

*The Joy Set before Christ and the Joy Set before Us***Monday 4/22****Related Verses****Heb. 12:2**

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

**Eph. 5:25**

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

**Heb. 9:28**

28 So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time to those who eagerly await Him, apart from sin, unto salvation.

**1 Pet. 2:24**

24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

**John 1:29**

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**John 10:11**

11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**John 12:34, 31-33**

34 The crowd therefore answered Him, We have heard out of the law that the Christ abides forever; and how is it that You say, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.

33 But He said this signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

**Related Reading**

Ephesians 5:25 tells us that Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Christ's loving the church and giving Himself up for her was for redemption and for the impartation of life. According to John 19:34, blood

and water came out of the Lord's pierced side. The blood was for redemption, and the water was for the impartation of life so that the church might come into existence. In Ephesians 5:25 we have the church coming into existence through Christ's loving her and giving Himself up for her. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 754)

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In His death Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Hebrews 10:12 says, "This One, having offered one sacrifice for sins, sat down forever on the right hand of God." The priests in the old covenant stood daily (v. 11) and offered the same sacrifices again and again, because what they offered could not take away sins...It was Christ's offering of Himself that has accomplished the taking away of sins...Christ has put away sin by offering Himself to God as the unique sacrifice for sin. His sitting in heaven is a sign and proof that the taking away of sins has been accomplished (1:3). He no longer needs to do anything for sin, for He has done it once for all.

On the cross Christ bore our sins. According to Isaiah 53:6, when Christ was on the cross, God took all our sins and put them upon this Lamb of God. Hebrews 9:28 says that Christ has been "offered once to bear the sins of many." Christ died once to bear our sins, and He suffered the judgment for us on the cross (Isa. 53:5, 11). First Peter 2:24 tells us that Christ "bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness." The tree in this verse denotes the cross made of wood, a Roman instrument of capital punishment for the execution of malefactors, as prophesied in the Old Testament (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13). Sins here, as in Hebrews 9:28, refer to sins we commit in our outward conduct, whereas sin in John 1:29 refers to the sin that is in our nature by birth. Christ died for our sins, carrying up our sins onto the cross, that we might be forgiven by God.

In His death Christ not only bore our sins but even became sin for us. "Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf" (2 Cor. 5:21). This indicates that God made Christ sin for us. Christ did not know sin in an experiential way by contact or personal experience (cf. John 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15; 7:26)...Nevertheless,

He became sin and took away the sin of the world so that the problem of sin might be solved.

In His work on the cross Christ also cast out the ruler of this world and judged his world. "Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out" (John 12:31). This indicates that Christ's work in His death included the casting out of Satan, the ruler of this world. Satan thought that he was wise in having the Lord Jesus crucified. Actually, by doing this, Satan caused himself to be cast out. The cross was the way used by God to cast out Satan.

In His work on the cross the Lord Jesus died as a grain of wheat falling into death for the release of the divine life. "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (v. 24). Christ's all-inclusive death released the divine life that was within Him. As a grain of wheat, He died to release the divine life and to enliven God's redeemed ones, to produce many grains that can be blended together in a loaf to be offered to God. This loaf is the church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17). (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 760, 764-765, 767, 770-771, 779)

Further Reading: *Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 1, lsn. 17

**Tuesday 4/23****Related Verses****Col. 2:13-15**

13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;

14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

**Eph. 2:2**

2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

***The Joy Set before Christ and the Joy Set before Us*****Isa. 25:8**

8 He will swallow up death forever; And the Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces; And the reproach of His people He will remove from all the earth; For Jehovah has spoken.

**1 Cor. 15:26**

26 Death, the last enemy, is being abolished.

**John 5:17**

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I also am working.

**Rom. 7:4, 6**

4 So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

**Phil. 3:12-14**

12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

**Related Reading**

According to Colossians 2:15, God stripped off the rulers and authorities...We must see that while Christ was on the cross, God was working. At that time the cross was the center of the universe. The Savior, sin, Satan, we, and God all were there. God was there judging sin and nailing the law to the cross. As He was doing this, the rulers and authorities gathered around God and Christ...The subject of verses 13 through 15 is God...God made us alive together with Christ, nailed the ordinances to the cross, stripped off the rulers and authorities, made a display of them openly, and triumphed over them. No doubt, the rulers and authorities had swarmed around Christ as He was being crucified. Both God and Christ were working. Christ's work was His crucifixion,

whereas God's work was to judge sin and all the negative things and to nail the law with its ordinances to the cross. The rulers and authorities who had gathered around God and Christ were also working. If they had not pressed in closely, how could God have stripped them off? The words stripping off indicate that they were very close, as close as our garments are to our body. By stripping off the rulers and authorities, God made a display of them openly. He openly put them to shame and triumphed over them. What a great matter this is! (*Life-study of Colossians*, second edition, pp. 190-191)

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Colossians 2:15 portrays the fighting that took place at the time of Christ's crucifixion. Evil men had put Christ on the cross. By His crucifixion Christ labored to accomplish redemption. God the Father was also working to judge sin and to nail the law to the cross. At the same time, the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ. The reference to triumph in verse 15 implies fighting. It indicates that a war was raging. While Christ was accomplishing redemption and God was dealing with the law and with the negative things, the rulers and authorities came to interfere. They pressed in close to God and Christ. But at that very juncture, God stripped them off, triumphed over them, and made a display of them openly, putting them to an open shame.

Colossians 2:15 is a small window through which we behold a marvelous sight. At the time of Christ's crucifixion, a battle was raging between God and the rulers and authorities. But God stripped them off and triumphed over them.

Paul's concept in these verses is that the law and the angels have been set aside through the cross. The law was nailed to the cross, and the evil angels have been stripped off by means of the cross. Therefore, in God's economy in His salvation there is room neither for the law nor for the angelic rulers. How wrong the Colossians were in following ordinances and in worshipping angels...[and] in allowing these things to pervade the church.

In the economy of His salvation God enlivens us, nails the law to the cross, and strips off the evil rulers

and authorities...Because God has removed the law and the angels, we, His chosen people, are alone with Him. We are no longer bothered by terms, conditions, or requirements. God is here to enliven us, and we are here to be enlivened by Him. We should forget the law and the angels and allow God to put Himself into us as life.

We should remind the rulers and authorities that at Calvary God stripped them off and triumphed over them. Based upon God's victory we can order them to flee. What we need today is not the law or the angels but the enlivening One, the life-giving One. This is the economy of God's salvation. (*Life-study of Colossians*, second edition, pp. 191-194)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Colossians*, msg. 23

<b>Wednesday 4/24</b>
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**Related Verses****Rev. 19:7**

7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

**Eph. 2:21-22**

21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;  
22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

**Eph. 4:13-15**

13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,  
14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,  
15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

**Heb. 6:1**

1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

*The Joy Set before Christ and the Joy Set before Us***Matt. 16:18**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**1 Tim. 4:15-16**

15 Practice these things; be in them, that your progress may be manifest to all.

16 Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things; for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

**John 17:22**

22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;

**Related Reading**

[In Revelation 19:7] *His wife* refers to the church (Eph. 5:24-25, 31-32), the bride of Christ (John 3:29). However, according to Revelation 19:8-9, the wife, the bride of Christ, consists only of the overcoming believers during the millennium, whereas the bride in 21:2 is composed of all the saved saints after the millennium for eternity. The wife of the Lamb in Revelation 19 is the aggregate of all the overcoming saints from Abel until the Lord's return. The aggregate of all the Old Testament and New Testament overcomers is the wife in Revelation 19:7 who will be ready for Christ's wedding. The readiness of the bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers. Furthermore, the overcomers are not separate individuals but a corporate bride. For this aspect, building is needed. The overcomers are not only mature in life but also built together as one bride. Christ will not marry each believer individually; instead, He will marry His corporate bride composed of His overcoming believers. When we have been fully saturated with the Triune God so that He flows out of us, we will be completely built and fitted together to become the glorious church, the beloved bride of the Lord Jesus. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 4320-4321)

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We also need to see that only the church as the golden lampstand can be the bride of Christ (Rev. 1:20). This indicates that we need to live out the life of Christ. Although this goes against our human concept, we should not focus on caring for the goodness or

wickedness that comes out of us. Instead, we need to care for the tree of life, the Triune God, and Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit. Whether we are at home with our family or in the church meetings with the brothers and sisters, we all need to live out Christ. If we live by Christ, what we live out is God, who is Spirit, signified by the pure gold that shines forth the light; then we will become the bride of Christ who satisfies His desire.

We must be the bride for Christ. When we are eager to be the bride, Christ will receive His satisfaction. Not only will Christ be satisfied, but we also will be satisfied. Revelation 19:7 says, "Let us rejoice and exult." In principle, a bride is the most pleasant and happy person.

The wedding will bring in the reign of the Lord, the kingdom, because all the guests invited to the wedding will be both the corporate bride and the co-kings of the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom, who will take the whole earth as His kingdom, certainly needs many sub-kings to be His co-kings. All His co-kings will be His corporate bride.

The wedding, which will take place in the air, will last a short time. After the wedding, there will be the wedding feast. A wedding feast is always much longer than the wedding. Matthew 22 indicates that the wedding feast will be the millennial kingdom. To the overcomers, the thousand years of the millennial kingdom will be a wedding feast. To the Lord, a thousand years are like one day (2 Pet. 3:8). Everyone invited to the wedding feast will also participate in the thousand-year reign as kings. Our King will be the Bridegroom; we, His co-kings, will be His bride; and the thousand years will be our wedding feast and honeymoon with our Bridegroom, Christ.

Many Christians will not receive the reward of reigning with Christ in the coming kingdom. Although we may be saved, we must become an overcomer in order to receive the kingdom as our reward. For the overcomers, reigning with Christ in His kingdom will be the wedding feast. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 4321-4322)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msgs. 213, 424

Thursday 4/25

**Related Verses****Rev. 19:8**

8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

**Matt. 22:11-12**

11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment,

12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

**Col. 3:10-14**

10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

13 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive.

14 And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.

**Related Reading**

While the church is under great degradation, we should be the overcomers to live Christ and even live Him out as our subjective righteousness day by day. In the eyes of God the fine linen [Rev. 19:8] is the Christ expressed in our daily life.

In verse 8 the word *clean* refers to the nature, whereas *bright* refers to the expression. The Greek word translated "righteousnesses" may also be rendered "righteous acts."...The righteousness we received for our salvation [1 Cor. 1:30] is objective and enables us to meet the requirement of the righteous God, whereas here the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints are subjective (Phil. 3:9) and enable us to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ. Hence, the fine

linen indicates Christ, as our overcoming life, whom we live out of our being. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 4325)

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The righteousness that is Christ Himself is sufficient for us to be justified and saved; this righteousness is singular in number. The use of righteousnesses in Revelation 19:8 is in the plural, however, and proves that what is mentioned in this verse is not Christ as our righteousness for us to be justified. Rather, it is righteous deeds, the daily walk, the Christian living, which Christ as our life works out through us. This outworking of the inner life is the white linen with which we are clothed. In order to attend a feast, especially a wedding feast, we must dress in a proper way. In the same way, we need the proper clothing in order to attend the wedding feast of the Lamb. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 4325-4326)

The fine linen with which the overcoming believers are clothed is equal to the wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-12. According to the revelation of the Scriptures, the believers need two garments—one for their salvation and one for their reward. For our salvation we need a robe to cover us. This robe is the robe that was put on the prodigal son in Luke 15:22...This robe signifies Christ as our righteousness for us to be justified by God in His presence. All believers in Christ have this robe, the first robe, Christ as our righteousness, our justification, which enables us to stand before the righteous God.

However, we also need the second garment, which is the wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-12 and the fine linen in Revelation 19:8. This garment is not for our salvation; rather, it is for our reward and qualifies us to attend the wedding feast of the Lamb. The first garment qualifies us to meet God for our salvation; the second garment qualifies us to meet Christ for our reward.

The second garment is the work of the Holy Spirit within us. It is the very Christ whom we live and who is expressed through us in our daily living. This is the righteousnesses of the saints (v. 8). The second garment is also the surpassing righteousness in Matthew 5:20. In this verse the Lord Jesus said, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees,

you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.” This righteousness is not objective righteousness, the Christ whom we receive as our robe for our salvation. It is subjective righteousness, the Christ whom we live out as our daily living. In Christ, who is our righteousness, we have been justified and saved. But after receiving Christ, we need to live Him out. We need to live by Christ so that He becomes our subjective righteousness. This subjective righteousness qualifies us to participate in the marriage dinner of the Lamb. (*Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 4, pp. 62-63)

Further Reading: *Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 4, lsn. 56

**Friday 4/26**

### Related Verses

#### **Eph. 5:25-27**

**25** Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

**26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

#### **2 Cor. 5:17**

**17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

#### **Rev. 21:9b-11**

**9b** Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

**10** And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

**11** Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

#### **S.S. 4:7**

**7** You are altogether beautiful, my love, And there is no blemish in you.

#### **S.S. 6:10**

**10** Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, As beautiful as the moon, As clear as the sun, As terrible as an army with banners?

### Related Reading

I believe that we are living in a day in which the Lord is preparing His bride. Furthermore, I have the full assurance that we are presently undergoing this process of preparation...Revelation 19 is in the process of being fulfilled among us in the Lord's recovery.

We need to connect Revelation 19 with Ephesians 5. Apart from Ephesians 5, there is no way for the bride to be prepared, and hence no way for Revelation 19 to be fulfilled. It is very significant that the Lord has spoken to us about ordinances, doctrines, the old man, and the spots and wrinkles. It is crucial that we experience the nourishing, cherishing, sanctifying, and purifying riches of Christ to remove our oldness and defects. When all such things have been removed, we will become a church that is holy, glorious, and without blemish. Then we will be the bride in Revelation 19. When the bride has been prepared, Christ will come as the Bridegroom. Praise the Lord that we are in the process of becoming a holy and glorious bride for Christ! How we praise the Lord for showing us the way to be prepared as the bride, made ready for His coming back! Christ will have a church without ordinances, doctrines, the old man, and the spots and wrinkles. Such a church will be the beautiful bride to satisfy the desire of His heart. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, second edition, pp. 775-776)

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In Ephesians 5 we come to the presentation of the church to Christ. At the time of this presentation, the church will be the bride, not the new man. As the new man, the church needs the functions. But as the bride, the church needs beauty. The growth in chapter 4 is for the function of the new man, whereas the beauty in chapter 5 is for the presentation of the bride.

The spots and wrinkles do not affect the function of the church. However, they very much detract from the beauty of the church. What a man looks for in a bride is not first ability; it is beauty. The church as Christ's bride must also be beautiful. For this reason Paul goes on from the function and daily living of the new man in chapter 4 to the presentation of the bride without spot or wrinkle in chapter 5. If we grow in the Lord, eventually our functions as members of the Body will come forth.

***The Joy Set before Christ and the Joy Set before Us***

However, we may function properly and have an excellent daily living according to the spirit of the mind but still not be beautiful in the eyes of the Lord because of our spots and wrinkles. After saying so much about the church in chapters 1 through 4, Paul goes on in chapter 5 to speak about the church as the bride. In this chapter he says nothing concerning the creation of the church, the growth of the church, or the daily living of the church. Instead, he speaks of the beauty of the church. When Christ presents the church to Himself, the church will not be a strong man; she will be a beautiful bride. Christ is the universal man. As this universal man, He needs the church to be His bride to match Him. In order to be the bride of Christ, the church must become beautiful and have all the spots and wrinkles removed.

We need to go on from the function in Ephesians 4 to the beauty in Ephesians 5...At the time of the wedding, what the church will need is beauty, not strength. Oh, the church is being beautified by partaking of Christ, by digesting Christ, and by assimilating Christ! The more we experience the indwelling Christ in this way, the more He will replace our spots and wrinkles with His element, and the more His riches with the divine attributes will become our beauty. Then we will be prepared to be presented to Christ as His lovely bride. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, second edition, pp. 776-777, 779)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msg. 95

**Saturday 4/27**

**Related Verses****Eph. 6:17-18**

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

**Neh. 8:10b**

10b this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.

**Phil. 4:4-7, 12-13**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.

6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

**Related Reading**

According to Revelation 19, the church is both the bride who is presented to Christ and the warrior who fights with Him against God's enemy. The armies in Revelation 19:14 are the called and chosen believers in 17:14. They are also both the bride and the guests called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb (19:7-9)...After the wedding, all the guests will become the army. As the bride, we must be beautiful, without spot or wrinkle, and be clothed in fine linen. As the warrior, we must be equipped to fight against God's enemy.

In Revelation 19:14 we see that the overcomers, as the armies which are in heaven and the ones who followed Him on white horses, are "dressed in fine linen, white and clean."...The wedding garment of "fine linen, bright and clean" [v. 8] will be the armor for fighting. The overcomers who are the heavenly armies are those who constitute the bride of Christ. In other words, it will be the bride of Christ who will follow Him as His army to fight and destroy Antichrist and his army. Those who have overcome every obstacle will be Christ's co-fighters in the final battle against Antichrist. These are His bride. They have become His co-fighters by His ministering the rich life supply to them. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 4339-4340)

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The overcoming saints have two garments, one for salvation and the other for reward. The fine linen here is the second garment. This second garment of the overcomers qualifies them both to attend the marriage dinner of the Lamb (Rev. 19:8-9) and to fight with the Lord against His enemy. Thus, the wedding garment

becomes the fighting garment. The second garment qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army...This garment is Christ lived out of us to be our daily righteousness. Even today, we are fighting by Christ as our garment. Ephesians 6 indicates that the whole armor of God is Christ.

Spiritual warfare is not an individual matter; it is a matter of the Body, a corporate entity to fight the battle against God's enemy. No soldier in a modern army would enter into battle by himself. Rather, he would fight as part of a well-trained and fully equipped army. After we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy...Therefore, it is very dangerous to be isolated from the army. Only by remaining in the army will we have the necessary protection.

In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride, but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church as the corporate warrior to engage in spiritual warfare. Pray-reading the Word of God is the way to kill the adversary within us. Every day and in every kind of situation, we should pray-read. Whenever we are troubled by something negative within us, we should take the Word of God by means of prayer in spirit. As we do this, the negative element will be killed.

In Ephesians 6:17 Paul charges us to receive "the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God." This means that we need to take the word of the Bible as a sword for fighting the enemy. According to Paul's word in this verse, the word of God is the sword not directly but indirectly...The sword is not the word directly. Rather, the sword is the Spirit directly, and then the Spirit is the word. This indicates that if we would deal with the enemy Satan, the word of the Bible must become the Spirit. If we would use the word of the Bible as a sword to kill the enemy, in our experience the word must be the Spirit. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 4340-4342)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Revelation*, msg. 54

**Lord's Day 4/28****Related Verses****1 Thes. 5:16-24****16** Always rejoice,**17** Unceasingly pray,**18** In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**19** Do not quench the Spirit;**20** Do not despise prophecies,**21** But prove all things. Hold fast to what is good;**22** Abstain from every kind of evil.**23** And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**24** Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.**Further Reading:**Further Reading: *Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 424**Hymn: #852****1** Thy dwelling place, O Lord, I love;

It is Thy Church so blessed,

It is Thy joy and heart's delight

And where Thy heart finds rest.

**2** For her, Thyself Thou gavest, Lord,

That she be Thine, complete;

For her, I too my body give,

Thy heart's desire to meet.

**3** For her, Thou hast become my life,

That she my living be;

For her, I would forsake myself,

That she be filled with Thee.

**4** The Church is Thy beloved Bride,

Thou in Thy Body seen;

She is my joy and heart's desire,

The one on whom I lean.

**5** In her, Thy full supply, O Lord,

Thou dost to me impart;

In her am I possessed by Thee

To satisfy Thy heart.

**6** Thy dwelling place, O Lord, I love;

It is Thy Church, Thy home;

In it I would forever live

And never longer roam.

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Hebrews****Level 1—Hebrews Sequential Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Heb. 4:1-7

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msgs. 16-17**Level 2—Hebrews Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Jesus Made Like His Brothers in All Things

Scripture: Heb. 2:16-18

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msg. 13

Supplemental Reading: None

Questions:

1. Why was Jesus made like His brothers in all things?
2. What are some aspects of Jesus made like His brothers in all things, especially as revealed in Scripture?
3. In Heb. 2:17, explain the phrase "in the things pertaining to God" in the context of the verse.
4. How does Jesus help those who are being tempted?