

## Let's Get Specific

Ephesians 4:25, 29 Sunday AM, November 5, 2023

### Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-29

(NASB95) So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 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.

True Christians did not choose to follow Christ apart from God's first choosing them. Why does this matter? The focus is on the One calling/choosing. If God chose us first, then His reason for choosing gives purpose to that calling. However personal responsibility and divine sovereignty work together, remembering that ultimate authority and reason for living comes from God will keep us from focusing so much on our reasons for choosing God rather than on His reasons for choosing us. Ephesians 4 shows that God's effectual calling involves living and serving together with others He has chosen. We are told to do this with all humility, showing tolerance for one another with love. But the calling goes farther. Grace comes from God to each called, and that grace shows itself in structure, accountability, and care, all of which lead to the message of the gospel being carried out to its desired end—specifically, each saint equipped **for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.** Christians under the Headship of Christ are not unstable and distracted following different voices with different goals, but purposeful in their work among the people of God where they speak into each other's souls with the goal of each growing in ALL aspects into Christ. There is life, love, and above all, growth/change among the people of God when Christ is given His position as Head of the church. While the change WILL be external and noticed, the saving difference of this change will be internal as God works so His people grow to know Him in a way where their worship is a true response to God's greatness and goodness, and their obedience to Him stems from a genuine desire for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Church, lift up the focus of your redeemed life—the call of our King to the work of His kingdom.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Hear the Call of the Kingdom

The work of the kingdom is always to be a response to fellowship with the King. In Ephesians 5, we will be told to be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us. There is MORE to learn about God than just what is ours in Christ, but Christ is the ONLY final means of reconciliation with God, and therefore, the pinnacle giving us security in the love of God. We must NOT speak of obeying Christ as Head of the Church without thinking about how the gospel centering around the love of God through the work of Christ leads to change in our behavior. Secure identity is one of the cornerstones of true biblical change. Sing the identity of every true believer.

### \*Hymn #275 (Red): I Belong to the King

### \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn

### Choir: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

### Scripture: Psalm 14–15

(NASB95) For the choir director. A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one. <sup>4</sup> Do all the workers of wickedness not know, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call upon the Lord? <sup>5</sup> There they are in great dread, For God is with the righteous generation. <sup>6</sup> You would put to shame the counsel of the afflicted, But the LORD is his refuge. <sup>7</sup> Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad. A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? <sup>2</sup> He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. <sup>3</sup> He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; <sup>4</sup> In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; <sup>5</sup> He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Today, we focus on specific application of gospel change. Pastor Jahn has opinions of what this application looks like, I have others, you have others, and it will be easy to focus on agreeing/disagreeing with these applications and comparing ourselves with others, but don't lose focus on life from the Head—fellowship with God that leads to true biblical change. True biblical change includes our tongues—what we say and don't, what is truly truthful versus what is expected or least offensive, and what are the appropriate words for the moment, those which bring God's grace to a situation. Culture, personality, and fear of man all must be addressed as our tongues must resemble the culture and heart of the God of heaven. **How do we head in this direction without our personal applications obscuring God's intent for the speech of His people?** Inside a cultivated growing relationship with God. Notice from our Scripture reading, **it is the workers of wickedness who do not call upon the Lord.** Who calls on the Lord in a way that brings confident hope that the choir sang about—a mighty fortress is our God? **O Lord, who may abide . . . on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue . . . he swears to his own hurt and does not change.** These actions, while required for fellowship with God are the fruit of God's work in His own. Don't panic at the holy demands of fellowship with a holy God. Instead, show the reality of Christ's headship through a life listening for and dependent on God's word while you seek present grace from God so you may give grace with your words, your life. Sing these two prayers with me as Pastor Jahn prepares to preach.

### \*Hymn #435 (Red): Lord Speak to Me

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Blessed Spirit of the King (Puritan Prayer)

### Message: Live the Reality Ephesians 4:22-24

### \*Hymn #333: His Way with Thee

### \*Prayer