

A Changed Heart Response
Ephesians 4:31-32 Sunday AM, November 26, 2023

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 4:20-32 (NASB95) But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. 26 **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Life and change mark true believers, a direct result of the gracious work of God to bring individuals to participate in His work of displaying His power and love to the saints, unbelievers, AND the heavenly beings. Christians under the Headship of Christ are not unstable and distracted, **tossed . . . by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming**, following different voices with different goals. They are not dependent on the futility of their own minds and therefore darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the hardness of their hearts. Instead, they are purposeful in their work among the people of God speaking into each other's souls with the goal of each growing in ALL aspects into Christ. While the growth WILL be noticed, the saving difference of this change will be internal as God works so His people know Him in a way leading to worship for His greatness and provision. Obedience follows worship stemming from a genuine desire for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. True Christians treasure God's word because it leads to fellowship with God Himself and all He has promised us now and for eternity. And so we welcome this Advent season celebrating the promised coming of Emmanuel even as we wait with expectancy for His promised return. Sing the trustworthiness of God and the hope of the believer.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

There is NO GOSPEL, good news from God, that does not bring you into daily fellowship with God. And that fellowship with God not only gives you a part to fill in the people of God growing together to the fullness of Christ, but the results of this goal will also change your tongue, your anger, your work ethic, and today, your heart's response. **31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.** These were hinted at last week, because there is no stealing NOR desire to give/share without thinking about our hearts longings. God HAS given all to enjoy, but we are not to enjoy IT without enjoying Him. Because of the depth of desire and sense of entitlement running beneath these sinful character traits and emotions, you need the work of God to obey today's Scripture. And that work is part of God's gracious work in the lives of His people. Listen to the hope of Zechariah 13:9. (NASB95) **9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "** Ask God for this refining work in your life with this old chorus.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Refiner's Fire**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn**

Choir: What Grace is Mine

Scripture: Micah 7:1–20 (NASB95) Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, Or a first-ripe fig which I crave. 2 The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright person among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net. 3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well. The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe, And a great man speaks the desire of his soul; So they weave it together. 4 The best of them is like a briar, The most upright like a thorn hedge. The day when you post your watchmen, Your punishment will come. Then their confusion will occur. 5 Do not trust in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a friend. From her who lies in your bosom Guard your lips. 6 For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household. 7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. 8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me. 9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, And I will see His righteousness. 10 Then my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look on her; At that time she will be trampled down Like mire of the streets. 11 It will be a day for building your walls. On that day will your boundary be extended. 12 It will be a day when they will come to you From Assyria and the cities of Egypt, From Egypt even to the Euphrates. Even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain. 13 And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, On account of the fruit of their deeds. 14 Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, The flock of Your possession Which dwells by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old. 15 "As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles." 16 Nations will see and be ashamed Of all their might. They will put their hand on their mouth, Their ears will be deaf. 17 They will lick the dust like a serpent, Like reptiles of the earth. They will come trembling out of their fortresses; To the LORD our God they will come in dread And they will be afraid before You. 18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.

Offering: *Doxology:

32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other. Don't just root out wrong desires, do it with an eye to care for, to value, to give to others. Don't set out to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving without letting God define HOW. You must do this **just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.** Did you hear the kindness, the grace of God recorded in Micah? **18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.** This is the grace of God of which the choir sang. Don't let the old words of Philip Doddridge and Augustus Toplady keep you from worshipping the grace of God!

***Hymn #219 (Red): Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound**

Look at God, not at you to obey today's path to a changed heart. Look not merely at the cross, but at the path to the cross seen all the way from the rebellion of Eden. Ponder God's definitive actions on our behalf WHILE we were still sinners-- **just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.** Behold. Worship. Repent. Obey.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Merciful (At the cross where Jesus suffered)**

Message: A Changed Heart Response Ephesians 4:31-32

***Hymn #372: Living for Jesus**

***Prayer**