



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

**GALATIAN &
EPHESIANS**

Week 4

All in the Family

DAY 22

Ephesians 3:14-21

Are you named after a parent? Relative? Famous person? Infamous person? What does your name mean?

1. How have the previous two and a half chapters led up to Paul's point that the whole family in heaven and earth is named after the Father (vs. 14-15)?

2. How can we be filled with God's "fullness" (vs. 16-19)?

3. What is the function of the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer (vs. 16-19)?

4. Analyze Paul's doxology (statement of praise) in verses 20-21. Why does he refer to power again?

1. Have you followed Paul's example and asked God to give strength and power to everyone in his family—all who believe in Christ (v. 14-16)?

2. How can you help unify the family of God here on earth (vs. 14-15)?

3. Draw a picture (physical or mental), using Paul's imagery, of the life of the saints (vs. 16-19).

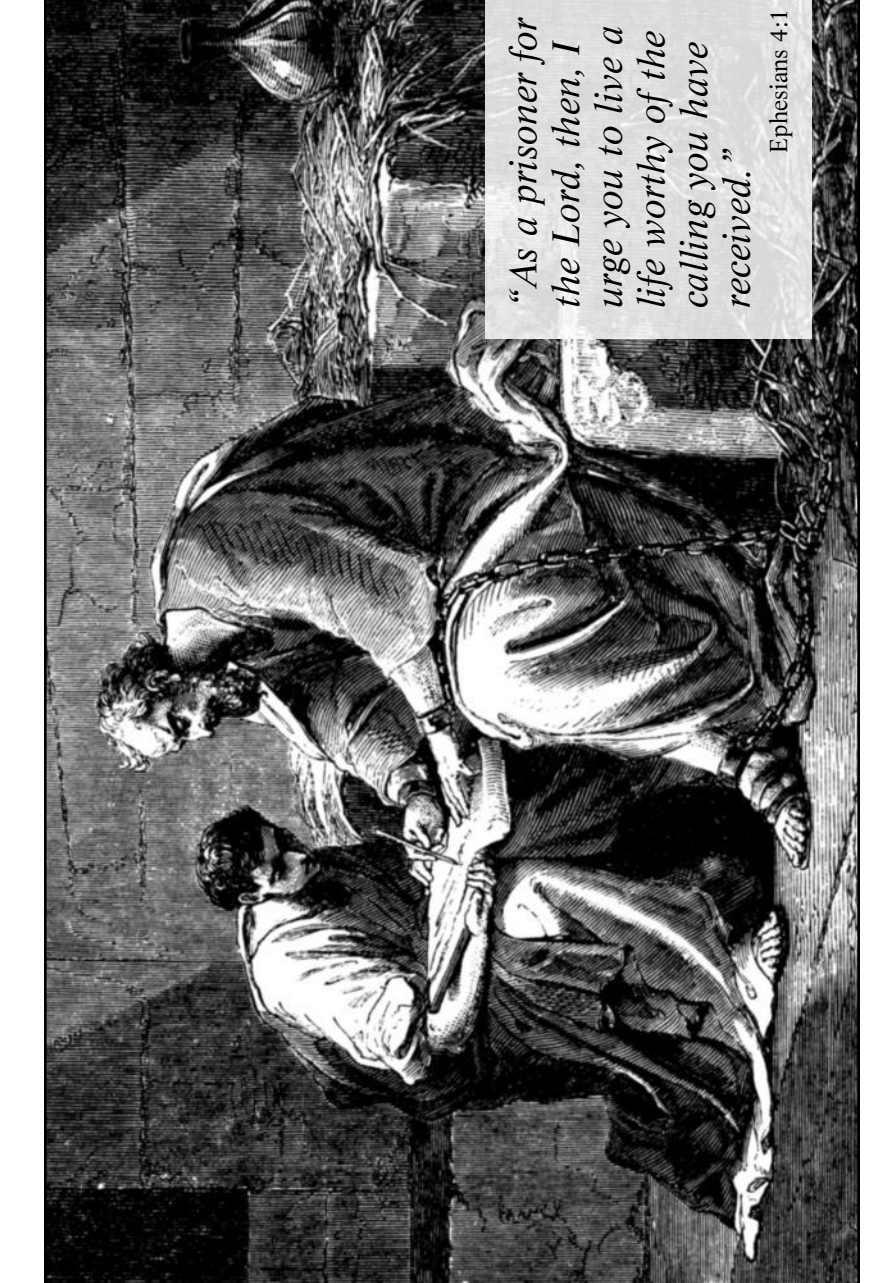
*Paul speaks of the process of comprehending and **knowing God** (vs. 18-19). God has revealed himself through Jesus Christ (Jn 14:9) and his contact with human beings (Heb 1:1-2) as conveyed in the Bible. He then dwells in us through the Holy Spirit who strengthens us and deepens our communion and faith in him.*

OPENING
up to the Word

DIGGING
into the Word

LIVING
out the Word

WINDOW
on the Word



*“As a prisoner for
the Lord, then, I
urge you to live a
life worthy of the
calling you have
received.”*

Ephesians 4:1

Ephesians 4:1-6

What is your calling in life? (a) to entertain, (b) to teach, (c) to inspire, (d) to encourage, (e) to support, (f) some of the above, (g) all of the above.

1. Why does Paul repeat the fact that he is a prisoner of the Lord (3:1; 4:1)?
2. How does a Christian walk worthy of the high calling from the Lord (vs. 1-3)? Can you do this through your own efforts?
3. Why is unity important for Christ-followers (vs. 3-6)?
4. How is the threefold nature of God core to the Christian faith (vs. 4-6, "one Spirit...one Lord...one God and Father")?
5. Note the seven phrases that start with the word "one" (vs. 4-6). How might these seven "ones" explain the Christian life?

1. Describe your spiritual calling from the Lord. How is it similar to your career calling? How does it differ?
2. This week, set out to represent Jesus in your attitude and actions (vs. 2-3). Which is hardest for you? (a) humility, (b) gentleness, (c) patience, (d) giving loving support, (e) building unity.
3. Meditate on the seven "ones." Use them to live in love as you yield to God's Spirit in you.

*Paul uses these verses to describe the link from God to the church. **The universal church, visible and invisible, is the body of Christ**, directly linked to its head Jesus Christ (1:22, 23; 2:21). The goal of all Christ-followers, individually and collectively, is to bring glory to God by Jesus Christ (3:21). In Christ, all believers are united to one another.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

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on the Word

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”

—*Ephesians 4:11-12*

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS COLLECTIVE BODY ON EARTH. CHRIST GIVES GIFTS TO EQUIP THEM FOR THEIR MISSION, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. ROMANS 12 LISTS THE GIFTS OF VARIOUS *MINISTRIES*. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 AND THE ABOVE PASSAGE LIST THE GIFTS OF VARIOUS *MINISTERS*.

Apostles (*apostolos*) in Greek usage signified commissioned messengers or ambassadors. Its Christian usage seems to have been limited to a select few who were eye-witnesses of the work of Jesus during his earthly ministry.

Prophets (*prophetes*) were those who built the body of Christ through preaching and imparting knowledge (1Co 13:2), and explained the Old Testament scriptures which anticipated and prophesied the coming of Christ (1Pe 1:10-11). The book of Acts names a few prophets: Agabus (Ac 11:28, 21:10), Judas, and Silas (Ac 15:32), as well as some unnamed disciples at Ephesus (Ac 19:6) and the four daughters of the evangelist Philip (Ac 21:9).

Evangelists (*euaggelistes*) are proclaimers of the gospel (*euaggelion*), carrying out many of the missionary activities of the apostles. Philip is named as an evangelist (Ac 21:8), as is Timothy (2Ti 4:5).

Pastors (*poimen*) is translated “shepherds” elsewhere in the New Testament (Lk 2:8, for example). Only in Ephesians is the word translated “pastors.” It refers to leaders in the church, usually operating within the local congregation.

Teachers (*didaskalos*) are instructors, engaging in doctrinal discussion. Paul groups this term with “pastors” above, indicating that the two ministries are related. All pastors should be able to teach, but not all teachers are pastors. Of the sixty-some usages of this word in the New Testament, thirty refer to Jesus.

Live According to God's Gifts

DAY 24

Ephesians 4:7-16

What gifts has God given you? (a) music, (b) art, (c) dance, (d) speech, (e) sports, (f) hospitality.

1. How does Paul develop the importance of the body of Christ for Christians (vs. 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24, 25)? Make a list of the factors he uses here.
2. What is God's greatest gift to humanity (vs. 7-8)?
3. Although members of the body of Christ are all given grace (vs. 4-7), how do members vary in other gifts God has given them (vs. 11-16)?
4. Why does God give various gifts of leadership (vs. 12-16)?

1. Do you believe you have been equipped for the work of ministering to others (v. 12)?
2. How can you identify "winds of teaching" that deceive or divide the body of Christ (v. 14)?
3. Do you speak the truth out of a motive of love?
4. Are you a part of the body of Christ (v. 16)?

*To confirm the **value and importance of the body of Christ**, with leaders and members alike servants of Christ, Paul quotes Psalm 68:18. In his rabbinic style, he teaches that Jesus descended to earth in the incarnation as a human male, then ascended far above all the heavens to return to his place with God to send grace to human beings (vs. 7-10). An alternative explanation may be that Jesus descended into the place of the dead when he was crucified, only to ascend again by being resurrected on the third day (1Pe 3:18-20).*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

Live as a New Creation

Ephesians 4:17-24

OPENING
up to the Word

Ads for fitness centers sometimes promise a “lean, mean fighting machine” if one is committed to regular workouts. How physically fit are you?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. What changes affect the life of a person who comes to faith in Jesus (vs. 17-19)?
2. What conduct is unbecoming to a Christian (vs. 18-19)? Why are these actions contrary to the love of God (vs. 19-22)?
3. How does Paul define the new Christian (vs. 23-24)?
4. Why are many people alienated from the life of God (v. 18)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. How would you describe the way you live (vs. 17)? (a) as the “gentiles” do, (b) in hardness of heart, (c) in selfishness, (d) in true righteousness and holiness.
2. What changes have you noticed in yourself since you began walking with Christ (vs. 22-24)?

WINDOW
on the Word

*Paul moves from the creation of the collective body of Christ as a physically fit human being who is healthy and growing (v. 16) to the individual Christian who is a **new creation of God** (v. 24). Each Christian strengthens the body by living in true righteousness and holiness within the universal church.*

Live as God's Children

DAY 26

Ephesians 4:25–5:5

Have you ever been forgiven of a financial debt? What if you owed so much money that you had to declare bankruptcy? How joyful would you be to be forgiven and to be released from the penalty of your mistakes?

1. Note Paul's "do's and don'ts" for Christians (4:25-5:5). Which ones are motivated by love? By lust? By greed? Does he ever give the idea that these behaviors are humanly produced, apart from God?
2. How did Jesus love us (5:2)? What ultimate sacrifice did it demand? See John 15:10-17.
3. In the actions described here, how important is control of the tongue in order to walk in the love of Jesus (4:25-5:6)? Where does that control start?
4. Who will inherit the "kingdom of Christ and God" (5:5)?

1. Is it enough to simply avoid evil? Or does Christ expect us to yield to him, allowing him to bring forth good works in us? See 2:8-10.
2. How did God in Christ forgive you (4:32)? How do you forgive others?
3. How do little children imitate parents (5:1)? How do you imitate your heavenly Father?
4. Are you, by God's grace, living as a citizen of God's kingdom?

*For Paul, **love** is more than a feeling. Love is an attitude of concern for others—a concern strong enough to lead us into action. One cannot simply rest on the fact that what one speaks about is truth, but rather, that truth is revealed from a motivation of love (4:15). The body builds itself up in love (4:16). Love underlies the actions of the Christian life (4:25-32), so God's children are to "live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" (5:2).*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

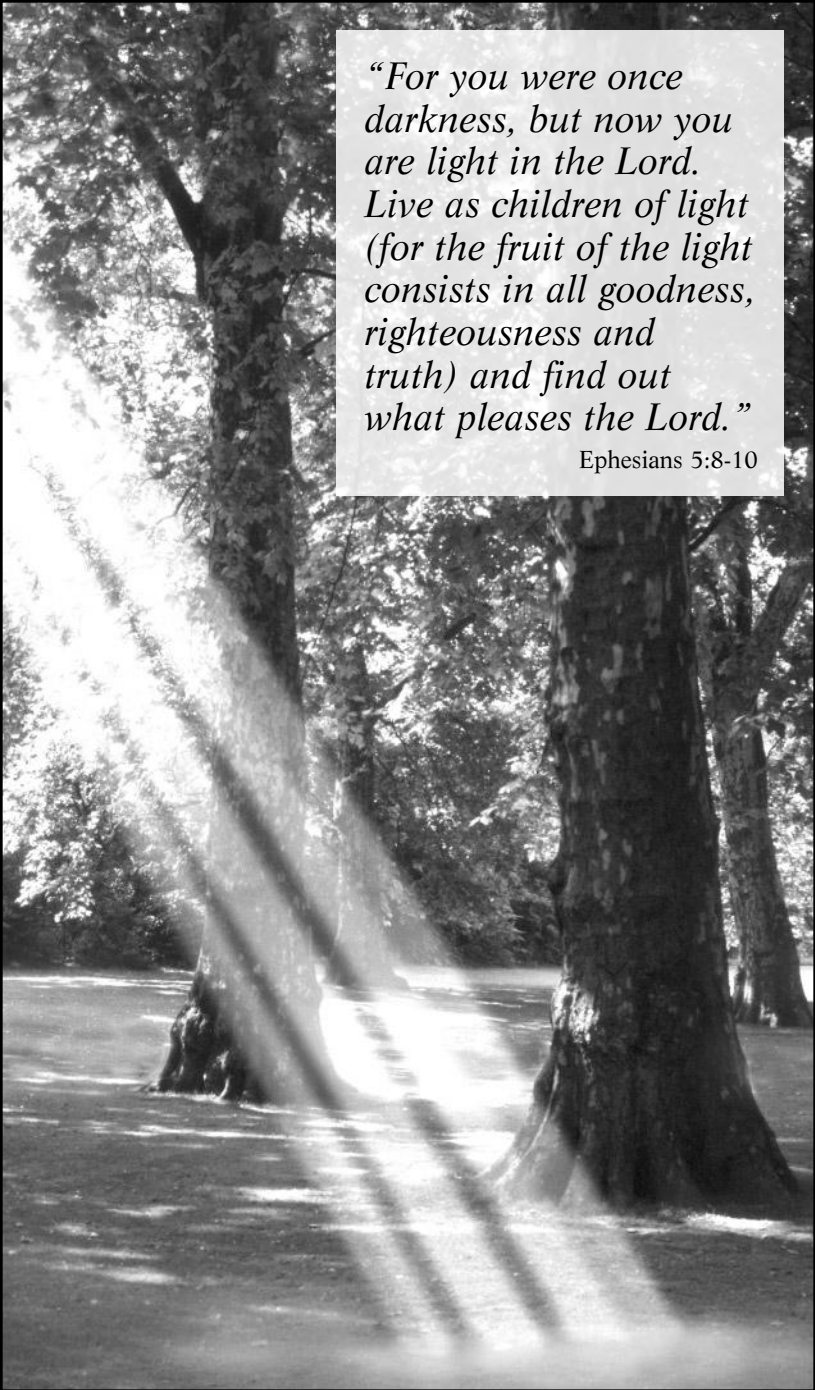
into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word



*“For you were once
darkness, but now you
are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light
(for the fruit of the light
consists in all goodness,
righteousness and
truth) and find out
what pleases the Lord.”*

Ephesians 5:8-10

Live in the Light

DAY 27

Ephesians 5:6-21

A gospel hymn summarizes the Christian walk:

*We will walk in the light of the Lord,
Through every day and every way,
We will surely find our way,
When we walk in the light of the Lord.*

1. Why does Paul start with the negative in his contrast of light and darkness?
2. How does Paul describe the Christian walk (2:10; 4:1; 5:2, 8, 15)? Is it the steady gait of a marathon or the sprint of a 100-meter dash?
3. What is the fruit produced by the children of light (5:8-10)? What is acceptable to the Lord? What is unacceptable?
4. How does light expose the acts of darkness (vs. 11-14)?
5. What are some of the responses of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit (vs. 18-21)?

1. Describe actions in your life that shine light on the Light of the world.
2. How does the work of God in our lives illuminate and expose evil?
3. How well do you use your time (v. 16)? Is God first in your heart? Do you have time for him?
4. Consider how the life of our risen Lord enables you to submit yourself to others out of reverence for Christ (v. 21).

Light and darkness are often contrasted in the Bible. The sun shines brightly during the day to enable work, play and everyday activity. In ancient times, lamps illuminated the interior of houses, but only the moon and stars affected the outer darkness of the night. The streets of most ancient cities were not safe at night because of criminals.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her....”

Ephesians 5:21-22, 25



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Live in Marital Love

DAY 28

Ephesians 5:22-33

What do you think are the most important ingredients for a happy marriage? (a) friendship, (b) financial security, (c) faithfulness, (d) respect, (e) laughter, (f) children, (g) love.

1. What is Paul's statement to wives (vs. 22-24)? Does this apply only to the women of that society or is it intended for women of every age?
2. What is Paul's statement to husbands (vs. 25-28)?
3. What directive is Paul giving to the body of Christ for its vitality and growth (vs. 29-32)?
4. Why do you think Paul wrote lengthier instructions to husbands than he did to wives?

1. What part does Christ play in a Christ-centered marriage?
2. How important is love for a thriving, joyful marriage? How is it best demonstrated? Is it only through emotions, or does it require action?
3. How do you understand the term "submit" (v. 22)? Does it mean to do everything a husband commands, even if he is abusive? Or does it mean to fully give oneself, emotionally as well as physically, to one's spouse?
4. Should love or submission be demanded, or given voluntarily?
5. How important is it for both husband and wife to be willing to share their whole being with one another (v. 21)?

*Paul explained the **relationship of Christ and his earthly, imperfect body on earth** with three analogies in Ephesians: as a well-constructed building (2:19-22), as a physically and spiritually fit human being (4:15-16) and as a well-functioning, loving marriage (5:21-33).*

OPENING

up to the Word

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Live in Family Peace

Ephesians 6:1-9

OPENING
up to the Word

How close is your family? (a) physically and emotionally tight-knit, (b) physically separated, but emotionally together, (c) physically close, but emotionally separated, (d) in every way estranged. Can the relationships be improved?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. What is Paul's intent in verses 1-3? Does he assume that parents will act as Christians "in the Lord" (v. 1)? What do you think he means by the word *honor*?

2. What does Paul mean by *exasperate* (v. 4)? How should parents nurture their children?

3. Does it seem that Paul did not discourage slavery (vs. 5-9)? How much improvement in human relationships would have occurred if Paul's advice were followed?

LIVING
out the Word

1. What is your present relationship with your parent(s)? Would listening (on the part of both children and parents) help?

2. How difficult is it for you to nurture others when you're angry?

3. How does the example given here of a master/slave relationship apply to a modern employer/employee relationship (vs. 5-9)? In what ways does it not apply?

4. Whatever your occupation might be, do you perform it as if you must answer directly to Christ?

WINDOW
on the Word

*Paul emphasized the need for **mutual respect**. The strength of relationships depends on respectful attention to the words others speak and the emotions behind them. Paul's concerns lay in the need for unity in the church as the body of Christ, so the relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, and masters and servants was crucial.*

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.... Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:1, 4

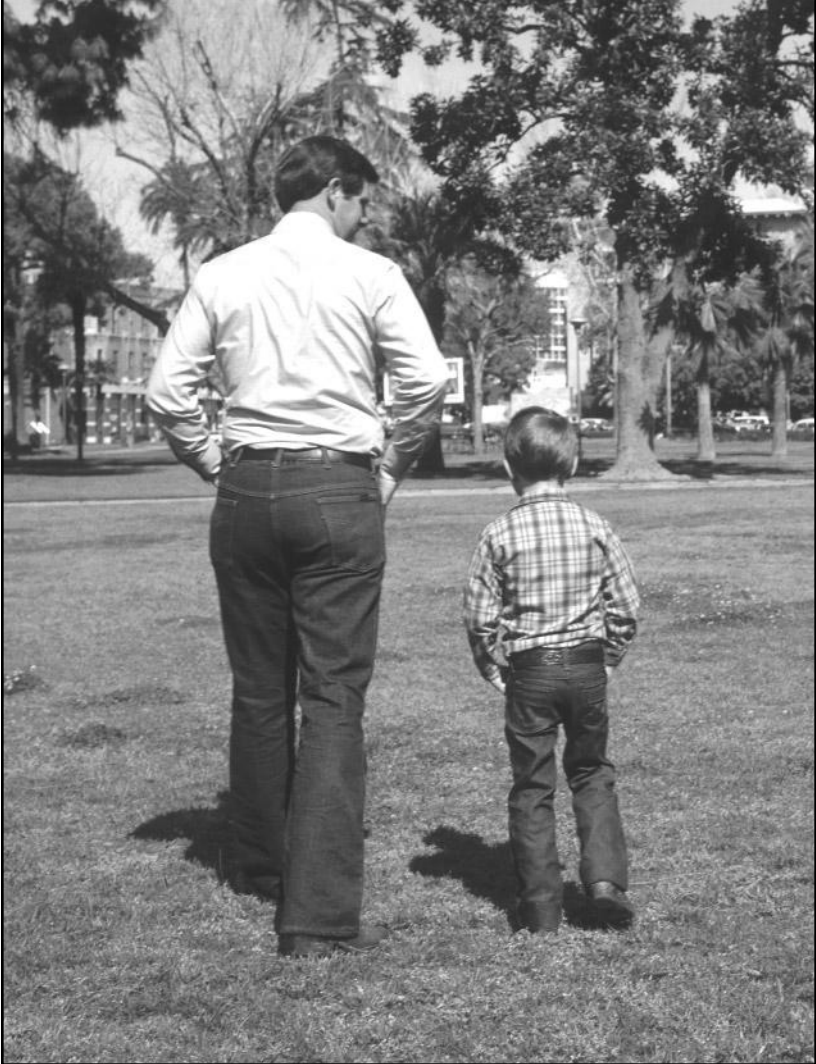


Photo by G.A. Belluche—PTM

Live to Win the Battle

Ephesians 6:10-24

OPENING
up to the Word

In 1865, Sabine Baring-Gould wrote the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*. It was written hurriedly in less than 15 minutes.

*Onward Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the word of Jesus,
Going on before.*

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Why did Paul choose to conclude his epistle with this “call to arms” (vs. 10-20)? Did he start the letter by emphasizing the spiritual power of Christ over all rule, authority, spiritual powers and dominion (1:19-23)?
2. Who is the enemy (6:11-12)?
3. What is the proper armor for Christian warfare (vs. 13-17)?
4. How do the pieces of armor fit together to provide protection (vs. 13-17)? How are they kept ready and in shape for battle (vs. 18-20)?
5. Did Paul ask for prayers as he fought at the battle front (vs. 19-20)?
6. What was Paul’s concern for these Christians (vs. 13, 14, 21-24)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Examine your armor. Is anything rusty? Need any repairs or replacements?
2. How is your ambassadorship for Christ coming along? Consider your true citizenship (1:5, 10; 2:6, 19-20; 3:14-15).

WINDOW
on the Word

The **focus of evil** was apparent to Paul from his previous stay of over two years and three months in Ephesus (Ac 18-19). *Worship of Diana and of Isis led to widespread sorcery. Roman Emperors demanded worship from their subjects.*

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

