

The Epistle of Paul to the

EPHESIANS

The Faith Translation

*An expanded translation that expounds upon
“The Faith” of Christ in all the scriptures*

Ephesians 1

Chapter 1

1 Paul, an apostle (*and messenger of the gospel*) of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to all those set apart for His life that are in Ephesus, and to ones who are persuaded by the faith of Christ Jesus:

2 (*His*) grace and (*the*) peace (*it gives*) to you from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ (*be with you all*).

3 Spoken well of and highly celebrated with the most eloquent of speech is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed upon us (*His children*) the same blessing, in the word He spoke about us in Christ Jesus who is seated (*an immortal man in the glory and honor of the Father*) at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

4 Exactly as He has chosen us (*to be*) in Him before (*death entered at*) the foundation of the world, so that we would be set apart (*for His life*) and (*stand*) without accusation before Him in love:

5 Having determined (*from the beginning*) that we (*as His children*) should have His (*same*) life, has He now declared us as His rightful children and

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sons through (*the resurrection of the man*) Jesus Christ (*redeeming us back*) to Himself (*and His original purpose for us*), and according to the good pleasure (*and satisfaction*) of His will,

6 To the (*only life that He determined was*) praiseworthy (*and fitting for His children*) of His good view (*and opinion which He declared*) in His grace (*toward them in raising Jesus Christ to His life and immortality*), wherein He has also (*loved us and*) freely given us the same life (*preserving our lives incorruptible inside of the*) Beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption (*from death*) through His blood (*that ran out, releasing us from death's bondage*), the sending away of (*its sting*) our trespasses (*wherein we formerly labored in vain*), showing forth the riches of His (*kindness and mercy*) towards us through Jesus Christ;

8 Wherein He has lavished upon us (*His love and has given us*) all wisdom and understanding;

9 Having made known (*by openly unveiling*) to us the mystery of His will (*towards us all*), according to His good pleasure which He has

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purposed in Himself (*from the before the world began*):

10 And (*having purposed it*) does He (*also*) oversee it (*to completion, so that*) in the fullness of time, He might gather together all things as one in Christ, (*so that*) both that which is in heaven and on the earth would be joined as one (*incorruptible*) in Him.

11 In (*Him*) whom also we have obtained an (*eternal*) inheritance (*of His life and immortality*), which (*life*) He predetermined (*for us His children from the beginning*) according to the purpose of the One (*God and Father*) who works all things after the (*plan and*) counsel of His own will:

12 So that we should be (*One with His life*), the (*only life which He*) approved (*and saw fitting*) for (*His children*) of His glory, (*in us*) who first hoped (*looking for the life that*) Christ (*would bring*).

13 In whom (*also*) you (*have*) trusted (*and hoped*), after that you heard the word of truth (*for all people*), the gospel of your salvation (*from death and corruption*): in whom after you believed has He set the seal (*of His sonship*)

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upon you (*marking you*) with that Holy Spirit (*by which He has*) promised (*us His life*),

14 Which (*Spirit*) is the guarantee of the inheritance (*of Christ*) until the redemption of our (*corruptible*) bodies (*immortal*) unto the (*only life which He*) approved (*and saw fitting*) for (*His children*) of His glory.

15 Because of this have I also after hearing of the faith that you have among you in the Lord Jesus and the love you have for all those who are sharing (*with you*) in His life,

16 Have not ceased to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God (*and Father*) of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation (*that is contained within*) the knowledge of Him:

18 (*So that*) the eyes of your understanding would be illuminated (*to see clearly*); so that you may (*intimately*) know (*Him*) and the (*sure*) hope (*of the life He has promised in Christ*) that He has (*desired*), invited (*and prepared*) for you (*from the beginning*), and what are the riches that come

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from His glory (*which is*) His inheritance in all those who desire to share in His life,

19 And (*that you may know*) what is the surpassing greatness of His strength (*and ability*) in us who are persuaded (*trusting that He will bring forth His life in us*), by the (*same*) operation of His mighty power,

20 Which He has openly demonstrated in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead (*a man in immortal flesh and bone never to die again*), and set Him at His own right hand in heavenly places,

21 (*A place*) far above all wisdom, (*knowledge*) and power, and strength, and authority, and every name that can be named, not only in this world, but also in the world which is to come:

22 And has put all things under His feet, and has given (Himself) in Jesus Christ (*the beginning of the creation of God, the first born from the dead*) to be the head over all wisdom to the church,

23 Which is His body, (*wherein all*) the fullness (*dwells*) from the One who fills all in all.

Chapter 2

1 And you (*has He restored to life*) who were dead from the offense (*that left you dead and*) laboring in the weakness of your corruptible flesh (*by the sweat of your brow*) to establish your own life (*which always fell short of the mark of eternal life that could bring immortality to your flesh which God desired to give you as a gift*).

2 And in (*this offense*) did you walk (*out of the way*) in times past according to the spirit contained in the world, by the deadly principles of (*the serpent*) the ruling influence of the world by which corruption entered therein, the spirit (*that is opposed to Christ*) which (*even*) now works in the (*hearts of the*) children who refuse to be persuaded (*by the faith of Jesus Christ*).

3 Among whom in times past we also were all children conducting our lives in the same manner in the lust (*to bring forth life through the strength contained*) in our flesh, laboring in all the things our flesh desired (*and thought would bring life and peace*) from every imagination of the carnal mind; and which were by origin the very things (*that bring death*) which God has sworn in His passion (*for us*) to destroy, which

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things were fathering our lives, (*as children who were walking out of the way*) even as others.

4 But God, who is rich (*and abundant*) in mercy (*and everlasting kindness toward us*), and because of His great love by which He loved us (*desiring to preserve our lives forever with Him*),

5 (*So that*) even when we were dead and in bondage, laboring in vain to preserve our lives in (*the weakness of*) our corruptible flesh, has He made us alive together with Christ, (by His grace and strength [*and not our own*] you are saved [*from death*]);

6 And He has raised us up together and seated us together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 In order that in the ages to come He might show us the exceeding riches of His grace (*the blessing and life*) which He has bestowed upon us (*surpassing all that we could ask, think or imagine*) in His (*everlasting*) kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 Because by (*His*) grace (*and strength*) are you saved (*from death*) through (*being persuaded of the*) faith (*that was made flesh in Jesus Christ*

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which is full of power to animate you with His life); and it is not (*something you can bring forth*) in yourself, but it is the gift of God:

9 Not as a result of (*my own*) works, lest any man should boast (*in his ability and not God's*).

10 Because we are His workmanship, which He created (*through the Spirit of faith to form us in the image*) of Christ Jesus (*and established*) upon (*the*) good works (*that He has done*), which (*works*) He has before ordained (*from the beginning, before death entered*) that we should walk in His good works (*and the fruit of His life*).

11 Therefore remember that in times past you who are Gentiles according to the flesh were called uncircumcised (*and unclean*) by those who were circumcised in their (*corruptible*) flesh by (*man's*) hands;

12 And at that time you were without Christ, and aliens with no citizenship in Israel, and estranged (*without knowledge or share in*) the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God (*believing you were orphans*) in the world:

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13 But now in Christ Jesus you who at one time were far off are made near by the blood (*that ran out*) of Christ.

14 Because He Himself is the (*one that brought*) unity (*and has made peace between Jew and Gentile in conquering the death that reigned over them*), whereby He made both (*those who were near and those who were far*) one (*new man*), and has broken down the middle wall of separation that was between us contained in the (*confidence of corruptible*) flesh;

15 Having abolished (*the body of death*) in His flesh, (*which death brought*) the hostility (*of our carnal minds toward God's way unto life*), (*and whereby He destroyed*) even (*that which was working death in*) the law of commandments (*through the carnal mind thinking that life was*) contained in (*the keeping of*) ordinances; so that He could in Himself make from the two (*who were both perishing in death*) one new man (*in immortal flesh and bone*), so making peace (*and unity*);

16 So that He might join us both back together unto Himself in (*the unity of*) one body (*flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone*) through the

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cross, having destroyed death (*in the flesh*), and the hostility thereby:

17 And (*now has He*) come preaching that peace (*found in the unity of the faith*) to both you who were far off and to them that were near.

18 Because through Him (*this one new man*) do we both have access by one (*and the same*) Spirit (*which raised Him from the dead*) and has joined us both in the union (*of one body*) to the Father.

19 Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with those sharing in His life and you are from the household of God (*His workmanship*);

20 And built upon the (*one and only*) foundation of (*which*) the apostles and prophets (*spoke*), Jesus Christ Himself who is the chief corner stone (*and the head of all wisdom to the body*);

21 In (*Christ*) whom the entire body (*the church dwells*) perfectly joined together (*in Him*) into an ever-increasing temple (*not made with man's hands*) the place which He set apart for you (*to dwell*) in the Lord:

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22 In whom you also are built together (*and set apart*) for a dwelling of God through the Spirit.

Chapter 3

1 For this reason I Paul, the prisoner (*held captive and compelled by the love*) of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If you have indeed been listening (*carefully to the unfolding mystery and*) to the stewardship of the grace of God which has been entrusted to me to give to you:

3 How that by revelation (*of Jesus Christ*) He made known to me the mystery (*that was from before the world began*); just as I have written before in few words,

4 So that when you read them, you may understand my knowledge (*which is contained and revealed*) in the mystery of Christ.

5 Which in previous times was not made known to the sons of men, as it is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit;

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6 (*Revealing*) that the Gentiles (*along with the Jews*) should be co-inheritors, and of the same body, and partakers of His (*same*) promise in Christ through the gospel:

7 And it is of (*this gospel*) which I (*Paul*) have been made a (*servant and effective*) minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given to me (*by revelation of Jesus Christ*) through the working of His power.

8 In me, who (*according to my persecution of the church*) am less than the least of all the saints, is this (*same*) grace (*and ability*) given me, that I should declare among the Gentiles the immeasurable riches of Christ;

9 And to make it plain for all men to see (*revealing*) how God has unfolded and administered (*the fellowship*) of this mystery, which from the beginning of the world (*until now*) has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 So that now to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places (*it should be made known*) through the body (*of Christ*) the innumerable and precious intricacies of the wisdom of God,

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11 According to the eternal purpose which He purposed (*from the beginning*) in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access (*to approach Him*) with confidence (*being persuaded by*) the faith of Jesus Christ.

13 Therefore my desire is that you do not become discouraged at my affliction (*which I have suffered*) for (*preaching the gospel to*) you, which (*speaks*) your glory (*and brings great consolation and salvation*).

14 For this reason I bend my knees (*to pray*) to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 From whom every family in heaven and earth is surnamed,

16 (*Asking*) that He would give to you, according to (*the exceeding*) riches of His glory (*and good opinion of you*), to be strengthened with (*His glorious*) power by His Spirit in the inner man;

17 So that (*the Spirit of*) Christ may (*be settled in you*) dwelling (*permanently*) in your hearts by faith (*ever*) persuading (*you of His life and union*

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to you); so that you being firmly planted, (*rooted and*) established in His love,

18 That you would be able to (*fully*) comprehend (*and lay hold of along*) with all the saints what is (*the magnitude of*) the width and the length and the depth, and the height (*of His love for you*);

19 And to know (*and fellowship with*) the love of Christ which (*intimacy*) surpasses (*all*) knowledge, so that you might be filled (*and complete*) with all the fullness of God (*Himself*).

20 And unto Him who is able (*and desires*) to do (*far beyond*) exceeding (*all that our hearts ever hoped for*) super abundantly above all that we could ask or think (*or imagine*), through His power (*and might alone*) which (*He*) works in us,

21 To Him (*and from Him is*) all the glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all the ages (*to come*), (*and for all eternity in the new heaven and new earth*) a world that has no end. Amen

Chapter 4

1 Therefore do I Paul, the prisoner (*held captive and compelled by the love*) of Jesus Christ (*for*

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you all) implore you to walk (*as children of the light*) in a manner fitting of the same life (*that was in Him who bears the life*) which you are (*also*) called,

2 With all lowliness of heart (*thinking nothing of your ability to bring forth that life*) and in meekness (*not attempting to establish it by your own works but trusting the Father to give it to you as a gift*) with much patience, bearing with one another in love;

3 Being diligent to observe the unity (*of the faith*), the Spirit (*that*) bonds us as one.

4 One body and one Spirit, even the one hope of the life (*and immortality*) which He has called you all to;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.

7 But to every one of us (*has He*) given (*the gift of*) the grace (*of God*) the full measure of which is (*in the body of*) Christ Jesus (*seated in immortal flesh and bone at His right hand*).

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8 This is why (*the Psalmist*) says, when He ascended up (*to the right hand of majesty on*) high that He led those held captive under death's reign from their captivity and (*having received from the Father*) He gave gifts to men (*so that He might dwell with them*).

9 Now (*if we know*) that He ascended up, what (*good*) is it (*for us*) if He did not also descend first into (*the grave in*) the lower parts of the earth?

10 (*But thanks be to God we know that*) He who descended (*into the grave*) is the same One who also ascended up (*being exalted by the Father*) far above all the heavens, so that He might fulfill (*and bring*) all things (*to completion in one body*).

11 And He has given some (*members of the body the gift to be*), apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers (*who all speak the same truth contained in Christ*);

12 (*Which parts of the body work together*) to completely furnish the saints, for the work of ministering (*the faith of Christ and*) for the building up of the body of Christ:

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13 Until we all come in the unity of the faith (*of Jesus Christ*), and (*to the peace*) that comes from the knowledge of the Son of God; to (*the certainty of the same life in Him*) a perfect man, (*according*) to the measure of the life (*which God has purposed for us from the beginning*) the fulness of (*which is in*) Christ:

14 So that we would no longer be like immature children that are tossed back and forth by the waves and carried away by every wind of empty (*and useless*) teachings which come by the trickery of men and the cunning cleverness, which schemes are always there waiting in an attempt to deceive you;

15 However, (*by*) speaking the truth (*contained in Christ*) in love, may we (*be established in the faith*) growing into the fullness (*of Him*) in all things, who is the head (*cornerstone of all wisdom and knowledge to the body*), even Christ:

16 From whom the entire body is perfectly joined and held together and by which every ligament is nourished and supplied; according to (*Him*) effectually working in every part, to make the (*entire*) body increase (*being*) built up (*and established*) in (*His*) love.

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17 This I say therefore, and declare by the testimony of the Lord, that you should no longer walk as Gentiles (*previously*) walked (*having no hope without God in the world*), in the futility of their (*own*) mind (*devoid of the truth*),

18 Having their understanding darkened (*by the death in the world*), being alienated from (*the promise of*) the life of God through the ignorance that is in (*their carnal*) minds, because of the (*death which brought*) blindness to their heart:

19 Who having become callous (*to their despair*) have given themselves over to an unbridled lust (*for the life they can serve themselves*), to work everything that is unclean (*touching the death and corruption in the world*) and never able to satisfy their desire for more.

20 But you have not learned this from (*the faith of*) Jesus Christ;

21 If in fact you have truly heard Him, and have been taught by Him, according to the truth which is (*only found*) in Jesus:

22 So that you (*might*) lay down (*the burden of establishing your own life*) regarding the way you

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formerly conducted your life, the old man (*who was dead and laboring for life*), which (*way*) is corrupt according to the deceitful lust (*for life from things that cannot ever give you the life your heart truly desires but which can only serve you with death and corruption*);

23 And (*so that you would*) be renewed in the spirit of your mind (*by the vital principle contained in the faith of Jesus Christ*):

24 And that you would be clothed by (*the life of*) the new man, who after the likeness of God is created (*through the Spirit of faith*) incorruptible (*free from death and corruption, in the same life and immortality you see in Christ Jesus*), the true (*life*) which He has set apart for you (*from the beginning*).

25 For this reason lay aside the lies (*which caused you to try and establish your own life*) and speak the truth (*revealed in the faith of Jesus Christ*) to everyone of your neighbors: because we are all members of one another (*in Him*).

26 Stand in awe of Him (*and His ability to give you His life*), and (*you will*) cease from all your

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labor: do not allow your passion for life as an occasion to do evil (*which is to establish your own life*) but stand still (*in awe of Him*):

27 And (*where you*) do not give an opportunity for the accusation which originates from the devil (*that you are not His child*).

28 Let him who (*from the lack which death served him*) stole steal no more (*seeing that he has all things in Christ*): but rather let him use his energy working with his hands the thing which is good (*resting in God's sufficiency*), so that he may give (*from a heart filled with abundance*) to him that has need.

29 Let no corrupt (*and useless*) communication (*that has no ability to give life*) come out of your mouth, but (*only*) that which is good (*and perfect and has come down from the Father, who is the only giver of life*) to the use of building (*one up in the faith of Jesus Christ*), so that the hearers would be influenced by His ability to serve you with His life (*and not their own*).

30 And (*where you*) do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, who has sealed you as His own (*whereby*

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you cry Abba Father) in the day of the redemption (*of your bodies immortal*).

31 Allowing all bitterness, and rage, and anger, screaming and yelling, and slanderous speaking, to be removed from you, (*along*) with all hatred:

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted (*and compassionate*), seeing each one as separated from the death that can animate them, even as God for Christ's sake has removed (*the sting*) death from you.

Chapter 5

1 Therefore (*like Christ*) be followers of God (*your Father*) as His beloved children;

2 And walk (*abiding*) in (*the*) love (*of the Father*), as Christ also has (*demonstrated*) His love for us and has given Himself an offering (*for our death*) and (*the*) sacrifice (*which God has desired from the beginning, to call upon His name*) a sweet-smelling fragrance (*to God*).

3 But fornication (*with other gods*) and all uncleanness (*which can defile the heart*) or covetousness (*the lust for perishable things that*

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can never satisfy with eternal life), let those things never be mentioned among you (*as a life*) fitting for those who are called to (*freely*) partake of God's life;

4 Neither (*let*) filthiness (*occupy your mind*), nor foolishness (*corrupt your*) speech, nor turn to (*clever*) insults, which things are (*also*) unfitting (*of the life He has set apart for you*): but rather (*set your affection upon the incorruptible life He has given you, where you*) give thanks.

5 For this we know (*and can be certain of*), that no one who runs after other gods (*worshiping the works of their own hands, which cannot ever serve them with immortality in their flesh*), nor one whose heart is defiled by iniquity (*disregarding God's gift of life for the life he can serve himself*), nor a man lusting after life by the strength contained in his flesh, who is an idolater (*in the vain worship of his own will and ability*), is able to (*ever find those things producing*) an inheritance of the kingdom of Christ and of God (*in him*).

6 (*Therefore*) let no man deceive you with idle words (*that have no benefit in their ability to produce the fruit of God's life unto immortality in*

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your flesh) for it is these very things which God has sworn in His wrath to destroy, which things now work in (*the hearts*) of the children who refuse to be persuaded (*to rest in God and His grace to give them His blessing and life as a gift*).

7 Therefore, do not be partakers along with them (*in the way which perishes*).

8 For you were at one time (*also stumbling around*) in darkness (*blinded by death*), but now you are light (*being braided together*) with the Lord (*in union with His light and life*): walk (*then*) as (*His*) children (*born*) from the light (*of His life*):

9 For the fruit that comes from the Spirit is (*found*) inside all (*the*) goodness (*that comes from God*) and (*is born from*) His incorruptible life and truth (*reveal in Jesus Christ*);

10 By which we are able to discern what is (*the only life*) acceptable (*and well-pleasing*) to the Lord (*for His children*).

11 (*Therefore*) have no fellowship with the way that produces the fruit of death, but rather (*let the light that is in you*) expose it (*as the way unto death*) to those who walk in it.

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12 Because it (*can bring*) shame to speak (*to them*) of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that (*can be brought to light*) are exposed and discerned by revealing the light: because whatever (*the light*) makes manifest is light.

14 This is why it is written, awake you that sleeps (*in darkness*) and arise from the dead to (*see it is*) Christ (*the light, who*) gives you (*life and*) light.

15 Giving all diligence (*to that light*) then see that you walk (*in a manner*) fitting (*of the light of His life and the hope of immortality*) and not as fools but in the wisdom (*that comes from Him*).

16 (*Where you find His life in you*) Redeems (*back*) the time (*when you walked foolishly in death and darkness by the strength of your own hands*) because the days are filled with (*enough*) labors and annoyances (*of their own*).

17 Therefore, do not be like those who are unwise, but (*find wisdom and*) understanding

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(*by allowing the life that lives in Him reveal*) what the will of the Lord is (*for you*).

18 And do not be excessively drunk with the wine (*the world can offer you, which has no power to serve you the life you truly desire*) but be filled with the Spirit (*which satisfies you with His life*);

19 Speaking (*comfort*) to yourselves with songs and hymns that contain the Spirit (*of life in Christ Jesus*) which brings a sweet melody to your heart from the Lord;

20 (*Where you are continuously*) filled with gratitude (*in your heart*) for all the things (*He has done*) giving thanks to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another (*preferring each other's lives over your own*) with (*the same*) reverence of Christ.

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands (*as one flesh*), just as (*you are*) with the Lord.

23 Because (*as one flesh*) is the husband the head of the wife, and so also is Christ the head

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of (*the body*) the church (*that is one flesh*), (*Christ*) Himself being the savior of the body.

24 But like the church (*as one flesh*) is subject to Christ (*as its head*), so also are the wives to their own husbands for they are all (*part of*) the same body.

25 Husbands, love your wives (*as you do your own body*), even as Christ also loved the church, and delivered Himself up to save her;

26 So that He might sanctify (*her from death*), having cleansed the body (*from death*) through the washing of the water with the word (*declared in His resurrection from the dead*),

27 So that He might present the church (*His bride*) to Himself a glorious body, (*free from death and corruption*) not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing (*which death brought*); but that it should be set apart (*for the life He determined for them from the beginning*) and without blemish (*and free from all accusation*).

28 Even so ought husbands also love their own wives as their own bodies (*as one flesh*). For he

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that loves his own wife loves himself (*because they are one body*).

29 Because no man would ever hate his own body; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also nourishes and loves the church;

30 For we are all members of His body.

31 And for this reason will a man leave his father and mother and join himself to his wife; and the two will become one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: which I am speaking regarding Christ and the church (*how He has joined Himself as one flesh to us, absorbing our death and giving us His life*).

33 Nevertheless, let each one of you (*husbands*) love his own wife as he does his own body; and (*also*) the wife see that she (*as one flesh*), respect her husband (*as one in the Lord*).

Chapter 6

1 Children, listen carefully to observe (*the instructions of*) your parents regarding the Lord: for this is how (*God designed*) that it should be.

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2 That you honor (*and cherish the instruction of*) your father and mother; which is the first precept that points to the promise (*of eternal life*);

3 That (*He would be with you to father you with His life*) which (*life is*) well pleasing to you, and so that you may live long in the land (*which the Lord has promised to give you as an inheritance and serve you with kindness for the ages to come*).

4 And you, (*earthly*) fathers, do not (*deal impatiently*), angering your children to wrath (*which has no ability to produce the fruit of God's life in them*), but bring them up in the training and correction which comes from (*the faith authored and finished*) by the Lord (*Jesus*).

5 To them which are under the authority of others, listen carefully to follow the instructions of those whom you serve according to the flesh, with fear and trembling (*which is to rely totally on His ability and not your own*), in singleness (*and sincerity*) of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not just with service that can be seen with the eyes which only pleases men but as those who are being served by the life of Christ (*giving all diligence to the faith of Christ*), which is to do the will of God from the heart;

7 With kindness do your service (*from the heart*) as the Lord (*has persuaded you*) and not (*with eyeservice*) to (*please*) men:

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8 Knowing that whatever good thing any man does, the same (*finds its origin in that which*) he has received from the Lord, whether he is a bound or free.

9 And you who have rule over others, do the same things (*with kindness*) toward those who are under your authority (*having your heart persuaded by the Lord*), letting go of threatening; knowing (*also*) that your Master in heaven (*has served you with kindness*); neither does He make any distinction between those who are bound or free (*Jew or Gentile, male or female*).

10 From now on, my brethren, draw your strength from the Lord and the power of His might (*and not your own strength*).

11 Being (*fully*) clothed with the armor of God (*which He desires*) to clothe you with, so that you may be able to stand (*in the power of His might and not your own*) against the craftily devised schemes (*which have been planted in the world by that slanderous accuser*) the devil.

12 For we do not fight against (*nor is our conflict with*) flesh and blood (*fighting against other men in the flesh*), but against the rulers and against powers (*of darkness*), against the vital principles of iniquity (*and its pain ridden ordinances*) which are exalted (*and contained*) in the world.

13 Because of this (*grab hold of*) taking unto yourself the complete armor (*which you have received*) from God, so that you may (*by the*

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power of His might) withstand the day when you are pressed in and harassed by the labors (*and annoyances that death can bring*) and having done all (*this*) to (*rest*) established (*in Him who has already stood in the face of death for you*).

14 Stand therefore (*resting and established*) in the truth which contains the power to reproduce His life in you, and clothed with the breastplate (*that protects your heart with His loving-kindness, persuading you*) of His indestructible life (*where you are free from death and the fear of death*);

15 And your feet firmly established in (*the certainty of the word*) the gospel declares (*which was made flesh in the resurrection, the hope of the same life of Christ that came out of the grave an immortal man which word serves our hearts with*) peace (*rest and brings unity*);

16 Above everything else, diligently harken to the faith (*of our Lord Jesus*) which (*is full of power and ability to*) shield you from and extinguish all the fiery darts that death can bring (*which death has been abolished in the testimony of Jesus Christ*).

17 And receive (*Christ who is*) the helmet (*and the hope*) of (*our*) salvation (*and wholeness, who has sent away death and brought His life and immortality to light*) and the sword of the Spirit, which speaks the word of God (*to your heart whereby you cry, Abba Father*):

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18 Praying on every occasion and with each type of prayer and request by the Spirit, looking (*only*) to (*Him*) with steadfastness (*to provide*) for the needs of all the saints;

19 And (*pray*) for me, that (*the Spirit*) would provide me the words, so that I may open my mouth boldly, to (*declare and*) make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in (*light*) chains: so that in these bonds I may speak (*with*) boldness (*and confidence*) the things which I ought to speak.

21 But (*also*) so that you may know my affairs, and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother (*of mine*) and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all these things known to you:

22 I have sent him to you for the same purpose, so that you might know our affairs, and that (*in doing so*) he might comfort your hearts.

23 Peace be with all the brethren, and love along with the faith, (*which comes*) from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 (*May the*) grace (*which comes from God influence the hearts of*) all of them who love our Lord Jesus Christ with (*His*) immortality. Amen.