing in James verses 24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Verse 26 "FOR as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." This last verse really strikes home, as I have written it. We only believe according to the measure that we produce. We are to bring forth fruit.

Now I want to get into the demonstration of faith, which should be a vital part of our lives, of signs following. I will not forget the importance of what we were taught in the early part of the move, we were not to seek gifts, but the Giver of gifts. Without Christ there is

no power, but Jesus Himself said in Matthew 28 and 29 "All power in heaven and earth is given unto me. GO YE THEREFORE..." In other words He is saying the power that God the Father has given Him, is available to us, without limitations.

Jesus said in John 10:37,38 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. BUT if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the WORKS: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him." Would to God that we could make statements like this; it is available in Him.

John 14: 10 - 13. Jesus is speaking. "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the WORKS. (What Jesus was saying, was producing something that even the natural eye could see.) Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very WORKS' sake." When I read this verse I'm reminded of John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Again there is power. It is the abiding, dwelling in Him that brings forth fruit. May God help us.

Back to John 14:12,13 "Verily, verily, (without any reservation) I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the WORKS that I do shall he do also; and GREATER WORKS than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (We'll come to this part later, but He promised that He would send another Comforter) "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, THAT WILL I DO, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Mark 16:15-18 Jesus said, (It is Truth, not a doctrine) "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs (works) SHALL (not maybe) follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they SHALL speak with new tongues; They SHALL take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it SHALL NOT

hurt them; they SHALL lay hands on the sick, and they SHALL recover." And verse 20 is speaking about after the Holy Spirit was given. "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs (works) following." Fulfilling the words of Jesus, but it was not finished, Jesus said this to every believer.

Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.." Yes tongues, but more than tongues, POWER. It is because of the Holy Spirit, He has opened to us the door to this power. This is what Jesus was referring to in John 14:12 when He said, "Greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto my Father." As Jesus said it was expedient for Him to go, so He could send the Holy Spirit to be with us, and in us. The Spirit of God will always produce fruit and good works.

Because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is never limited; we are the ones who limit Him by our unbelief. Faith will produce works. May God anoint us with a greater portion of His Holy Spirit, so we can do the works of God. That is why Jesus said in Luke 24:49 "Tarry ye till ye be endued with power from on high." Power to heal the sick, to cleanse the leper, that the dumb may speak, the deaf hear, the blind to see, the lame to leap, even power to raise the dead.

God is preparing a people through whom He will be glorified. Come Lord Jesus and hasten the day.

Comments On Paul's Letter To The Colossians — Chap. 3

by A. Hinchliff

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

When Paul is talking here of rising with Christ he is talking of rising with Him from the waters of baptism. Col. 2:12 "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him, through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead." As someone who is risen with Him we are to seek the things which are above the carnal earthly plain: things that belong to the realm where Christ sits on His fathers right hand. He is talking about having our priorities right. Every day we must judge many things, and decide which things belong above, and which are from the lower carnal desire. Many of the things which are above are listed in Chap. 3; 12-17." Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Romans 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

Paul's instruction is for us to reckon ourselves dead to sin. Romans 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God

through Jesus Christ our Lord." To "reckon ourselves dead" means to, quoting from the Living bible, "look upon your old sinful nature as dead and unresponsive to sin, and instead be alive to God, and alert to Him, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

A number of earthly things are mentioned in Verse 5. The tendency of the carnal man is to be taken up with these earthly things. When Paul speaks of things on the earth he is speaking of the works of the flesh, along with all the desires of the carnal man. There are many things that some might consider earthly, such as our responsibilities to family etc. In most cases those things, when done by the wisdom of God, become Spiritual. In our day many families are provided for much beyond their need, and this over-provision does more harm than good, and would be considered earthly. How great is our need for the wisdom of God.

On the other hand there are many parents who waste what God has given them. They indulge the flesh in tobacco, and liquor. They are always trying to make the fast dollar by Bingo, and lottery tickets. Then they wonder and complain because their children go to school hungry. Seeking God's wisdom in providing for a family is setting your affection on things above.

In every aspect of our lives let us seek to do things the way God would have us do them. This is setting our affection on things above.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

In baptism we have died and have been buried, then we have risen again to a new life in Christ.

Galatians 5:24 "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Our source of Spiritual life is Christ, through the new birth. God also has in mind that through Christ, our physical

bodies will enter into life. Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

The appearing of Christ spoken of here is the appearing of Christ in His body, the church. I John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." He desires to manifest Himself in us. Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren. The manifestation of the sons of God spoken of in Romans 8 is actually the manifestation of the Son of God in His people. When He appears in us, we also will appear in His glory. Glory means, "Resplendent spiritual beauty or magnificence", and His brethren will partake of His glory.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

There are things of the earth that we must die to. We read in Rom. 8:11 that we should consider ourselves dead to sin. Here we are exhorted to put to death our members that act in a carnal, earthly way.

Fornication is sexual activity outside of marriage and should never be practised by those who belong to the Lord. Inordinate affection is affection that is practised outside of proper limits. There is a place for affection but we must keep it within proper bounds, other wise it leads to lust and sin. Evil concupiscence is illicit sexual appetite. The covetous person is an idolater. He is worshipping and desiring other peoples possessions.

Colossians 3:6 For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

The works of the flesh are listed in Gal. 5:19-21. The things mentioned here all belong in this list. We are told there that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. We are being disobedient to the leading of the Spirit if we allow our hearts, minds, and bodies to entertain these ways.

Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

The Colossians, like most of us, walked in these evil ways. Many live to entertain the works of the flesh in their lives.

Colossians 3:8,9,10. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

The instruction to us as Christians, is to do away in our lives of all things mentioned here. I am sure we all know what anger is and probably have been guilty many times. Wrath is extreme anger. Malice is the desire to inflict injury or suffering on another. Blasphemy is impious utterances concerning God. Many use God's name in vain which is a form of blasphemy. A Christian should never use bad language. Some people, probably as much out of habit as anything, can't speak one sentence without using bad language. We must be careful of the jokes we tell and be sure they do not border on the unclean.

Do not lie to one another, because the old man has been buried, and we have risen again in newness of life.

We are to put off the old man and his ways as we would put off a dirty garment. Then in a similar manner, put on the new man. This new man thinks differently than the old man, because he is being created in the image of Christ. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **"transformed by the renewing of your mind,"** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." When we become Christians our minds must be renewed. We change our thinking about almost everything. The carnal man thinks in the earthly way. The new man's thinking is transformed and he thinks and acts in ways that are above.

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian,

bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Walking in the ways of the Lord should end racial intolerance completely. In the realm of the Spirit there is no difference between different peoples. Christ is the one that we see: not the difference in the colour of one another's skin. "So stop evaluating Christians by what the world thinks about them, or by what they seem to be like on the outside. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, merely as a human being like myself. How differently I feel now. When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun." 2 Cor. 5:16, 17. Living Bible. We do not know one another after the flesh, so if someone is of another race or nationality, or a slave, or a free man, it should make no difference among Christians. Christ is all that matters and He lives in all that have come to Him.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humble-ness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Since we have been chosen by God, we are to clothe ourselves with the following spiritual attributes. To us, bowels of mercy would mean tender hearted mercy. Allow kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering to cover us as a garment. Forbear means to be patient. In another scripture we are exhorted to forbear one another in love. If there are differences among us it is important to forgive one another because Christ has forgiven us. Over all of these things put on love, because love makes a perfect bond between us. Although it is Christ within us who makes the changes, we have a measure of responsibility in allowing Him to do this work.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. In other words we must allow His peace to rule in our hearts. This is such an unpeaceful age that we live in, but we can have the peace of God within our hearts and lives. We are called to peace and with one another as members of the

body of Christ. Thankfulness should be the mark of the Christian.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Think on the things that Jesus taught and allow our lives to be moulded by them. Those things are the wisdom of God, and we must let them fill our hearts and minds. Songs are a wonderful means of edification, and we can edify one another by our song. Sing with gratitude and before the Lord.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

We must give consideration concerning the things that we do that we can do them in Jesus Name. In other words, our actions and speech should be as if He were speaking or acting. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt. Would we feel comfortable if He was present physically and watching and listening to us. The things that we do, are we able to say that it was Him who dwells within us who did them. Always let us give thanks to God in His Name for his help and grace.

Colossians 3:18,19,20 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

So far in his letter, Paul has been dealing with our personal experience and relationship with Christ. Now he turns to the family. Wives are to submit to their own husbands as is fit in the Lord. I have heard of husbands who insisted that their wives go to the pub and drink with them. That wouldn't be fit in the Lord. Fitness in this circumstance would have to comply with the teachings of Jesus.

Husbands are instructed to love their wives. Love makes it easy for the wife to submit. No sensible man would ever ask his wife to do anything that wouldn't be pleasing to God. Sometimes the actions of a wife can make a man bitter against her. A man must be very careful not to allow bitterness to creep in, because bitterness destroys love.

For a child to please God they must obey their parents. This is the best way

for them to show their love to Him. Parents are responsible to make sure that their children do obey. Disobedient children are the cause of many of the earth's problems today. Disobedience in the home leads to disobedience in the school, and disobedience in the school leads to disobedience to the law of the country.

Fathers should not make unreasonable demands of their children. Don't scold and yell at them so much that they become frustrated and discouraged in trying to please.

Colossians 3:22,23 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Now Paul turns to the workplace. He could have been speaking of either slaves or those hired to perform service to their employer. The same instruction should be heeded in our day. Employees owe their employer an honest days work for a days pay. Work should also be done in the way that the employer has instructed.

Some men will work hard when the employer is watching but as soon as he turns his back the work stops. Don't work just to be seen of men, but work to please the Lord. Do your work with all your heart, as if working for the Lord, and not men.

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ

Slaves had very little hope of a reward in this lifetime. If they worked diligently they had the hope of a reward from their Heavenly Father. We should always look at our work as something done for Christ. This attitude would help many people to be more content in their work. Always take the attitude that you are performing service for God.

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

The wrong doer will be disciplined by his employer and also judged by God, who treats every man alike. He doesn't deal with one in one way, and another in a different way. He is just in all His dealings.