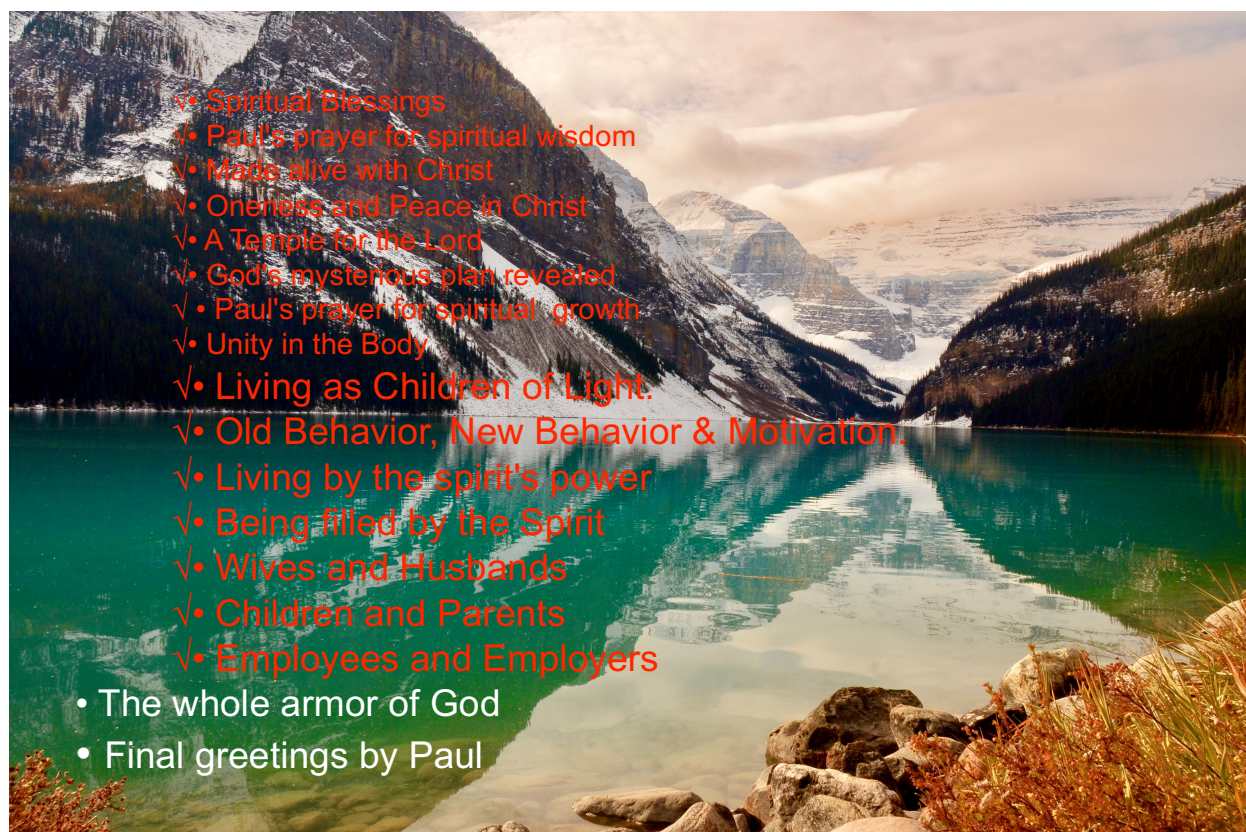




Pathway Visalia Men's Ministry:
May 6th - "The Whole Armor of God"
"EPHESIANS"

This next Pathway Men's Ministry will be May 6th at 6:30 pm. For those who were unable to attend and for anyone that is interested, we post the study on our Pathway Visalia website. I pray that you will be able to join us. It is such a blessing to share with one another. Below is an overview of the topics that we will discuss as we work our way through the book of Ephesians.



17. Put on salvation as your **helmet**, and take the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

your helmet

Jon Courson wrote: "Paul defines the helmet of salvation as the hope of the coming of the Lord. - 1 Thessalonians 5:8. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation."

I'll become greatly distressed as I see the world and culture collapsing around me unless the blessed hope of the coming of Jesus Christ is constantly on my mind. I am thoroughly convinced His coming is very close. So was C. H. Spurgeon, Martin Luther, Augustine, as well as Paul and Peter. All were great men who lived their lives anticipating and looking for the coming of Jesus Christ. Put me in their company any day! The great saints of history all lived in the anticipation that Jesus would come shortly. I will live, until the day I die, looking for and believing in the hope, the blessed hope of Jesus appearing and calling me home. That's the helmet of my salvation".

QUESTION: So, we are told to; "put on salvation" - how do we repeatedly put it on since salvation is a once in a lifetime event?

QUESTION: How would you rate your faith meter tonight?

QUESTION: What can you do to increase your faith?

QUESTION: Does your knowledge of the fact that you are saved (or your confidence of your salvation) help you in wanting to minister to others? How?

The sword: God's Word

The sword that is referred to here is not big battle sword, but a small dagger used for hand to hand combat, we could even refer to the sword as a scalpel to surgically use God's Word in our words as we minister to others.

QUESTION: Share how you have seen the Holy Spirit give you the right words at the right time as you shared with others.

QUESTION: How do you personally incorporate the Word of God in your life?

QUESTION: How have you seen your personal spiritual growth increase because of studying and meditating on God's Word?

Susie and I are at Stanford regularly and one of the clinics that I go to has "CyberKnife" services for people who are seeking treatments for cancer. This treatment is a precise dose of radiation which makes me think of Hebrews 4:12. For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

QUESTION: Understanding what we just read, What can we do to be more effective in our ministering to others?

QUESTION: "The word of God is alive" - Share how you have experience the truth of this verse in your reading and applying God's Word in your life.

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT:

18. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. 19. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

QUESTION: "Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers" - What do you struggle with when it comes to staying alert and being persistent?

QUESTION: Paul is instructing us; "to pray for all believers everywhere" - What are some examples that you can share where you do this?

QUESTION: Paul asked the Ephesian believers to pray for him - "that God would give him the right words" - Share a time when you prayed for the right words and how the Lord answered that prayer.

QUESTION: "Pray in the Spirit" - How would you explain what it means to; "pray in the Spirit"

20. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

QUESTION: Paul wrote that; "I am in chains now, still preaching this message" - We are not in physical chains, but are there some spiritual chains that you recognize hamper you in preaching the Gospel to others?

QUESTION: What can we do to; "keep on speaking boldly for him, as we should"?

QUESTION: Share an example of how "Prayer" helped you to keep on speaking boldly about your relationship with Christ?

FINAL GREETING FROM PAUL

Ephesians 6:21-24

21. To bring you up to date, Tychicus will give you a full report about what I am doing and how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper in the Lord's work. 22. I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you.

QUESTION: "To bring you up to date," - We live in a time where communication is almost instantaneous. What are some pitfalls that come with unthoughtful communication?

QUESTION: Share a time where you were encouraged by receiving; "full report about what a person was doing and how they were getting along".

QUESTION: What are some examples of people being sent to encourage others with the Good News?

QUESTION: What was your role in that process?

23. Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. 24. May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: "May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness"; Paul links "Love" and "Faithfulness" - What is the connection between those 2 words and actions?

QUESTION: "May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ." - GOD'S GRACE - is eternal for believers, but this should be a call to action for all believers to be ministering to a unbelieving world that we live in.