

Though the Bible

# EPHESIANS-I

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

COPYRIGHT ZAC POONEN AND VINAY KURUVILLA

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI  
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149  
INDIA

# Ephesians

EPHESIANS IS PERHAPS THE MOST SPIRITUAL LETTER THAT PAUL WROTE, AND THAT INDICATES THAT THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS AT THAT TIME WAS IN A VERY SPIRITUAL STATE. IT WAS A VERY GOOD CHURCH. THERE WAS NOTHING THERE FOR PAUL TO CORRECT.



TO THE CORINTHIAN CHRISTIANS HE SAID, "I COULD ONLY GIVE YOU MILK." BUT TO THE EPHESIANS HE WAS ABLE TO SHARE DEEPER TRUTHS. WE CAN RECEIVE ONLY ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.



GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO STOP WITH THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS, BEING BORN AGAIN AND LIVE ON MILK EVER AFTER. HE WANTS US TO GROW UP TO MATURITY. THE MORE WE GROW TO MATURITY, THE MORE EFFECTIVE OUR TESTIMONY WILL BE TO OTHERS.

IN EPHESIANS PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH. WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLE OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, WE WILL SEE HOW EVERY LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE.



EPHESIANS DEALS WITH LIVING A HEAVENLY LIFE ON EARTH. A CHURCH AND A CHRISTIAN CAN FULFIL THEIR FUNCTION ON EARTH ONLY IF THEY ARE HEAVENLY-MINDED. THE LORD'S WILL FOR US IS "THAT YOUR DAYS ON EARTH MAY BE LIKE THE DAYS OF HEAVEN UPON EARTH"

(DEUTERONOMY 11:21 - KJV). THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER THE OLD COVENANT. BUT EPHESIANS TELLS US HOW WE CAN LIVE LIKE THAT UNDER THE NEW COVENANT.



THERE IS AN EXPRESSION THAT OCCURS FREQUENTLY IN EPHESIANS: 'IN CHRIST', OR 'IN HIM.' PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS ADMIRE THE EXTERNAL MINISTRY OF JESUS AND SOME OF THEM EVEN TRY TO IMITATE HIM IN THESE AREAS.



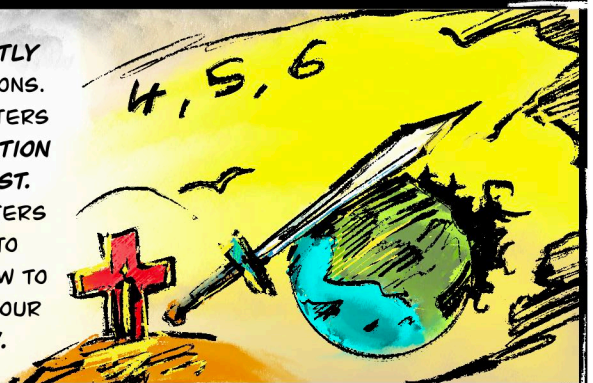
BUT TRUE SPIRITUALITY COMES FROM BEING IN CHRIST AND THUS SEEING HIS INNER VALUES AND HIS INNER MOTIVES. THE LIFE OF JESUS MUST FIRST COME INSIDE US AND THEN BECOME MANIFEST OUTSIDE FROM WITHIN.



WHEN WE STUDIED THE **TABERNACLE**, WE SAW THAT GOD DID NOT BEGIN WITH THE **OUTER COMPOUND WALL** MADE FROM SHEETS. HE BEGAN AT THE **CENTRE** -- WITH THE **ARK** IN THE **MOST HOLY PLACE**. WE ARE GOD'S DWELLING PLACE AS **INDIVIDUALS** AND AS A **CHURCH**. AND WHEN GOD MAKES HIS **DWELLING PLACE**, HE ALWAYS BEGINS FROM **WITHIN** -- FROM YOUR **SPIRIT**.



EPHESIANS IS VERY NEATLY DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS. THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS TELL US ABOUT OUR POSITION AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST. THE NEXT THREE CHAPTERS TELL US HOW WE ARE TO WALK ON EARTH AND HOW TO FIGHT THE DEVIL FROM OUR POSITION 'IN CHRIST'.



MANY PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO FOLLOW THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, AND TRIED TO BE **KIND** AND **GOOD**. THEY HAVE TRIED TO BUILD THE **SUPERSTRUCTURE** WITHOUT A **FOUNDATION**. CHRISTIANS WITHOUT **DISCERNMENT** CAN ADMIRE SUCH A MAN AS "**CHRISTLIKE**"! BUT THEY ARE **BLIND**. A HOUSE WITHOUT A **FOUNDATION** WILL BE **WASHED AWAY** WHEN THE **FLOOD** COMES.



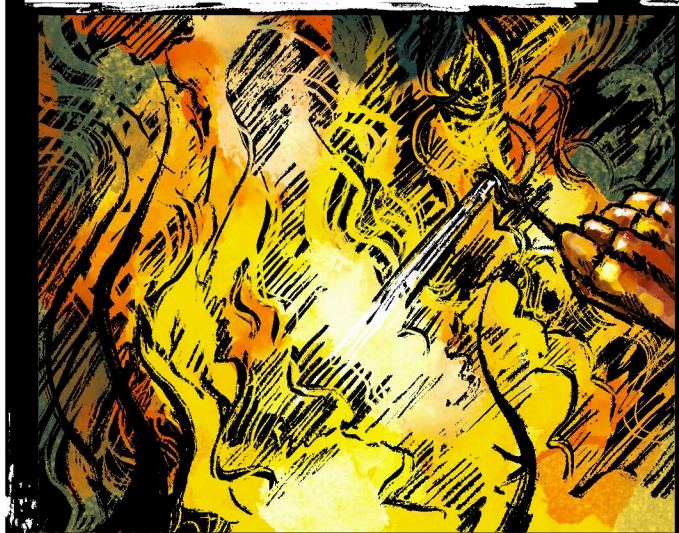
WE CAN SPEND OUR LIFE DOING **SOCIAL WORK** CARING FOR THE POOR, THE LEPERS AND THE WIDOWS, ETC. AND GET THE **HONOUR OF MEN**. BUT IF WE ARE NOT "**IN CHRIST**", WE WILL BE **REJECTED BY GOD**.



ANOTHER FACT WE NOTICE IN **EPHESIANS** IS THAT THERE ARE **NO EXHORTATIONS** OR **COMMANDMENTS** IN THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS. WE ARE **NOT TOLD TO DO** ANYTHING IN THOSE CHAPTERS. WE ARE **ONLY TOLD WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US**.



ON THE OTHER HAND, CHAPTERS **4 TO 6** ARE **FULL OF EXHORTATIONS**. THAT IS THE **BALANCE** WE SHOULD HAVE IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE. WE FIRST NEED TO BE **GRIPPED BY WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US AND IN US**. THEN WE CAN **MOVE ON TO GOD WORKING THROUGH US**. IF **GOD HAS NOT DONE A WORK IN US FIRST** HE WILL **NOT BE ABLE TO DO A WORK THROUGH US**.



AN ARTIST CAN **PAINT A FIRE** THAT LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE A **REAL FIRE** FROM A **DISTANCE**. BUT IT DOESN'T GIVE ANY **LIGHT** OR **WARMTH**. IT IS EASY TO BE **FOOLED** BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO **IMITATE CHRIST** WITHOUT BEING "**IN CHRIST**", IF WE DO **NOT HAVE DISCERNMENT**.

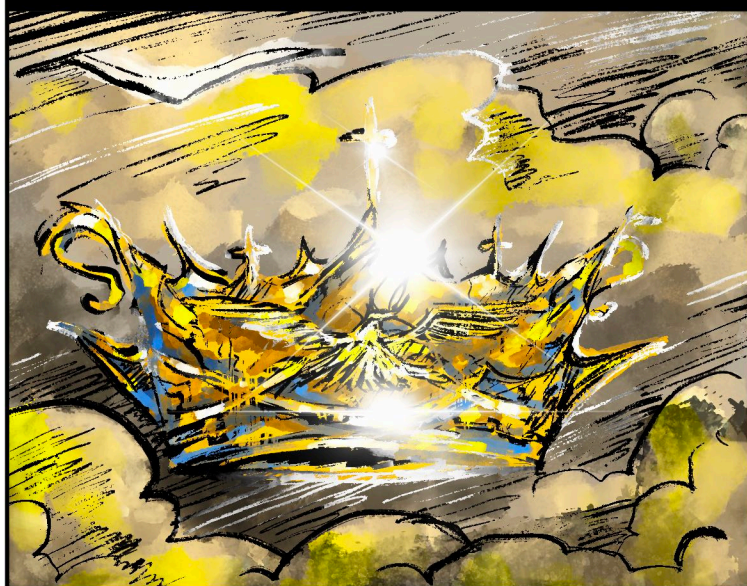


Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ who  
has blessed us with every  
spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly places in Christ.  
Eph 1:3

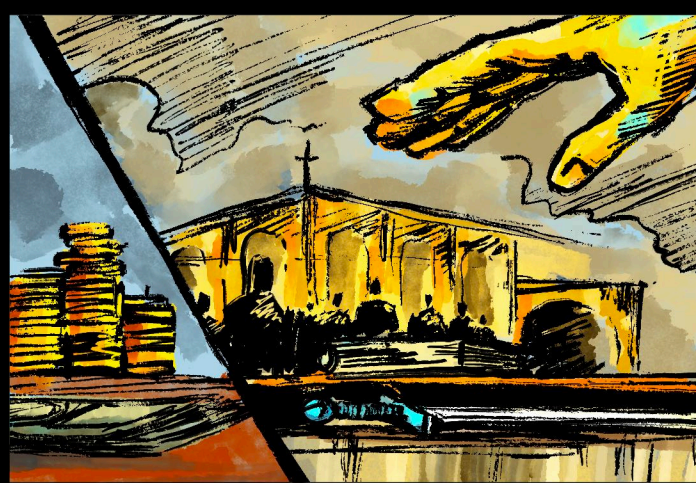
NOTICE THERE THAT ALL THESE **BLESSINGS** ARE **SPIRITUAL, NOT MATERIAL**.



EARTHLY BLESSINGS WERE WHAT THE **ISRAELITES** WERE PROMISED UNDER THE **OLD COVENANT**. SO THOSE BELIEVERS WHO ARE SEEKING **PRIMARILY** FOR **PHYSICAL HEALING** AND **MATERIAL BLESSINGS** ARE REALLY GOING BACK TO THE OLD COVENANT. SUCH "BELIEVERS" ARE ACTUALLY **ISRAELITES** AND NOT **CHRISTIANS**.



TODAY, AS WE SEEK HIS **KINGDOM** AND HIS **RIGHTEOUSNESS** FIRST, ALL OUR **EARTHLY** NEEDS ARE PROVIDED FOR US.



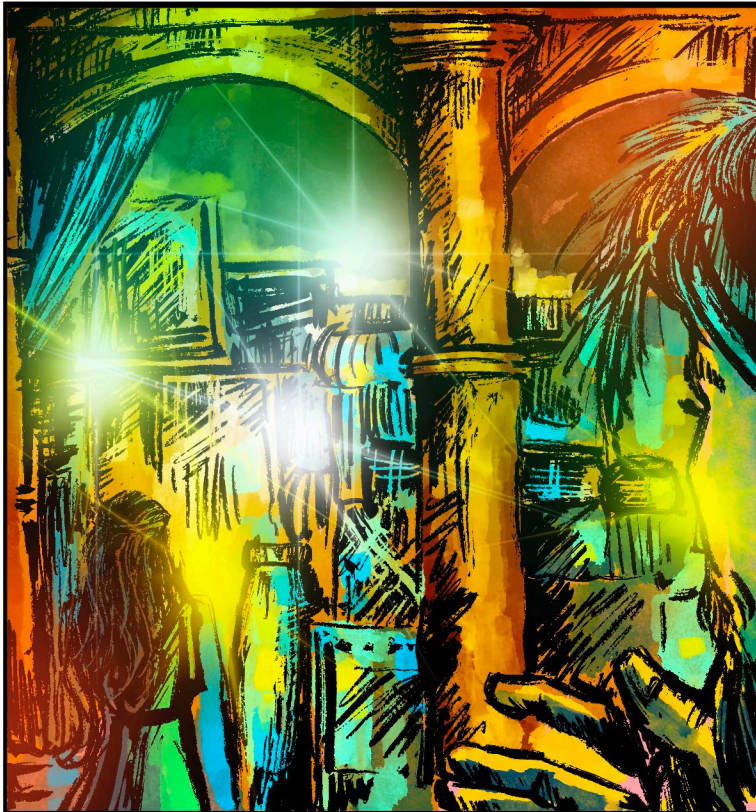
UNDER THE **NEW COVENANT**, WE SEEK FOR **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS** -- **SPIRITUAL CHILDREN**, **SPIRITUAL WEALTH**, **SPIRITUAL HONOUR**, **SPIRITUAL VICTORIES** (OVER **SATAN** AND THE **FLESH**, AND NOT OVER THE **PHILISTINES** OR **HUMAN BEINGS**).



GOD HAS **ALREADY** GIVEN US EVERY **BLESSING** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IN **CHRIST**. WE HAVE ONLY TO **CLAIM** THEM IN **JESUS' NAME**.

IMAGINE A **BEGGAR GIRL** SITTING **BEGGING** BY THE **ROADSIDE**.

A **RICH PRINCE** COMES BY AND DECIDES TO **MARRY** HER AND PUTS **MILLIONS** INTO A **BANK ACCOUNT** -- AN ACCOUNT FROM WHICH SHE CAN **DRAW MONEY FREELY** ANY TIME SHE WANTS. WHAT A **LUCKY GIRL** SHE IS!



EVERYTHING OF HEAVEN IS **OURS** IN CHRIST IF WE REMAIN IN THIS **BRIDAL** RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. WE **DON'T** HAVE TO **TRY** AND **CONVINCE** GOD THAT WE **DESERVE** ANY OF THEM -- BECAUSE WE DO **NOT** DESERVE ANY OF THEM. WE CAN TAKE EVERYTHING OF HEAVEN BECAUSE THEY HAVE **ALL** BEEN **GIVEN** TO US **FREELY** IN CHRIST. WE **CANNOT** EARN THEM BY OUR **FASTINGS** OR OUR **PRAYERS**.



THE **MATURE** AND THE **NEW** CHRISTIAN CAN COME ONLY WITH A **CHEQUE** SIGNED BY **JESUS** CHRIST. IF I COME TO GOD SAYING THAT I HAVE BEEN **FAITHFUL** TO HIM FOR SO MANY YEARS, THEN I AM COMING TO HEAVEN'S BANK WITH A **CHEQUE** SIGNED BY **ME**. AND HEAVEN'S BANK WILL **REJECT** IT. THAT'S THE REASON WHY MANY OF OUR **PRAYERS** ARE NOT ANSWERED. WE ARE **NOT** GOING IN **JESUS'** NAME.

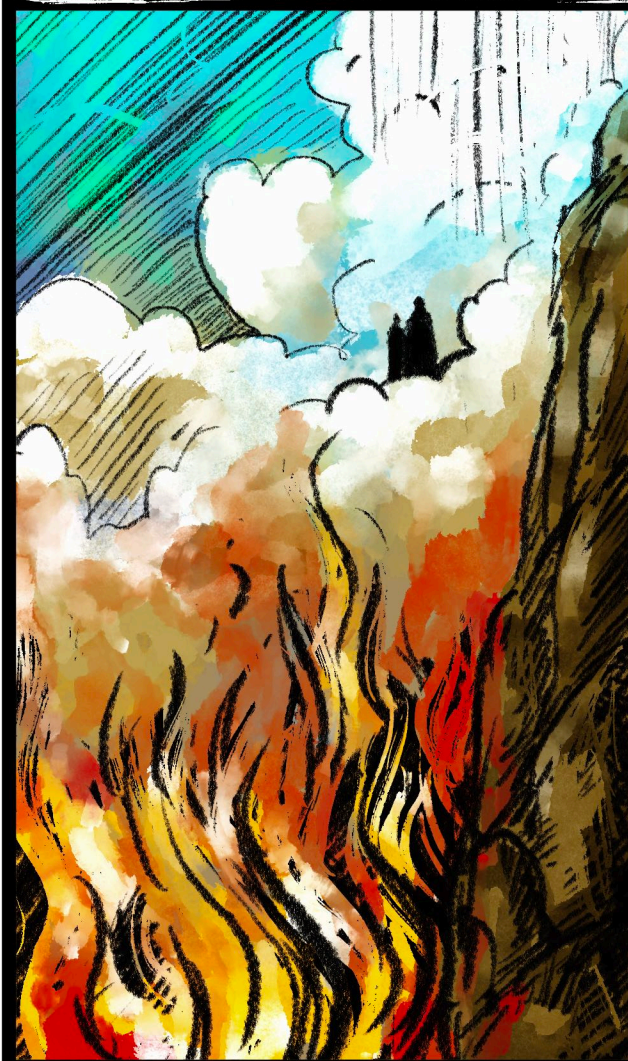
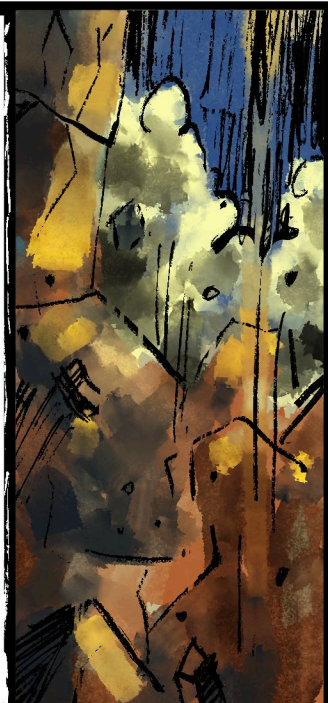
CHAPTER 1:4 SAYS, "HE **CHOSE** US IN **CHRIST** BEFORE THE **FOUNDATION** OF THE WORLD." WE SAW THAT JOHN 1:1, REFERRING TO **ETERNITY** PAST, COMES BEFORE GENESIS 1:1. THE NEXT VERSE IN THE BIBLE AFTER JOHN 1:1, **CHRONOLOGICALLY**, IS **EPHESIANS** 1:4, WHICH ALSO REFERS TO **ETERNITY** PAST. IT'S A **WONDERFUL** THING TO RECOGNISE THAT WE WHO ARE IN **CHRIST** WERE IN **GOD'S** MIND BEFORE THE **HEAVENS** AND THE **EARTH** WERE **CREATED**.





CHAPTERS 1 TO 3 ARE THE **FOUNDATION**. THERE IS **NO** STONE IN THE FOUNDATION THAT SAYS, "WE WERE CHOSEN TO GO TO **HEAVEN** WHEN WE **DIE**." THE STONE IN THE **FOUNDATION** SAYS, "GOD CHOSE US SO THAT WE SHOULD BE **HOLY** AND **BLAMELESS** BEFORE HIM."

MANY CHRISTIANS **DON'T** HAVE THE **SOLID FOUNDATION** OF **EPHESIANS 1 TO 3** AND THAT IS WHY THEY **COLLAPSE** LATER ON IN THEIR LIVES. IF YOU HAVE A **CRACK** IN THE **FOURTH FLOOR** OF A BUILDING, IT'S MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE THE **FOUNDATION** WAS **NOT STRONG** ENOUGH.



WE READ FURTHER IN 1:4, 5 "IN LOVE HE PREDESTINED US." "**PREDESTINED**" IS ANOTHER WORD WHICH IS GREATLY **MISUNDERSTOOD**. WHAT DID GOD PREDESTINE US FOR? WAS IT TO GO TO **HEAVEN** OR **HELL**? **NO**. HE **DOESN'T** PREDESTINE ANYONE TO GO TO **HEAVEN** OR **HELL**.

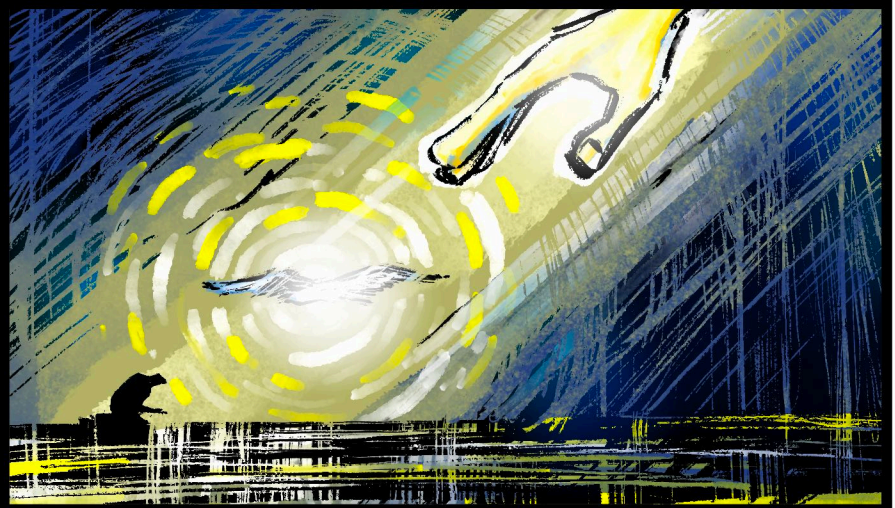
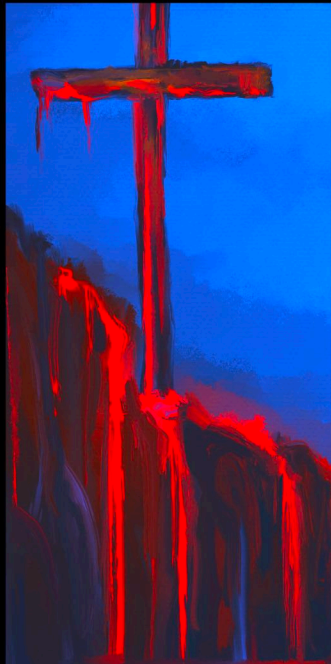


IT SAYS HERE, "HE **PREDESTINED** US TO BE PLACED AS **SONS IN CHRIST** ACCORDING TO THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL." HE PREDESTINED US TO BE **MATURE** SONS IN CHRIST AND **NOT BABY-CHRISTIANS**. YOU ARE TO BE A **RESPONSIBLE SON** WHO IS INTERESTED IN YOUR **HEAVENLY FATHER'S BUSINESS**. THEY **DON'T** WORK FOR **PAY**; THEY WORK BECAUSE THEY HAVE A SENSE OF **RESPONSIBILITY**

THERE ARE ALSO **BABIES** IN THE CHURCH WHO **NEVER GROW UP**. THEY ARE **ONLY INTERESTED IN FUN, ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC** AND HAVE **VERY LITTLE OR NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS GOD'S WORK**.



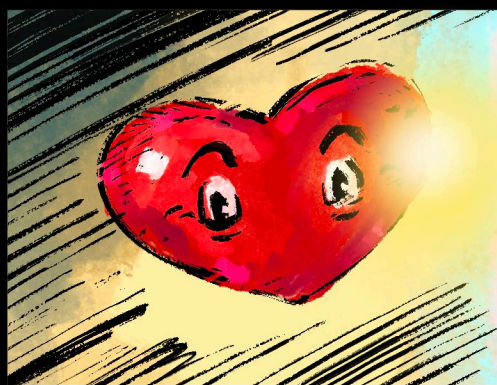
IN 1:7, WE READ THAT WE HAVE "**REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, FORGIVENESS OF SINS** ACCORDING TO THE **RICHES OF HIS GRACE**". THAT'S THE **FIRST PART OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS OF SINS**. **ROMANS 6:14 IS ANOTHER PART OF GRACE**.



IN 1:14, THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO AS A **PLEDGE, A GUARANTEE AND A DOWN PAYMENT** ON OUR FINAL INHERITANCE. **GOD SAVED US AND DECIDED TO MAKE US TOTALLY LIKE CHRIST ONE DAY**. THE **GUARANTEE** OF THAT IS THE **GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.



NOTICE THE WORD '**REVELATION**' IN 1:17 - A **NEW COVENANT** WORD. UNDER THE **OLD COVENANT**, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO KNOW THE **SCRIPTURES**. BUT UNDER THE **NEW COVENANT**, THE **IMPORTANT THING IS TO KNOW GOD HIMSELF**.



PAUL GOES ON TO SAY, "I AM PRAYING THAT THE **EYES OF YOUR HEART (NOT YOUR MIND)** BE **ENLIGHTENED**" (1:18). THE EMPHASIS IN THE **NEW COVENANT** IS ALWAYS ON THE **HEART**. IN THE **OLD TESTAMENT**, THE EMPHASIS WAS ON **KNOWLEDGE ENTERING THE HEAD**.

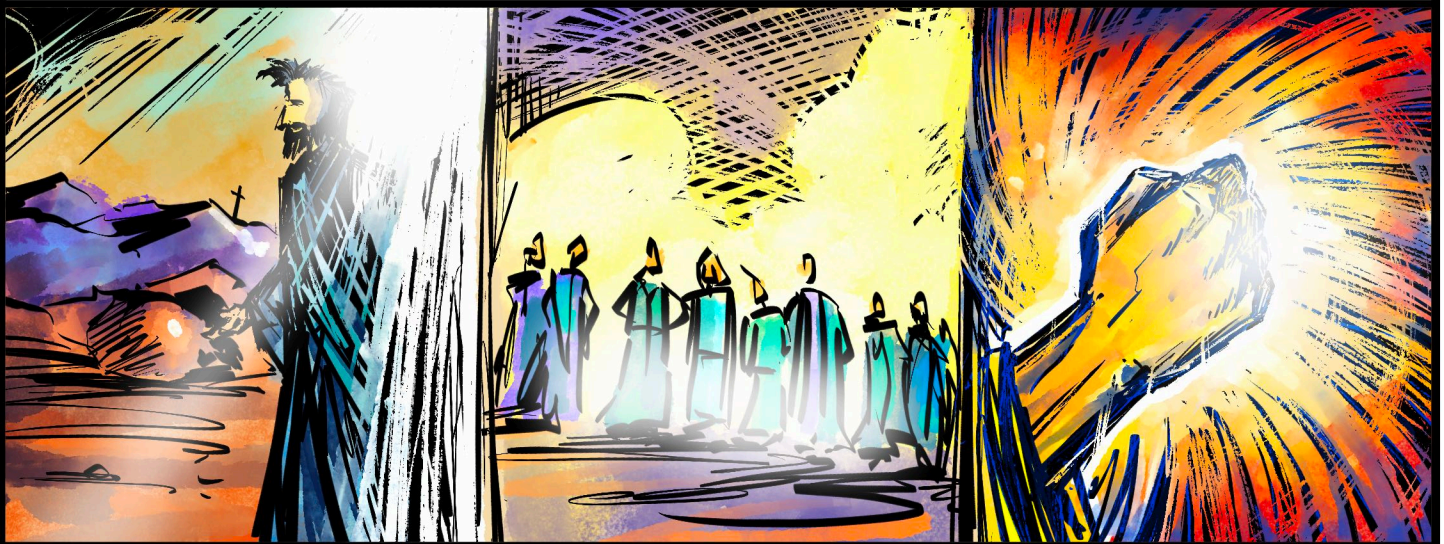


PAUL PRAYED THAT "THE EYES OF THEIR HEART WOULD BE ENLIGHTENED SO THAT THEY WOULD SEE:

1. THE HOPE OF GOD CALLING THEM;

2. THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF  
GOD'S INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS;

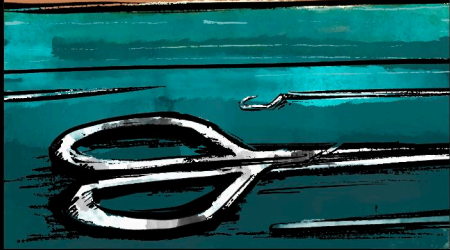
3. THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S POWER  
AVAILABLE TO THEM" (1:18, 19).



WE ARE CALLED TO BE HOLY. WE CANNOT READ OR SEE WHAT OTHERS IN THE WORLD FEEL FREE TO READ AND SEE. CONSIDER A SURGEON IN AN OPERATING-THEATRE, ABOUT TO DO AN OPERATION ON A PATIENT. IF A PAIR OF SCISSORS FALLS TO THE GROUND HE WON'T TOUCH IT OR USE IT. IN OUR EYES THAT PAIR OF SCISSORS MAY LOOK VERY CLEAN. BUT THERE IS DEFILEMENT IN IT BECAUSE THERE ARE GERMS ON THE FLOOR. A TRUE CHRISTIAN LIVES IN THE WORLD WITH A SIMILAR PASSION FOR 100% PURITY.



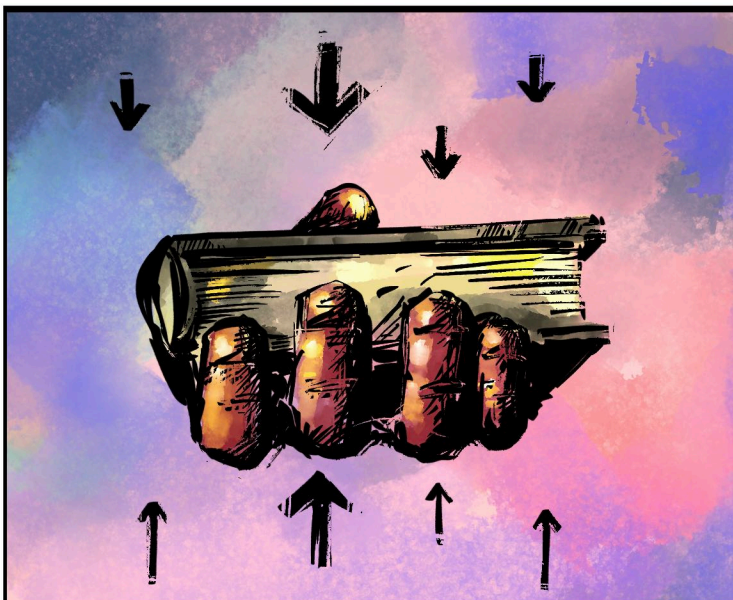
THE GREATEST POWER THAT GOD EVER MANIFESTED IN THIS UNIVERSE WAS NOT IN CREATION, BUT IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (1:20).



IT IS BECAUSE CHRISTIAN LEADERS DON'T LIVE IN SUCH PURITY THAT THEY DEFILE THEIR FLOCK WITH THEIR "DEFILED, UNSTERILE HEARTS" AND BRING SPIRITUAL DEATH WHEREVER THEY GO.



IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, BEGAN THE SECOND CREATION, THE NEW CREATION. THE NEW CREATION IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE OLD ONE. WHAT YOU READ IN JOHN 20 IS MORE POWERFUL THAT WHAT YOU READ IN GENESIS 1.

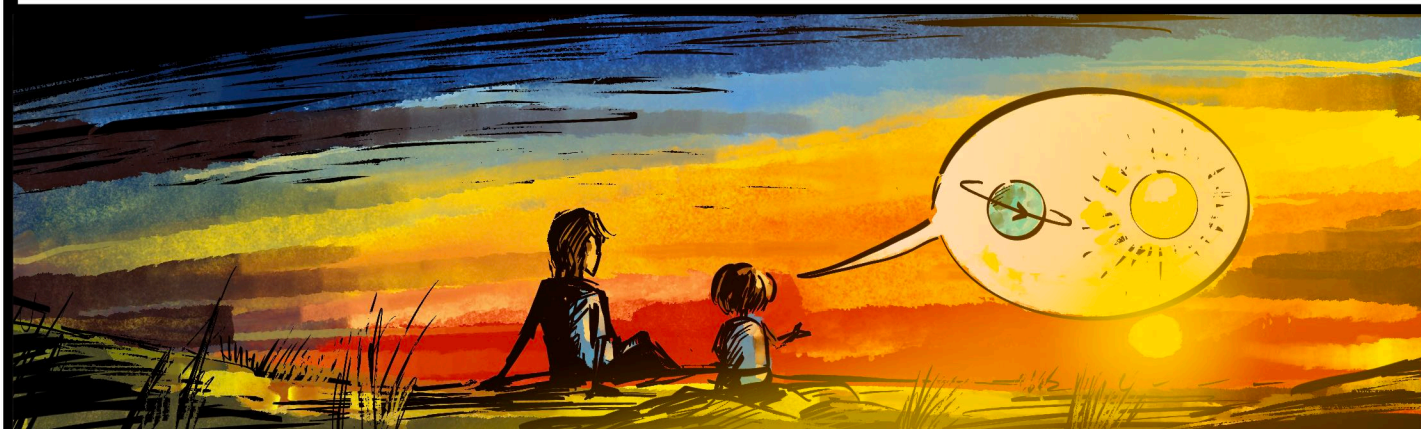


**RESURRECTION POWER, LIFTING US UP FROM THE LAW OF SIN, IS LIKE ME LIFTING A BOOK AGAINST THE LAW OF GRAVITY (WHICH SEEKS TO PULL IT DOWN). RESURRECTION POWER LIFTS US UP TO THE HEAVENLY PLACES.**



**WE READ IN 2:1--6 THAT WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR SINS, IT WAS THIS POWER THAT RAISED US UP AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES (2:6). SOME MAY THINK THIS IS FANCIFUL, PICTURE LANGUAGE. BUT IT IS NOT. IT IS ACTUALLY TRUE.**

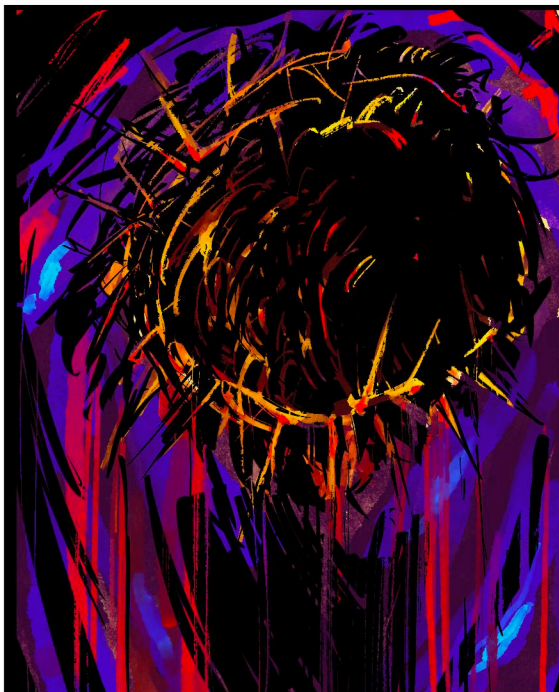
**OUR FEELINGS ARE ALL DECEPTIVE. EVEN OUR VISION CAN DECEIVE US.**



**THERE IS A STORY OF TWO LITTLE BOYS WATCHING THE SUN SET. THE OLDER BOY SAID, "HEY, THE SUN MOVED. IT WAS IN THE EAST IN THE MORNING, NOW IT'S IN THE WEST." THE YOUNGER BOY SAID, "NO. YOU REMEMBER WHAT DADDY TOLD US. IT'S NOT THE SUN THAT MOVES. IT'S THE EARTH THAT ROTATES ON ITS AXIS." THE OLDER BOY SAID, "I BELIEVE WHAT I SEE AND WHAT I FEEL. I SAW THE SUN IN THE EAST AND NOW IT IS IN THE WEST. AND I DID NOT FEEL THE EARTH ROTATING UNDER MY FEET. IT WAS STATIONARY." THE YOUNGER BOY SAID, "I BELIEVE DADDY."**



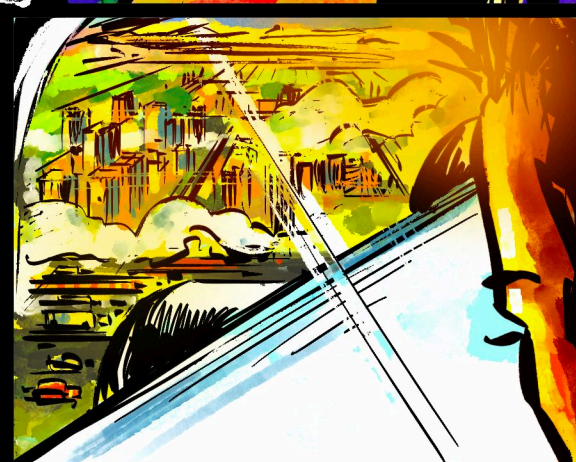
**IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS AMAZING RESURRECTION POWER THEN YOU WILL NOT EXPERIENCE IT. JESUS TOLD THOMAS, "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET BELIEVE" (JOHN 20:29). I AM MORE BLESSED THAN THE APOSTLES, BECAUSE I HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS WITHOUT SEEING HIM WITH MY EYES.**



JESUS SAID, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. THAT IS WHY MY SERVANTS DO NOT FIGHT." WE SEE SO MANY BELIEVERS FIGHTING FOR POSITION AND HONOUR AND MONEY ON EARTH AND IN CHURCHES. SUCH BELIEVERS ARE EARTHLY-MINDED AND ARE NOT "SEATED IN HEAVEN". THEY ARE ACTUALLY -- UNBELIEVERS WHO ARE HOLDING ON TO A CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE IN THEIR MINDS. THEY HAVE NOT ALLOWED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LIFT THEM UP TO THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST.



GOD RAISED EVEN JESUS FROM THE DEAD AND SEATED HIM IN HEAVENLY PLACES (1:20). JESUS DID SAY THAT HE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO RAISE HIMSELF FROM THE DEAD (JOHN 10:18). BUT HE NEVER USED THAT AUTHORITY. HE ALLOWED THE FATHER TO RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD. GOD RAISES US AS WELL.



WHEN TRAVELLING IN AN AEROPLANE, HUGE BUILDINGS ON EARTH LOOK LIKE TOY BUILDINGS AND LARGE CARS LOOK LIKE TOY CARS. THE THINGS OF EARTH WILL BECOME SMALL IN YOUR EYES AND YOU WILL STOP FIGHTING FOR THEM WHEN YOU ARE SEATED IN THE HEAVENS WITH CHRIST

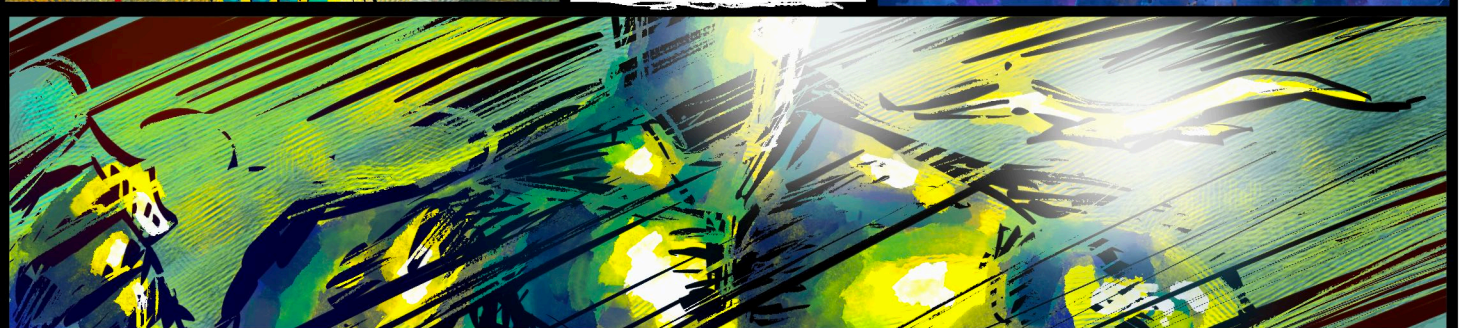


PAUL THEN GOES ON TO SPEAK ABOUT OUR SALVATION WHICH IS BY FAITH (2:8), NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS. BUT EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, GOD HAS PLANNED GOOD WORKS SO THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM (2:10).

THEN IN 2:11--22, HE SPEAKS ABOUT HOW GOD MAKES US **ONE BODY** IN CHRIST. THE **DIVIDING WALL** BETWEEN **JEWS** AND **GENTILES** HAS BEEN **BROKEN DOWN**. WHEN **JESUS** DIED ON THE **CROSS**, HE **ABOLISHED** THE ENMITY BETWEEN **JEWS** AND **NON-JEWS** (2:14, 15), THE MOST **OPPOSITE** RACES IN THE WORLD. IF SUCH ENMITY IS STILL THERE TOWARDS ANY OTHER PERSON, WE ARE **NOT** **CRUCIFIED** WITH CHRIST.



YOU CAN BECOME **ONE BODY** ONLY WITH A **BELIEVER** WHOSE LIFE IS IN THE **HEAVENLY PLACES**. A CHURCH OF **EARTH-MINDED** PEOPLE WILL BE JUST A **GROUP** OF PEOPLE. YOU HAVE TO GET PEOPLE TO LIVE IN THE **HEAVENLY PLACES** IN CHRIST, IF THEY ARE TO BECOME **ONE BODY** (2:16).

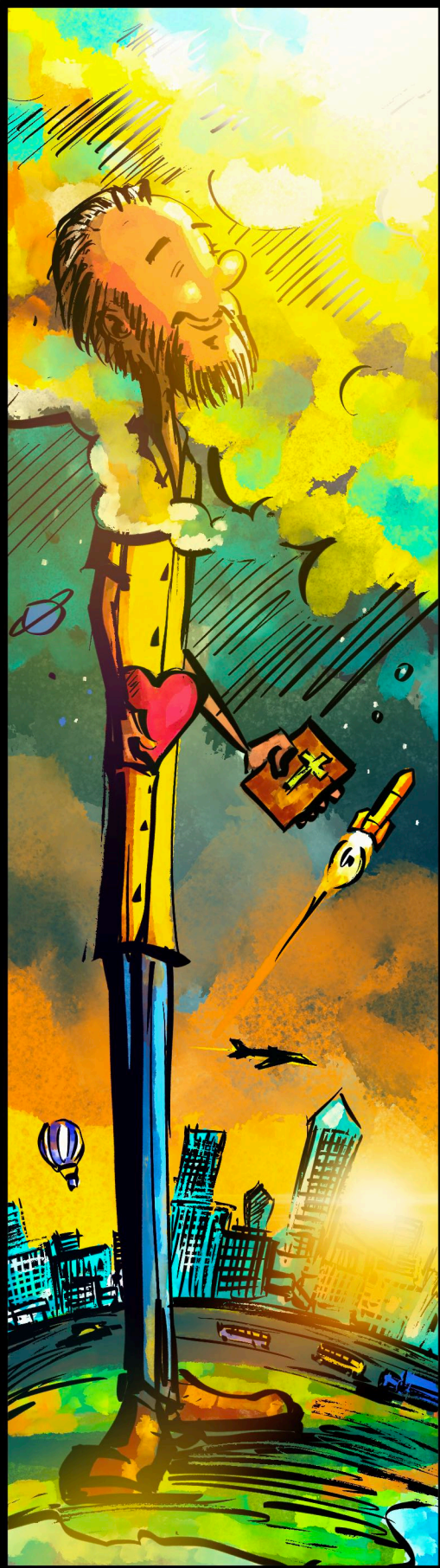


THE FIRST PRAYER IS FOR THE **REVELATION** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** ( 1:17--23 ) TO **SEE** WHAT WE ARE IN **CHRIST JESUS**, AND THE **POWER** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** ( 3:14--21 ) TO **LIVE** THE LIFE THAT IS GOING TO BE DESCRIBED IN CHAPTERS 4 TO 6.

THE SECOND PRAYER IS IN CHAPTER 3:16, 17. THE LAST PART OF VERSE 17 MEANS, "THAT **CHRIST** MAY **FEEL** AT **HOME** IN YOUR **HEART**." WHEN STAYING IN **SOME** HOMES, WE FEEL **UNCOMFORTABLE**. BUT IN **OTHER** HOMES, THEY MAKE US FEEL **PERFECTLY** AT **HOME**. THE **HOLY SPIRIT** FILLS US SO THAT **CHRIST** CAN FEEL **PERFECTLY** AT **HOME** WITHIN US.



WE THEN SEE IN 3:18 THAT WE **CANNOT** UNDERSTAND THE **LOVE** OF **CHRIST** ALL BY **OURSELVES**. ONLY **ALONG** WITH **ALL** OF **GOD'S SAINTS** CAN WE KNOW THE **LOVE** OF **CHRIST** FULLY.



NOW WE COME TO CHAPTERS 4 TO 6. OUR MIND MUST BE IN HEAVEN, BUT OUR FEET MUST BE ON EARTH. OUR HEAVENLY LIFE MUST BE MANIFESTED IN PRACTICAL WAYS ON EARTH.



WE LIVE OUR LIVES AT HOME, AT WORK AND IN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES. IN ALL THESE THREE AREAS, JESUS HAS DEMONSTRATED TO US THE SPIRIT OF HEAVEN. ANYTHING LESS THAN THIS WAY OF LIFE IS NOT TRUE CHRISTIANITY.



JESUS WAS NOT A HERMIT. HE DID NOT DRESS OR EAT DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHERS AROUND HIM. HE LIVED AND WORKED JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. HE LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE THE OTHERS THAT THE ROMAN SOLDIERS NEEDED SOMEONE TO IDENTIFY HIM IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE. THAT SHOWS US THAT HE LOOKED JUST LIKE HIS DISCIPLES IN EVERY WAY, EXTERNALLY. BUT INWARDLY HE WAS HEAVENLY-MINDED.

CHAPTER 4 BEGINS WITH THESE WORDS: "THEREFORE, I IMPORE YOU TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED" (4:1). NOW SATAN SAYS 2 THINGS  
1. "PERHAPS JESUS COULD DO IT, BUT NO-ONE ELSE CAN."  
2. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER TO BECOME ONE.



MOST CHRISTIANS LIVE DEFEATED LIVES AND MOST CHURCHES ARE DISUNITED. BUT GOD STILL HAS A REMNANT HERE AND THERE IN A FEW PLACES ON EARTH CONCERNING WHOM HE CAN **BOAST** TO SATAN LIKE HE DID ABOUT **JOB** AND AT WHOSE LIVES EVEN THE **ANGELS** IN HEAVEN ARE **AMAZED**.



CHAPTER 4:2 BEGINS THUS: "WITH ALL **HUMILITY** AND **GENTLENESS**." JESUS HUMBLED HIMSELF AND SAID IN MATTHEW 11:29, "TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM **HUMBLE** AND **GENTLE**." WHY? BECAUSE AS THE CHILDREN OF **ADAM**, WE ARE ALL **PROUD** AND **HARD**. **MAN** SEEKS TO CLEAN THE **OUTSIDE** OF THE CUP. BUT **GOD** SEEKS TO CLEAN THE **INSIDE** FIRST.



4:2 (LB) SAYS "MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR EACH OTHER'S **FAULTS** BECAUSE OF YOUR **LOVE**". NO-ONE IN ANY CHURCH IS PERFECT. WE HAVE TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR EACH OTHER'S **MISTAKES** BECAUSE WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

"BE DILIGENT TO **PRESERVE** THE **UNITY** OF THE **SPIRIT** IN THE **BOND** OF **PEACE**" (4:3). **UNITY** IS A **GREAT** **THEME** IN MANY OF PAUL'S LETTERS.



OUR BODY IS MADE OF **DUST**, AND THE BITS OF **DUST** ARE HELD **TOGETHER** BECAUSE THERE IS **LIFE** IN THIS BODY. THE MOMENT THE **LIFE** IS **GONE**, **DISINTEGRATION** STARTS; AND AFTER A WHILE, WE FIND THAT THE **WHOLE** **BODY** HAS BECOME **DUST**. IT IS THE **SAME** IN A **FELLOWSHIP** OF **BELIEVERS** WHICH STARTS OUT WITH **ZEALOUS** **BROTHERS** WHO **COME** **TOGETHER** WITH **GREAT** **ZEAL** TO BUILD A **PURE** **WORK** FOR THE **LORD**. VERY SOON **DISUNITY** COMES IN AND **DEATH** ENTERS.