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Light that Only Christ Can Give

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LIGHT THAT ONLY CHRIST CAN GIVE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr. EPHESIANS 5:14 NULIBER 55

Immanuel Baptist Church Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIAMS 5:14 "Therefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

"Awake thou that sleepest" is a present, active, imperative of "Egeiro" and it is a command to awaken from the attitude of apathy toward the learning of Bible truth. If we are negative toward Bible doctrine, then we slam the door on any opportunity we may have to be awake to the will of God for our lives. Intellectual comprehension of Bible truth is good, but you cannot apply Bible knowledge that is just intellectual comprehension. This truth must be transferred into the human spirit and from the human spirit we can exhale faith toward God. This is why it is absolute futility for someone to study the Bible just from the standpoint of literature. People who study the Bible in this way will soon discover that the Bible does not lend its message to such mental comprehension. The principle for learning Dible truth is faith, and without faith in the human spirit, it is impossible to inhale Bible truth and exhale faith toward God. When one learns Eible truth simply by intellectual comprehension, then he is not able to use and apply that truth. Such knowledge is simply in the staging area and it is possible to have a great Ceal of Bible comprehension in the mind but not be able to apply that knowledge to actual living. Therefore, it is imperative that you transfer your intellectual knowledge of the Word of God into your human spirit, so this truth can be mounted on the launching pad ready for use at any time.

The Whole Purpose Of Ephesians 5:14 The whole purpose of this verse is to alert the believer to the great significance of Bible doctrine. Now there are many reasons why the believer becomes negative toward Bible doctrine.

It may be the details of life, or not enough time to study, or a negative attitude toward Bible doctrine, or a failure to recognize the authority of anyone to teach you. We are creatures of pride and we don't like to admit that someone else may be able to teach us and lead us further into truth than we have been. So many of us carry with us the idea "I am my own God" and with such an attitude we slam the door to new truth that might penetrate our mind. This negative attitude causes scar tissue to begin to accumulate in our souls and from this scar tissue, we develop spiritual emphysema. Darkness fills the soul and this leads to subjectivity and human viewpoint. This leads to a blackout of the soul and this causes the believer to live and think just like the unbeliever. If you have such a heavy schedule that you do not have time to learn Bible truth, then you are too busy. You have thus put the cart before the horse and you are on the road to spiritual bankruptcy. Your capacity to enjoy life depends on the amount of Bible truth you have taken into your mind from which the edification complex has been erected. The happiness of the unbeliever is always a temporary happiness, and when the believer shuns Bible truth, then he becomes like the unbeliever. You can have lights on your Christmas tree and lights all over the inside and outside of your house, and lights in your eyes from the spirits you drink, but you are still going to be miserable unless you have the truth of the Word of God in your human spirit from which power you can live every day.

We are getting close to the end of life in this country as we have known it unless we turn to the Word of God and begin to live by its teachings. We have enough believers in this country for them to be "the salt of the earth" if they would store up Bible truth in their minds and live by it. If we are to survive, churches must come to the realization of the fact that the one main purpose of the church is to communicate Bible truth to the people. The extent of your happiness is the extent of the edification structure in your human spirit.

The Holy Spirit Makes The Application

It is the task of the pastor-teacher to give Bible truth to you. Now, I know there are always those who say, "We are always learning Bible truth but we need to apply it." Let me remind you that this is the task of the Holy Spirit in your life. You take in the truth and the Holy Spirit within you will pick up that truth and apply it to your needs and to the needs of others. The only raw material the Holy Spirit has to use in building you into a strong follower of Christ is the raw material of the Word of God.

Look closely at John 16:13-14 for this truth.

"Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." Please notice those last words, "He will shew it unto you." The Holy Spirit will take the truth given you from the Word of God and he will apply it to your daily needs.

Each time when I get up to teach or preach I take an inventory. I see by your face your estimate of Bible truth. It is quite easy to see the response of people to Bible truth. So as we face the "Year of Excitement 1976" the most important admonition I would give you is this phrase of Ephesians 5:14, "Awake thou that sleepest!"

Arise From The Dead

We have also studied this phrase and this is the rebound phrase. Once you sin and get out of fellowship life becomes meaningless until you rebound and get back in fellowship with God. Living in the bottom circle is absolutely necessary for your life.

Christ Shall Give Thee Light

This is the third phrase of this amazing verse. When you wake up to the importance of Bible truth, and when you rebound each time you sin, then your life becomes a lighthouse. All kinds of light begins to break forth into your life. This verse says, "The Christ shall give thee light." It is "Ho Christos." When you get an edification complex in your life, you will have a Christmas tree in your soul and the lights will be burning all the time. Every day will be Christmas in your soul and the gifts that will be piled under that tree will be fantastic. Through his Word He will supply all you need and all you could ever want. "Shall give thee light" and this is a future, active, indicative of "epiphausko" and means to produce light. To produce inner light. You have seen people meet an old friend they have not seen for years and their faces light up with happiness and satisfaction. Now this is the meaning of "epiphausko." This word was also used for lanterns and candles to take away darkness. It also has a

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technical meaning and it actually means "a perpetual lighted Christmas tree in your soul." It gives light for every thought and act of your life. "I am the light of the world" were words spoken by Jesus. He said, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." The "light of life" is this Christmas tree in the soul, lighted and burning all the time, and the light is nothing other than the Word of God. Psalm 119:130 says, "The entrance of thy word giveth light."

THE DOCTRINE OF THE EDIFICATION COMPLEX

The Source--Now what is the source of this Christmas tree all aglow in your soul? Look again at your soul--

> Volition Emotion

Self-Consciousness Opposite each of these facets of Mentality your soul is an aperture, each one except the old sin nature. Conscience is fed into each of these facets of the soul, and in this way the foun-Old Sin Nature dation is laid in the soul for spiritual growth.

The Canon of Scripture is the foundation. Next is the church, the organization commissioned of God to give the truth to the world. Next is the pastor-teacher who is to study and teach, study and teach. Now the pastor-teacher must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to communicate doctrine. Those who make up the congregation must hear the truth and take it into each facet of their souls and allow that truth to flow into their self-consciousness, their mentality, their volition, their conscience and their emotion. This is a grace process and the whole operation is the work of God in the minds of the believers. Therefore, the source of the edification complex is Bible doctrine located in the human spirit, which has been transferred there from the Word of God by means of grace perception.

- The origin and make-up of this word "Edification." The word "edification" is from "Oikodome" and it is a compound word. It comes from an old word "Oikos" meaning house, and "demo" which means to build. So when these two words are united, it means the building of a house, a structure of Bible truth in your soul and transferring it into your human spirit. It is the act of building a temple or a house in your soul. This word "oikodome" is used in Ephesians 4:12 and 16 and 29. A word that is used for this finished structure is "oikodomia." This is the result, the completed Christmas tree in your soul, found in 1 Timothy 1:4. Then there is another word which refers to the contractor, the builder, and it is "oikodomos" and this refers to the grace of God who is the builder of the soul.
- Now look at some of the Biblical uses of "oikodomos."
 - The whole 4th chapter of Ephesians 4 is built on this word.
 - Then an entire congregation is made up of people who have this edification structure in their souls, then it is a relaxed, happy church. This is a church that can be used of God. The purpose of such a church is to give maximum doctrine to the largest number of people. ACTS 9:31 "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

- c. We have an illustration between the edification complex in the soul and the activity of speaking in tongues and this is found in 1 Corinthians 14:3 and 4 and 12 and 26. Speaking in tongues has been terribly abused, and the objective of the Christian life is not to speak in tongues but to erect an edification complex in the soul. When ;you find excessive emotionalism in worship today, you are to avoid it, as is explained in Romans 16:17-13 and in 2 Cor. 6:11-12. Tongues is the most dangerous organized form of apostasy we have in America today, and it is absolutely antagonistic to Bible doctrine. The edification complex is put in your soul to oppose these radical things.
 - 4. The fourth way the edification complex is used is to show a contrast to human knowledge. Human knowledge (human viewpoint) puffs up, but true doctrine edifies.

 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1 "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

 Bible truth in the human spirit never puffs up. Human viewpoint makes you proud. But the edification complex gives you stability, humility, and a sound mind.
 - 5. Gifts are given to the pastor-teacher so the people can be edified. Ephesians 4:12; 2 Cor. 10:8
 - 6. There are many synonyms given in scripture for this edification complex.
 - a. Light PSALM 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

 Psalm 43:3
 Ephesians 5:8-9
 - b. Christ at home in your heart.

 EPHESIANS 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"
 - c. The fullness of God.

 EPHESIANS 3:19 "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth, knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."
 - d. Christ formed in you.

 GALATIANS 4:19 "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"
 - e. The image of the glory of God.

 Noman is the image and the glory of the man, and man is the image and the glory of God.
 - image and the glory of God.

 f. The new man.

 EPHESIANS 4:24 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
 - g. Obeying the truth.

 1 PETER 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"
 - h. Be an imitator of God.

 EPHESIANS 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children:"

- 7. Some prerequisites for building an edification complex.
 - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, rebound is necessary every day so you can stay in fellowship with God. John 14:26 John 16:12-14
 - b. The second prerequisite is knowledge of doctrine.
- 8. The essence of the edification complex--

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S WORD IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT.
THE FIRST FLOOR OF GRACE ORIENTATION.
GRACE ORIENTATION LEADS TO INNER HAPPINESS.
INNER HAPPINESS BRINGS A RELAXED MENTAL ATTITUDE.
A RELAXED MENTAL ATTITUDE LEADS TO A CAPACITY TO LOVE.
THE PENTHOUSE IS THE MASTERY OF THE DETAILS OF LIFE.

9. Christ set the pattern for the edification complex.

JOHN 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

LUKE 2:40 "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him."

"Auzono" means he grew strong.

[&]quot;Krataioo" means he had strong self-discipline.