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Weekend Manna: FRED SAID

Extracts from Manna Bible teaching commentaries by Fred Morris

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Weekend of 4th/5th January 2025

Galatians Chapter 3: *God's promise is for us all to enjoy*

Paul wrote, "God's promises were given to Abraham. They were also given to his seed. It does not say, 'seeds' which means many people. It says, 'seed' which means one person. And that one person is Christ... The Law came [430 years] after this promise. But the Law does not remove God's covenant and promise. The covenant had already been made by God. So the Law does not do away with the promise. The great gift that God has for us does not depend on the Law... God gave it to Abraham as a free gift through a promise... The Law was added because of human sin. And it was supposed to control us until the promised seed [Jesus the Christ our Messiah] had come." (Galatians 3:15-19)

Therefore, the Law was given to show God's people their sinfulness when they had failed to obey God's will.

The future blessing God promised to Abraham through his 'seed' was for everyone. All the prophets said that the blessing would come through 'the seed of Abraham'. This blessing remains for all to enjoy now. Paul wrote elsewhere, "Now is the time of God's favour (blessing). Now is the day of God's salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) He knew this truth better than anyone. He proved for himself that the promise of God to Abraham referred to salvation in Christ alone. This is for all who believe He is the Son of God.

On three long missionary journeys, Paul preached 'Jesus Christ and the resurrection' to both Gentiles and Jews (Acts 17:18). Many Gentiles as well as Jews believed in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit came upon those believers as He had on the Jewish disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2:4; 10:44-45). Paul reported this blessing for the Gentiles to the leaders in Jerusalem. James, the brother of Jesus, said, "The words of the prophets are in agreement with this." (Acts 15:15) James took the words of the prophet Amos and used them to speak of the blessings of Abraham coming to Gentiles who believed in Israel's Messiah (Amos 9:11-12). The blessing that James spoke of was that Gentiles could be children of God and equal with God's people, Israel. All new believers are 'citizens of a new community' and come to God out of every nation.

Extracted from "LIVING BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2000, 2024.

Weekend of 11th/12th January 2025

Ephesians Chapter 6. *The full armour of God*

Paul described the different pieces of armour worn by Roman soldiers. He did this to explain each piece of spiritual armour we need from God to win the battle of faith (6:14-17):

- *The belt of truth.* A belt held the soldier's cloak tightly round him. It held some of the other pieces of armour in place. Our armour enables us to be free to move but ready to resist the lies of the enemy with the truth from God. Reading the Bible confirms God's word within us and makes us ready to defend our faith and overcome doubts and fears.
- *The breastplate of God's righteousness.* In faith, we receive and put on His righteousness. Let us never doubt that we have been made righteous in the sight of God through the sacrifice of His Son for our sins. Satan tries to make us feel weak and unworthy. We must always remember that God has made us righteous because Jesus was punished in our place.
- *Our shoes to take the Good News of salvation everywhere.* Christians know the Good News of Jesus Christ and carry it in their heart. They are sure of what Jesus has done for them and must be prepared to take the message of God's salvation plan to all people.
- *The shield of faith.* The Roman shield turned aside all arrows from the enemy. It was large enough to protect the whole body. Paul compared Satan's attacks to flaming arrows. When we lift up our shield of faith we can trust in God's power to protect us.
- *The helmet of salvation.* The helmet stops the enemy from destroying us by attacking our heads and our minds. Our salvation leads to divine thoughts and eternal life which Satan cannot take away from us.
- *The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.* The soldier takes his sword for when he is in danger. It is used to attack and to defend. The Bible is like a sword and our greatest weapon against Satan. We stand firm and use the Word of God against him. God's word defeats Satan. Speak God's truth and Satan will withdraw (James 4:7).

Notice that Paul requests his readers to put on ALL God's armour (6:11,13). We are often weak in body, mind or spirit. We need each piece of God's spiritual armour. If one piece is missing, then Satan will find a way in to attack us. So put on the full armour of God each morning. You will notice the difference in overcoming the attacks of the devil. Others will notice the change in your lives.

Extracted from "PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2000, 2018, 2024.

Weekend of 18/19th January 2025

Philippians Chapter 4: *Be of one mind*

Paul told his readers how to live to please God. If they followed his example, they would stand firm in the strength of the Lord (4:1). Then they would be examples to others. Paul called their godly lives "my joy and crown." He loved them very much.

However, two women in the church could not agree. This caused trouble in the church and Paul asked the leaders to help these two women settle their argument. "I want them to agree with each other because they belong to the Lord" (4:2). The Holy Spirit brings unity in a group. This happens when each person holds to the truth and lives a holy life. He wanted all of them to know God's peace (2:2).

Personal matters must be settled by each believer. Leaders must speak against any wrong teaching or sin in the lives of the believers. Paul was careful to note that "their names are all written in the Book of Life" (4:3; Revelation 3:5). This means these two women were born again by the Spirit of God.

Paul told them again to be joyful and "rejoice in the Lord always" (4:4). This is a command to be obeyed. At times we may be sad and mourn. We may get upset and disagree with others at times. But God's word commands us to forgive and be joyful in the Lord for all that He has done for us.

"Let everyone see how gentle you are." And he wanted them to live believing that the Lord is coming soon" (4:5). If God is at work in us, we can be gentle towards all persons. When we love other believers, we are gentle even in correcting them. This is most important for church leaders.

Paul also wrote, "Do not worry about anything. Tell God about everything. Ask and pray and give thanks to Him" (4:6). Satan wants us to worry. But God wants us to enjoy His peace in our hearts (4:7). Instead of worrying, we are told to pray about everything "giving thanks to God" (4:6). If we do this, we have God's promise: "the peace of God...will guard your hearts and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus" (4:7). Those without Jesus have no true peace in their hearts. God's peace is so amazing, it "can never be completely understood."

Extracted from "PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS" Bible teaching commentary by Fred Morris, © 2002, 2023.