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Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "There is No Substitute for Eternal Truth" (1975). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians*. 42. https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_ephesians/42

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THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ETERNAL TRUTH

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 52
EPHESIANS 5:6-10

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EPHESIANS 5:6-10 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

Before we study this scripture in Ephesians we want to look at several other related passages.

ISAIAH 33:5-6 "The Lord is exalted...And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure." This says, "The Lord is exalted." Now how is the Lord exalted? The way he is exalted is by the people filling their minds with Bible truth. He is not exalted by our little schemes and systems by which we think we can advance his cause. This verse was written at a time when Judah was about to go down as a nation. Assyria was breathing down the neck of Israel and Isaiah here gave the one solution to the nation's problems. He said, "Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times." I would like to make a plaque with this statement on it and hang it over every Sunday School class and over every door into our auditorium and over every door that is in this room. There is no wisdom and stability apart from the Word of God.

Wisdom is the exhale of faith toward God based on the knowledge of the Word of God in our spirits. Knowledge is the result of the inhale of Bible truth so we will have a deposit of residual doctrine in our spirits at all times. Instead of "strength of salvation" a better translation might be "Strength for deliverance." "The Fear of the Lord" is a technical name for the erection of that structure in the soul based on Bible truth.

ISAIAH 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Here is a verse which outlines God's promise of protection to Israel. It is also a promise to us as individuals and to our nation today. The opposition of Satan is very strong against us personally and as a nation. But the promises of God are strong and adequate. Your heritage is God's protection, when you have Bible truth in your mind and when you put that truth into action in your daily living.

EPHESIANS 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. The words "vain words" means "empty meaningless words." The words that deceive you come from "apatao" and is a present, active, imperative. It means to deceive one by error or false teaching. "Kenos" is the word for empty and it means a vacuum in your mind. Before the believer can be deceived by false doctrine, he must first be negative toward true doctrine. The words "wrath of God" is an expression of God's righteousness and justice toward the unbeliever in the last judgment.

God wanted to save and bless them but their unbelief cut them off and voided the blessings of God. The word for "children of disobedience" comes from "huios" and really means adult sons. It means adult sons who take the responsibility of their own decisions. These adult sons have refused to take Christ as Saviour and have rejected God's grace. This is an adult son of disobedience. So when we reject Bible truth, we become sons of disobedience. Back in Ephesians 5:1 we learned that you can become an imitator of God or you can be an imitator of the unbeliever. These are the children of disobedience.

EPHESIANS 5:7 "Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

This verse has to do with those who become partners with the people who reject Bible truth. "Be not" is a present, active, imperative of "ginomai" which means "to become something you were not before." Many have become partners with unbelievers and this passage says, "Stop it!" You see, if you become a partner with the unbeliever, this cuts off the possibility of the erection of that mountain of Bible truth in your mind. We would say it something like this--

1. Don't be a life partner with someone who is an unbeliever.
2. Don't be a business partner with an unbeliever.
3. Don't be a social partner with an unbeliever.
4. To young people it says, "Don't date those who are unbelievers for you fall in love and eventually marry those you date."

This partnership business is serious and if you become partners with unbelievers, you will eventually become a part of their unbelief. So here is the principle of separation--separate yourself from certain crowds and certain people so you can be partners with truth and God and righteousness.

EPHESIANS 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" Here we have the pattern for the erection of this edification complex. "Ye were" is the imperfect, active, subjunctive of "eimi" and means before you were saved you kept on being in darkness. In fact, everything was darkness in your soul before you were converted. "Sometimes" is a particle and means "formerly." So it should read, "Ye were, before you believed, formerly in darkness." Your soul was filled with scar tissue. Your soul was shut down with darkness and your whole life was controlled by your old sin nature. But the moment you received Christ as Saviour by the grace of God, this scar tissue was removed. At that moment you were in perfect fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit is within you and every day you are able to enjoy fellowship with God. So this verse says, "You were formerly in darkness" but now "You are in the light." In many passages this phrase "being in darkness" refers to an unbeliever, such as 1 Samuel 2:9, Isaiah 42:7, Isaiah 49:9, Romans 1:21, and Colossians 1:13. In all these passages darkness is attributed to the unbeliever. Two who illustrate this kind of darkness are Judas Iscariot and the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Both of them had a complete black-out of the soul.

In contrast to this darkness we now read, "But now ye are light in the Lord." This is the born again person. The word for "light" is "phos" and since it is genitive here, it is "photos" and from this word we get photo and photograph. This word for light refers to soul breathing and the taking in of doctrinal truth into the mind. Then this truth is transferred into the spirit and becomes the great reservoir of truth in your life. These are the people of whom God said, "Ye are the light of the world." Christ was the light and they had Christ in them, so they became the light of the world. It Really means "Light in the one and only Lord."

Then we are commanded, "Keep on walking in the light." It is a present, active, imperative. It is an order from God for you to get to work at once and build an edification structure in your soul out of the raw material of Bible truth. It is not optional, it is a direct command from God. So this is the fulfillment of Isaiah 33:6. This is the fulfillment of grace orientation on the first floor, inner happiness on the second floor, a relaxed mental attitude on the third floor, capacity for love on the fourth floor, and a mastery of the details of life on the fifth floor. That's it and there is no other way to "be light."

PSALM 119:28 "My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word." This really says, "My soul melted because of pressure." Then it says, "Strengthen me (a piel stem and this is very intensive) according to thy Word."

PSALM 119:29 "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously." "Remove me from the way of lying" and this means to remove me from false concepts, false doctrine. Grant thy law graciously really means "With thy law be gracious." How is the Lord gracious with his law? Well, he builds in you a strong abiding structure which is built on rock and truth and the storms of daily living can't tear it down.

PSALM 119:30 "I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me." "I have chosen the way of truth" means that I have, of my own volition, chosen to live by the Word of God. In fact, that's the only way for any Christian to live. "Thy judgments have I laid before me" really means, "I am satisfied with thy judgments."

PSALM 119:31 "I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame." This verse really says, "I have stayed with the truth of the Word of God and as a result, I know I will not be put to shame."

PSALM 119:127 "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." This means that the believer filled with Bible truth has a possession more valuable than gold.

PSALM 119:128 "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." I believe doctrine and I hate every false way.

PSALM 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." This is the erection of truth in the soul. It gives understanding to those who even have a low I.Q. In other words: even those not so brilliant can have this edification complex in the soul just like the smart ones.

So we are to walk as children of light. Every child of God is supposed to be a good "photo" of Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)" Here we have the reflected glory of this mountain of Bible truth which has been erected in the soul.

This translation says, "The fruit of the spirit" but the Greek text says, "The fruit of light." The Greek word is "photos." Some scribe just tampered with this scripture for all the ancient texts say, "The fruit of light."

We now have three words here--

goodness--and this is "agathosune"
 righteousness--and this is "dikaiosune"
 truth--and this is "alatheia"

Goodness here means the thought of grace which is in your mind. Righteousness means the expression of this thought of truth into action. So this means no pride, no mental attitude guilt or self-pity. But the point is this--you have to have it in your mind before you can express it in your actions.

Take Christ as an example of this. Christ had the thought in his mind that he would go to the cross, and that is "agathosune." Then he put that thought into action and went to the cross, and that is "dikaiosune." He thought the cross, then he "did" the cross, and this resulted in "alatheia" which is the truth of our salvation.

EPHESIANS 5:10 "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." The word "prove" here really means "to test" and is from "dokimaizo". You have to test and prove what is good and what is not good. When you have Bible truth in your soul, then you have a basis for making decisions. On this basis you can make decisions that are pleasing to God.

Now what is pleasing to God?

1. It is pleasing to God that you find the right partner for life.
2. It is pleasing to God that you know the will of God for your life.
3. It is pleasing to God that you be an imitator of Christ.

So this mountain of Bible truth in your mind becomes a radar screen and when the right idea or person comes along, the truth in your mind causes a "blip--blip--blip" on the radar screen of your mind and you know that that particular thing is the will of God. Now maybe at first you don't believe it, but the Lord keeps that "blip" going long enough until you know it is his message to you. But the whole thing depends on this statement--

"YOU CANNOT KNOW THE WILL OF GOD UNLESS YOU KNOW THE WORD OF GOD."

This is what it means when you read here, "Proving what is well pleasing unto the Lord."