## 49-Ephesians-04-Transcript

[Music] [Music] well greetings again brethren and welcome to another bible study here during the feast of tabernacles can you believe it's day six day six during the feast is always a special day for me personally because it was on day six 31 years ago that i met my lovely wife during the feast of tabernacles so the feast goes by very very quickly as i said yesterday that even during the millennium the thousand years when it's over it'll feel like it was a day so time does march on and the return of jesus christ is coming it may seem far away but before you know it it'll be here just as before you know it the feast will be over so we have to redeem the time during this feast making the most of it and redeem the time during our lifetime making the most of it before our lord jesus christ returns let's open with the word of prayer and we'll get into ephesians chapter 4 uh this morning heavenly father we pause as we always do to ask for your blessing lord on our study on our understanding that you would open the eyes of our enlightenment as the apostle paul prayed for the ephesians and by extension for all those faithful in christ and so this is our prayer father that you'll bless us with a deeper

understanding

a deeper conviction and and greater productivity in your way father we thank you we praise you

we bless your holy name and we pray in jesus name

amen we're up to ephesians chapter four brethren and let me jump into the text and ephesians

4 let me just set up my scripture and hopefully the text is big enough i

and hopefully the text is big enough think that's good

i just want to just pick up ephesians 2 and verse 12

and one verse in chapter three before we get into chapter four and he says here that

at that time

that at that time you were without christ

so remember that this this mystery is that god from the beginning had predetermined

that he would work through a group of people through an ethnic group of people but at the same time because of their stubbornness

he would uh basically blind them are part of them and open the door to the gentiles

and graft the gentiles in and and even the ancient prophets didn't understand this

the demonic world had no idea and so they

the demonic principalities and powers worked to crucify christ not realizing that they were actually advancing this plan of god which was laid before the foundation of the world

god's counsel stands and so at that time these ephesian christians were without christ

and they were aliens from the

commonwealth of israel and strangers from the covenants of

promise

having no hope and without god in the

world

but now in christ jesus you gentiles

who sometimes were far off have been

made near

by the blood of christ and then in

chapter 3

and verse 1. he says you know for this

cause

i paul and he really not just i just i

paul

really emphasizing the focusing that

this it's him that's speaking the

apostle to the gentiles

the prisoner of jesus christ for you

gentiles so there's something he's about

to say

there's something he wants to to to

proceed with

but he cuts himself off and then in

verse 14 i believe it was he sort of

resumes the prayer

but here in chapter 4 in verse 1 we see

the parallel language

that this notion this concept of him

being a prisoner not of rome

it's not that he did something immoral

or illegal

basically he's being accused of hate

speech as as we

fully expect we will be he's a prisoner

of jesus christ

for you gentiles that everything that he

has been doing

has been to open the gospel to the

gentiles and now he is imprisoned

by that or for that but that's okay

because he understands it's not flesh

and blood

he's battling with principalities and

powers and all of this is for the

furtherance of the gospel but now in chapter four in verse one he continues this parallel language i therefore because of all of this this extraordinary mystery this this extraordinary power that god is is is making available to his church both jew and gentile and combining jew and gentile together in one

to show to the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of god because of all of this he is begging the church to walk worthy of this vocation wherewith you are called

so we are actually called to work we don't work

to gain salvation salvation is a free gift

but having this free gift bestowed upon us we are

expected to work there's a vocation associated with this calling and so he's begging the church don't get distracted

walk worthy of this vocation and this is not the first or the only congregation he says this to

he says it to the colossians that you might work walk worthy of the lord unto all pleasing being fruitful in every good work and increasing the knowledge of god this is what's expected of the church we shouldn't be increasing in carnal pleasures

we shouldn't be increasing in social justice

egotistical ethnocentric pursuits we should be all about being fruitful in the work of god and increasing

in the knowledge of god this is where

our mind is this is where we spend our time

this is what we spend our time studying the knowledge of god to the

thessalonians he says

that you would walk worthy of god who

has called you

into his kingdom and glory

so you know you get the sense as he's talking to these different congregations including ephesus that there is they're

at high risk

of not walking worthy of this calling and it would be pure arrogance for us to assume

that we are not at risk that us getting caught up in

anything else other than the word of god does not put us at risk of not walking worthy

of this calling this would be arrogance i think

with a humble heart we would say lord is it me

am i not walking worthy of this calling that's the warning that he has to the ephesians he says to do this with all lowliness

with all lowliness

with complete ephesians

be humble and walk worthy of this vocation

with humility and meekness not weakness meekness weakness is not weakness but walk with humility and meekness with long suffering forbearing one another in love

so a couple of things here one is obviously let me say that again obviously there's no such thing as the lone christian oh it's just me

and the lord

just me and god i'm so righteous i don't need other i don't need brethren just me and the lord no such thing that the christian walk is a congregational walk when when jesus christ gave the revelation to john and said give this to my body john didn't say okay to this congregation to this congregation and oh yes there's some lone individual christians out there i've got to get the revelation to them because jesus sent me to those lone

very important individual christians not at all if you were not in a congregation when this revelation was revealed to john you had no access to this revelation you had no idea

everything that christ wanted his church to know because he only gave it to john to give to congregations and very clearly here and not organizations i didn't say organization i said congregations and very clearly here

it's obvious that this walking worthy of this vocation and and wrestling with principalities and powers

has everything to do with being in a congregational setting

so and we have to do this now we have to function

with our brethren with all lowliness and meekness and especially now in this particular context of the ephesians as gentiles being grafted in to this covenant with judah

that that obvious what we see actually as we study the early church is the opposite happened in acts 15 we see judah coming together to say how do we what's going on here or do we how how do we cope with gentiles coming into this covenant

and then by the fourth century we have these ecumenical councils where there isn't a jew in sight jesus christ himself would not be welcome in if paul himself would not be welcome in these ecumenical councils as they make these pronouncements of how to curse the jews so they were not walking with all lowliness but paul says to the romans in terms of this humility of the the gentiles must have both not against the branches that the branches being the natural born jews and israelites don't boast against them you're grafted in but if you boast you bear not the root the root bears you so there's a humility that we have to have in this grand exceptional hauling period but speaking specifically to the ephesian christians saying look you're now part of this commonwealth but be participate in this with overwhelming gratitude and a deep sense of humility and and this replacement theology which comes to us courtesy of the greek philosophers and the catholic church and then the protestants protested against the catholic church but they never came from the root and we have to be careful because it's so prevalent that even in the church of god we completely dismiss judah and we have this theology that there's no place for judah in our theology in our eschatology there's no place for judah this is arrogance we have to be like the ephesians who who

recognized we've been grafted in to this commonwealth this covenant belongs to judah we've been grafted in and let us now operate with all humility and not boast against the branches now he says again this concept of christianity occurs within a congregational setting he says endeavoring striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and then i mentioned earlier i've just come from ottawa sharing the feast there and just this spirit of harmony this the spirit of peacefulness this this relaxed connectedness that i experienced with the brethren there because they were endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit and i told them this is miraculous this requires spiritual maturity over time to achieve this level of harmony and unity and everybody is just relaxed together everybody is valuing that everybody has different gifts and we're going to talk about that a little bit later in this chapter everyone has different gifts and we recognize the value of each member this is what's required this is the understanding the enlightenment that's required as part of this path and if we're on our own if we're operating in isolation we're not coming into this enlightenment

we're not coming to understand how to be a member of a body and therefore when christ returns we don't know how to do that and that is a critical part of our future with christ is to understand how to operate as a member in a body he says endeavoring that you know in another place he says you know as much as lies within you live peaceably with all men in some cases it's just not possible but that's our striving that's our effort that's our focus that's our objective is to endeavor not to create unity we're not trying to create unity the unity of the spirit exists if i have the holy spirit if you have the holy spirit there's a unity between us that just exists

i may have never have met you i meet you for the first time and there's a unity of the spirit that exists

our job now as we get to to know each other

is to keep to guard to protect that unity that already exists in the spirit

it's not carnal unity it's not unity because we have the same skin color we have the same eye color we have the same hairstyle this is not where the unity comes from the unity comes from this miraculous power

that is working within our minds transforming our minds conforming our minds

to jesus christ that unity is just there now what we have to do is recognize it and protect it meaning we're wrestling against flesh and not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers the principalities and powers are going to be constantly attacking this unity we are going to be guarding keeping and protecting it and in so doing between jew and gentile between gentile and gentile male and female tall and short black and white everything we're maintaining the protecting this unity against the principalities and powers and in so doing

we are demonstrating to them the manifold wisdom of god that's the intention that's what we should be doing not falling prey to these principalities and powers and not falling into false unity this has to be unity and truth and we'll see this as we come as we continue in the

chapter
he goes on to say oh and in the bond of
peace so we're bound
in peace there is this binding together

the same way that he's a prisoner and he's bound

and and no doubt he was physically bound and so

he's looking at his his bonds and then he's saying to the ephesians we have to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace there is a bond of peace that we have to

acknowledge and work within there is one body and one spirit so this one body should really strike the ephesians because they've come out of this darkness

and been grafted in to this covenant of judah

or covenant with judah and and they're

told hey

you're not gentile anymore it's not jew

and gentile

we're one body and there's one spirit that is enabling all of this one body

one spirit

even as you are called in one

hope of your calling there isn't a hope

of this calling for the jew

and then a lesser hope for the gentile

there's one hope now in this calling and

this is where he said earlier in

ephesians 1 as he was praying

that the eyes of our understanding would

be enlightened

that that we as gentile christians

grafted in

would have our eyes opened to see

what judah themselves have been blinded

to see

that we would have our eyes of our

understanding being enlightened

that we may know what is the hope of his

calling

what is the end result of all of this

what is it that we're picturing here

during the millennium the last great day

and on into eternity

what is this hope well there's one hope

of his calling with this first fruits

harvest

and the purpose of this first fruits

harvest jew and gentile

it's not a different hope for the jew

harvest and a different hope for the

gentile heart there now we're now one

and there's one hope for this first

fruits and a purpose for these first

fruits

in this process of ingathering and

bringing everything ultimately

into one under christ one lord

and answer the riches of the glory of

his inheritance in the saints and we

covered that one cover chapter one there is also only one lord there's one lord and we see in verse six one lord one god one lord one faith this is where the unity comes from it's not a fake unity it's not just oh come on let's all hugs everybody hugs group hug come on everybody group hug and meanwhile there's all kinds of bizarre doctrines being taught within the congregation or within the congregations and we don't care bizarre doctrines infiltration of the principalities and powers because that's how they work they work through deception the prince of the power of the air is the master of deception when he's chained what ends is the deception of the nations and a thousand years later when he's released what is what what is re-engaged what is reinitiated deception of the nations deception is his mastery deception is his art and craft and science and so we can't be oh yeah deception is creeping in group hugs group hugs it's all good no no no no we cannot have unity with deception we cannot have unity with false doctrine and so there's a purpose here as we we we keep the unity we we're endeavoring to protect to the unity that means keeping out false doctrine in order to keep the unity of the spirit not carnal unity this is not a social club hey everybody let's get together and have tea and

coffee

lovely to see you again this is great

social time

and oh don't cause any trouble because we just want to keep the unity of the

social club

that's not at all what this is saying

there is one

body and one spirit and we within with

with this spiritual our eyes of

enlightenment unders of understanding

being opened

we are now striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and

keeping this deception

out which would be very difficult to

allow this

satanic deception in so there's one

faith

there's one baptism we are baptized into

the body of christ that's it whatever

the jews maybe continue doing with all

these different types of baptisms

and certainly the babylonian mystery

religions they have their concepts as

well no

only one baptism into the lord

one god and father of all so there's a differentiation now between the lord

and the father that there's one god

and one lord jesus christ and god is

over jesus christ

and there's no room for trinity here

co-equal

the trinitarian formula that makes

absolutely no sense

it's nonsense nobody can explain it

because it's nonsensical

and it's unbiblical what is biblical is

that there's one lord

and one god and father of all who is

above

all including jesus christ god the

father is above

jesus christ and through all and in you all via his holy spirit this this incredible power that he used to raise christ from the dead and is now available and accessible to us as we wrestle

with the principalities and powers we have access to this power which is far above

any principality and power because it's in us and it's from god but unto every one of us is given grace so this grace is a charis the greek

charis and it's given to us he says there's one one one one but unto each one of us every one of us individually

is given grace you have been given and and uh as we look later the gift and we'll talk about that in a little bit that each if you have the holy spirit you have at least one gift of god and this word grace that he's just so

emphasizing grace and peace peace and grace the greek charis the hebrew shalom

both of these is he's really hoping we understand

what has been given to us but this grace that he has just been really focused on through the letter

now we're understanding it's given to every one of us

and we'll understand this a little bit more according

to the measure of the gift of christ so later when we look at the gifts this the greek word for gifts is charisma the greek word for grace is karus so charisma the root word for charisma the gifts is kairis the grace which it's given to every one of us

according to the measure of the gift of christ so every one of us if we have the holy spirit we have at least one gift the gift that you have will differ from the gift that i have so even though there is one spirit there are different gifts that when as we operate within a congregational setting not off by myself but within a congregation congregational setting i come to value you because i realize that what i need i don't have what i need you have and what you need i have and so we forbid one another and we have great humility with one another and great peace with one another as we acknowledge the holy spirit and the gifts of the holy spirit in one another and but but it's not just that you have a gift and i have a different gift you and i may have the same gift but now there's a difference in measure god may give you a greater measure of the same gift he has given me i don't know why i don't know why but he is giving these gifts in different people different gifts but also different measures and and part of it has to do with people who are not even with us yet that there's a balance in in the congregation maybe there's even a lack in the congregation and one year two years three years five years later somebody comes into the congregation with certain natural abilities god then and they repent and they're

baptized and they receive the holy spirit

god then infuses and supplements those natural abilities

with this grace in in a different

measure in a greater measure or a lesser measure

and then that complements or completes

the gifting of the congregation

so we just have to have this humility

and it's amazing how

with these principalities and powers

inject within us

the spirit of competition instead of the

spirit of

of complementarity the spirit of

competition

and conflict which is the root of

marxism and the influence of marxism

around the world today

conflict competition covetousness

instead of the spirit of christ which is

gratitude humility

and complementarity human minds working

together

in a complementary way recognizing what

they have

it's not i'm so humble i have nothing oh

i'm just no good i'm just so

i'm so humble i'm just useless that's

not humility

humility is what paul said i'm the least

of all saints

and yet this gift has been given to me

and

in another place to the corinthians he

says i uphold

my office of apostle but he's not

promoting himself he's promoting the holy

spirit and the plan and the design of

god and we must recognize that all of

these gifts

if you have been given the same gift as

me

but you've been given it to a greater measure than me

rather than compete with you what i have to say is huh

this gift that you have is not for you it's for me

the fact that you have it in greater measure than i do

maybe you're my mentor maybe i need to come to you

who have the same gift as me but have it in greater measure

and you can mentor me so let's get away from this

uh demonic competitive conflict theory and let's get into the complementarity of christ and we'll see that as we study chapter five god willing tomorrow so every one of us every single one of us has value

that how that have the holy spirit there's one spirit but there's different gifts

and different measures of these gifts and that's why we have to endeavor to keep this unity

therefore he says when he ascended up on high

he led captivity captive
and gave gifts unto men these are now
different gifts and and pastor murray
talked about this again when he ordained
uh or the led the order ordination
service of our brother jim
that these are different gifts and i'll
talk about that in a little bit but i
want to focus right now
on leading captivity captive jesus
christ

is the conquering lion of the tribe of judah

jesus christ is a warrior for judah and for israel and when he ascended up

on high

he crushed captivity remember this is a battle

with the principalities and powers and when christ was crucified when the

principalities and powers orchestrated

his crucifixion

that was his victory and when he came up

from the dead he

crushed all of their designs all of

their plans

all of their desire to lead

israel captive and to destroy israel all

of that was crushed at the resurrection

so upon his resurrection he led

captivity captive

as he ascended to the throne of god

to receive the scroll and to release the

seven seals

he was leading captivity captivity

itself

was being led captive and paul here is

quoting from psalm 68 which we studied

in in the archives so that's available

in the archive where

we go into it in more detail but just

suffice it to mention

he's quoting psalm 68 where it says you

ascended on high

and you have led captivity captive and

you have received gifts for men

so here he's receiving gifts yeah even

for the rebellious also

that the lord god might dwell among them

and we're here talking about tavern god

tabernacling with man

and this is what makes it possible he

was resurrected

he received gifts for men and then he

gave gifts to the men so when we put

these two together he

goes to god and in that process of

victory

he conquers all principalities and

powers and he is high above all principalities and powers and their designs of captivity have now been led captive and then he received having conquered them he receives these gifts to give to men and these gifts are very important for us now this captivity being led captive is what moses uh prepared us to understand in the torah that when they repent and in deuteronomy 30 read read verses one to eight and you'll get the whole story and all the prophets are just repeating this story that when israel finally repents after being cursed by the the covenant clauses that they activated that then when they finally deeply truly repent with a circumcised heart that then the lord their god will reverse their captivity and their captivity will be led captive and that's what christ has prepared the way for what the church represents is the first fruits of this ending of the captivity that what we are experiencing now as a church activated by the holy spirit when christ finally acts on behalf shows himself strong on behalf of judah and israel and pours out his holy spirit upon them that all of the captivity will be released and then all the prophets are saying the same thing that moses said but here we read it in joel joel 2 verse 28 which is what um the apostles thought was happening or was

happening in a foretaste

in acts 2

but it's going to happen in full measure to the point where they will no more say jeremiah says they'll no more say know the lord because they'll all know me they will all know god but here in joel 2 and verse 28 it says and it shall come to pass afterward that i will pour out my spirit upon all flesh

that is all jewish flesh all israelite flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your old men

shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions

and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will i pour out my spirit

and and the captivity of judah in the captivity of israel will be fully released and because he's pouring out his spirit upon them

pouring out his spirit upon them just as we're experiencing now in the church there will be diversities of gifts

and this nation will be the head nation physical nation on the earth with the holy spirit

to lead the rest of the huma humanity to this new way of being human and they will go from all corners of the earth say come let us go to zion so that we can learn of his ways and we who are the first fruits israel we will be in the family of god overseeing this whole operation and helping them to go through what we're going through now helping israel and judah to go through what we're going through now back to ephesians 4.

i know he has a parenthetical thought in verses 9 and 10.

now he that ascended that is jesus christ he ascended from earth he that ascended what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth in other words if we're saying that he ascended it means that first he descended and we know from philippians 2 that he didn't counter robbery to be equal with god but in all humility he left the godhead and came to earth to represent israel to fully by the code of deuteronomy by the torah and then in doing that he was then plunged into the earth for three days and three nights and he grappled with all the principalities and powers between earth and heaven and he conquered them all and then he ascended back to heaven so he that ascended what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth he that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens that he might fill all things and there's that theme that was introduced in

in in chapter one that the power that god used

to raise him from the dead and to lift him

high above all principalities and powers we're seeing

it here but the insight that we're gathering in addition to the fact that he's been raised high above all principalities and powers is the fact that in so doing he conquered all the principalities and powers he led

captivity captive so as he went to the father's throne and nobody was worthy to receive the judgments of god contained in the scroll sealed with seven seals and john wept bitterly

because nobody was worthy to release the scroll

uh the seals and the scroll unfold the scroll

and in so doing destroy the captivity of the devil

no one was worthy in heaven or on earth but christ was on the way christ was on the way

he was between heaven and earth on his on his ascent

and then he came before the throne and he was worthy

and god gave him the scroll with the seven seals

and in so doing he let all the captivity of satan and the principalities and powers

he let it all captive to destroy it as he releases

the seven seals so he that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all the heavens and that power that did that that power is working in you and it's in me if we have the holy spirit that he might fill all things now we come to these gifts and again pastor murray talked about

and he gave these are gifts brethren and it's inexplicable how brethren fight against this structure

this

structure that god has given they do everything to neutralize it to destroy it to not recognize it to not honor it because of the principalities and powers that hate it it is this structure that releases the power of god

to destroy the principalities and powers and yet brethren hates it

because of our human nature we can't

stand the thought

that that somebody would be over us even

though in hebrews 13

paul says we believe it's the apostle

paul three times

to to recognize those over you in the

lord

have

but we hate this concept you know again this this jezebel spirit that's in the end time

which is a spirit of usurpation that wants all the authority herself

and doesn't want to recognize uh so she

sidles up to king ahab

in order to take advantage of his

position and usurp his authority

and this is the spirit of usurpation

that we see not just in the world but it's affecting the church as well

this is a gift of jesus christ

when he ascended to heaven his first order of priority was to empower the church

that here we are his body on the earth he's in heaven but we are an extension of christ

on the earth and all the power that he has

we have available to us he says that he's with us to the end and he gives us all authority and all power but we have to respect his structure how he works we can't create

a new way of working that would be a deception of the devil so he gave some apostles and some we have false apostles and we

false prophets and we have false events we have false teachers but we also have true we also have men who are gifted by the holy spirit to fulfill these rules paul himself being one of the chief apostles to the gentiles he gave god gave this this is his gift to us he gave gifts to men what are these gifts well it starts with the fact that he gave apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers and the pastors and teachers to me i i think it's sort of a lesser gift but they're together pastors and teachers seem to be a unit and but there are evangelists people who are skilled and talented and gifted to speak to the the unchurched to proclaim the gospel to the to the gentile world and then there are others who once people come into the church have been gifted to teach the brethren to help mature the brethren why these gifts these men that god gave through the operation of his holy spirit the power this exceeding great power that operates within us these men that he's given are given for the perfecting of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of christ so if we're fighting against this we're committing suicide this this is spiritual suicide instead we have to recognize those who labor in the word who have this giftedness it's not them who are creating their own giftedness it's coming from christ

it's his gift but the purpose of these gifts in verse 11 is to generate the gifts to amplify the gifts to magnify the gifts in the brethren it's sort of a two-step process and it's really interesting you know i was in the night thinking about this and i thought this is such a critical verse i i wonder if it's in the middle of the letter the letter has 155 verses one half of 55 is 77.5 verse 11 is verse 77 and verse 12 is verse 78 this is smack dab in the middle of the letter i think that's by design that we would understand this is so critical this is the pivotal point of releasing the power of the church that we would recognize the men who are truly gifted in these roles because these men release the gifts in the brethren so that the brethren can be empowered and i think dysfunctionally if you look into a dysfunctional church they want to set up men as authorities and then they want to control the church when when actually it's the the purpose is the exact opposite is these men are set in place to empower the brethren that the brethren become more empowered as a result of their service so the saints are being perfected and as the saints are being perfected they're becoming more powerful to do the work of ministry and

to edify each other so so when this is

working in a functional healthy way these men are helping the brethren to recognize

and utilize their gifts and as the brethren

recognize and utilize their gifts they're edifying each other

and the body is getting stronger and

stronger and stronger

and more powerful to put down the

principalities and powers

and to do the work of ministry central to how god is working with the church

and again

red flag red flag if the the brethren if you're out there and you're thinking it's just me and god oh it's just me and the lord

and through the years i hear so much of this clearly

this walk this vocation that we've been called into

is a congregational vocation yes we will be judged individually

but god evaluates the churches congregationally

and we have a responsibility to edify the body in the place where we've been placed

now in verse 12 of verse chapter 12 of first corinthians verse 4

there's one spirit but we have to

understand

that there are diversities of gifts but

it's the same spirit

i i cannot be what you are

and i can't expect you to be what i am there is one spirit but there are

different gifts

and i need what god has given you and

you need

what god has given me and together we

edify the body

so the body comes stronger to wrestle

against the principalities and powers now how did paul see these men that have been gifted by christ to operate as apostles prophets evangelist pastors and teachers how did he see them operating especially in ephesus as he's writing to the ephesians

ephesus as he's writing to the ephesians about this truth

well let's go to timothy the pastoral epistle

between the communication between paul and timothy about ephesus he says this

paul an apostle of jesus christ by the commandment

of god our savior and lord jesus christ which is our hope

unto timothy my own son in the faith grace mercy and peace from god our father and jesus christ our lord and i won't execute all of this we'll just read it

as i besought you to abide still at ephesus so we're reading the epistle to the ephesians

we're reading about the central role of ministers in the congregation and now we're

learning firsthand from paul's communication to timothy the role of these elders within the ephesian city now when paul was leaving ephesus he was worried and he gathered all the ephesian elders together and he warned them and he basically said i am deeply worried about you men what you will tolerate what you will allow in and what some of you yourselves will become i'm deeply worried he wasn't worried about timothy though

so we can look to timothy's ministry as a healthy sign of of how ministry should function

within a congregation and the role of ministry

in endeavoring to keep the unity of the of the spirit

as i besped you i begged you there was a reason i begged you i'm leaving ephesus but i'm begging you

to stay still abide still at ephesus

when i went into macedonia

that you might charge some that they teach

no other doctrine stand against them timothy

don't allow the infiltration of any other doctrine

from these principalities in power this is the wrestling

we wrestle not against flesh and blood it's against the principalities and powers and i can't trust anybody right now timothy

except for you you stay in ephesus and you wrestle against these principalities and powers

and in so doing charge the flesh and blood

not to teach any other doctrine neither give heed

to fables and endless genealogies don't tolerate this stand against it endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit

not the unity of the social club the unity of the spirit

which minister questions rather than godly edifying which is in faith so do so so the whole focus of the teaching

is to equip the saints to edify the saints

but they're going to be men now that are

allowing in teachings and doctrines that lead to endless genealogies and create more questions and and it doesn't lead to godly edifying which is what the body should be doing now the end of the commandment is agape out of a pure heart and of a good conscience and of faith unveiled from which from the

the end result is this agape but from which

some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangle and christ warns us that before he

and christ warns us that before he returns

in fact he asked the question when i return will i find faith on the earth because he warns us that brother will betray brother

that there will be many false teachers which means that paul doesn't have enough timothy's

in the congregations to contend and withstand

false teaching from which some having swerved

they've turned aside from agape unto vain jangling

just just crazy talk vain empty talk it means there's talk it's just the talk is empty

it's just empty there's sermonizing there's teaching it's just that it's empty

lawfully

desiring to be teachers of the law so they want the office desiring to be teachers of the law understanding neither what they say nor whereof they affirm they don't know what they're talking about but they're talking but we know that the law is good if a man use it knowing this that the law is not made for a righteous man

but for the lawless and disobedient so there's a teaching

that the lawless and the disobedient is going to contradict

what they want it's going to contradict their lifestyle

but it has to be taught in order to endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit but the lawless and the

disobedient for the ungodly and for sinners for

of mothers

unholy and profane for murderers or fathers and murderers

for man slayers and as we head into the future brethren

we're going to see more and more of this as the principalities and powers turn up the heat

but as we turn up the preaching and the ministry through the edification of the body

more and more are going to repent and come out of these lifestyles and then we have to teach them in order to convert them

and have them conform to christ for whoremongers

for them that defile themselves with mankind

again these people are going to be repenting for men stealers maybe kidnappers gonna be kidnappers but christ is leading captivity has led captivity captive

and he's going to release the seals and destroy all of this for liars

for perjured persons and if there be any other thing

that is contrary to sound doctrine according to the glorious gospel of the blessed god

which was committed to my trust and committed to our trust so brethren honor your ministers honor your elders if they're not elders to lord it over you

they're elders to empower you this is how the holy spirit works don't get swept up in the jezebel spirit of usurpation

we'll talk about that more when we cover chapter five

but this is for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry you have a work of ministry to do but you have to be empowered to do it and this power that he spoke of in chapter one

which is far exceeding great power it comes to us through teaching the mind has to be opened in order to receive this power

the mind has to be opened in order to interact

with the holy spirit in the same way that the

ephesians burned all those books because their minds had to be opened to the demonic world so the spirit world whether it's demonic or righteous requires teaching it requires the mind to engage in a certain kind of knowledge in order to open it up to interact with the spiritual dimension so the ephesians repented

of having all these books about the demonic world and how to interact with familiar spirits

they burned all of that and instead they took

paul's teaching and they took timothy's teaching and the other righteous elders and they took that teaching and in so doing they were able to interact with god with christ through the holy

spirit
and that's that's that's the central
role of teachers
until we all come in the unity of the
faith
so it's not social club unity oh
don't say anything because we've got to

keep the social club united that's not at all what paul is teaching here

he's teaching the unity of the faith and he begs timothy please timothy stay in ephesus and

contend with false doctrine until we all come

in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of god there it is it's knowledge is required in order to interact successfully with the spiritual realm the righteous spiritual realm just as knowledge is

spiritual realm just as knowledge is required in order to interact successfully with the demonic spiritual realm so so the ministers of god are

there until we all come to the unity of the faith

and this is why he says in another place i believe it's hebrews that hebrews 13 that let let the elders work with you with joy because if they have to do it with with grief it's not convenient for you in other words it'll be disastrous so until we all come to the unity of the

so until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of god

unto a mature man a reflection of christ unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of christ each one with different spirits a different gift sorry different gifts in different measures from the same spirit

and then together we reflect the stature of the fullness of christ that we henceforth be no more the teach the teaching ends this the gifted teachers end this as we wrestle against principalities and powers that now the church has no more children we've grown into a maturity we have been empowered that yeah when we first came into the church we knew nothing and we were babies and we needed milk but because of the gifted teaching we have grown up and we've become mature and now we can teach you know the hebrew is like you you have you need milk you should be having meat and you should be teaching others so you cannot come into the body of christ and be passive if you're passive in the body of christ something is terribly wrong you're to come into the body of christ you're to be fed and nourished and matured so that you can be active in two things one is in the ministry the the church the body of christ has a ministry grappling against the principalities of powers but also there's an edification to do that ministry the gifted teachers the gifts that god gives these men they initiate the process but then once the process is initiated in you through the gift of the holy spirit you continue the process you continue the edification you you continue to build up

the body and this is why you cannot be

in isolation and some of you brethren physically are truly isolated but we have the internet and you stay connected and we have phone and we have email and we have ways we have slack we have ways of staying connected and working in community which is what the christian walk is all about no such thing as the independent isolated christian just me and god it doesn't work it's nowhere nowhere to be found in the in the scripture that these men that god gives are given to protect our understanding so that the eyes of our enlightenment may be opened that we from from now on were no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and these men are not our enemies it's the principalities and powers behind them this these men are just flesh and blood but the cunning the slight is coming from the deception of the principalities of power this is their craft deception and so this is why you know uh the the sons of skeva are running around saying they're doing exorcism and thinking they're doing something significant and the demons say we don't even know who you are nobody has told us about you but christ has caused us no end of pain and and misery and paul has come along in his footsteps and caused us no end of pain and misery in this region and we've never even heard of you because paul was teaching against

deception

and no doubt they would have known about timothy now they say jesus we know

paul we know timothy we know who are you

sons of skiba

and now we want the the

principalities and powers to know

the church of god through the power of

the holy spirit

that works within us and as they're

coming with every wind of doctrine

and slight of man and cunning craftiness

and lying in wait to deceive

they're just waiting for the right

moments and and this is this is the

battle

jude says in jude 3 beloved when i gave

all diligence to write unto you of the

common salvation

it was necessary for me to write unto

you i was going to write about common

salvation i had to change my mind

and i had to write to you and exhort you

that you should earnestly contend for

the faith

which was once delivered unto the saints

SO

this is contention oh but i thought we

have to be united

i thought it was a social club and we

just want to feel hugs everybody group

hug

hugs no contention

against false doctrine so that we can

have the unity of the spirit

the unity of the spirit is there we have

to protect it

and we protect it by contending against

false doctrine and again i'm going to

remind you

in this end time thyatira is a great

example for us

because this is a spirit that is in the

church

prior to the great tribulation and causes many in the church to be plunged into the great tribulation and it's a spirit of eusurpation jezebel was a usurper sidled up to ahab usurped his authority to exercise over the church notwithstanding so all the good that thyatira did it's not withstanding they're heading into the tribulation now all that good is not withstanding because christ has a few things against thy torah because they allow they're not contending for the faith they're not endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit they're keeping the unity of the social club

because you allow that woman jezebel which calls herself a prophetess and christ warns us that there will be many in the end time false prophets false teachers self-declared we have to see through them and judge them by their fruits she calls herself a prophetess and what does she do she teaches

what does she do she teaches oh she teaches because it's about knowledge knowledge is the gateway to access the holy spirit and knowledge is the

gateway to access the familiar spirits and again when the ephesians repented they burned all that knowledge because that knowledge they they confessed and they repented because all of that knowledge gave them the understanding of how to invoke and how to communicate and how to work

with and how to befriend

the familiar spirits it required knowledge but they burned that knowledge and instead they embraced the knowledge of god so that they could invoke and embrace the holy spirit and now this jezebel gets into the church congregation and she begins to teach and they allow it they're not contending the way jude said contend for the faith that was once delivered no they allow this teaching and the teaching then bit by bit slowly by slowly seduces the servants of god to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols and later on it says to commit adultery so whatever this fornication is whatever this adultery is whatever this eating thing sacrifice to idols is it's not immediately apparent it's not immediately apparent and through craft of language through craft of false teaching the people of god are seduced while the teachers who need to be the true teachers who need to be contending with this as timothy did are not contending they're keeping the unity of the social club and then the false teaching creeps in and god says i gave her space to repent of her fornication and what that should mean to us is while she's given space to repent of her fornication it means she's also given space to continue her false teaching let that sink in while she's given space to repent of her

fornication

she's also given space to continue her false teaching

but she repented not that means she kept teaching and seducing

behold i will cast her into a bed and

them that commit

adultery with her these are the people of god

that were doing great things

notwithstanding

they allowed jezebel to shipwreck them and therefore

they will be committed they will end up committing fornication adultery eating things sacrificed to idols whatever these things are

they've been seduced into committing them and they're then going to be thrown into great tribulation unless they repent of their deeds

back to ephesians 4 instead now we have to be speaking the truth we do not tolerate false doctrine

we have to be speaking the truth in love we speak the truth because we love the brethren we speak the truth because we want to see all the brethren cross the finish line

we don't want to see god dismiss brethren in the church and say i never knew you

where we're fighting against the principalities and powers or wrestling against the principalities and powers so that god can say well done you good and faithful servant

that's why we do this so we must speak the truth in love

and may grow up into him in all things which is the head even christ and he introduced this concept

in chapter one that this great power that

raised christ from the dead and set him

far above all principalities and powers that same christ is the head of the church his body and so we're growing up into christ because he's our head he's directing our operations even christ from whom the whole body fitly joined together excuse me the whole body is fitly joined together and compacted so again there's no room here for the independent christian saying it's just me and christ no we're in a congregation find a congregation that that is teaching truth that is recognizing the giftedness of the brethren and that recognizes that you have a contribution to make that is not expecting you to just come and sit down and do nothing and just listen to the preacher and do nothing and be passive no no no no no the preaching is in order to make you active to make you a contributing member of the body but but god places this in the body as it pleases him and so the whole body now is fitly it's ex there's an expert who is designing the body who's putting the body together it's it's joined together by an expert and then it's not just joined together it's compacted we get closer together as we go through different trials and experiences together we become closer by that which every joint supplies we are expected to supply something and not by ourselves but by the joint every joint every time you interact

every every relationship that you have with another member in the body is a joint and every relationship is expected to supply something as we edify one another according to the effectual working we're going back to ephesians chapter one

this great power that raised christ from the dead

that is now working in us that we have access to

this is how we're using this power to the effectual working in the measure of every part as we edify one another to strengthen one another to wrestle the principalities and powers to do the work of ministry and we make increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love this this is amazing we could spend a whole hour on this just understanding how the body

increases itself by edifying itself in love

in whom all so sorry this just so this um

effectual working and this fitly joined together

it's r it's referring back to ephesians 2

that in whom all the building fitly framed together so it's a body fitly faint uh joined together but then another metaphor is it's a building

fitly framed together there's an architect there's a designer behind the fitting behind the joints as we work things out

in forbearance in long suffering in humility

in whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto a holy temple in the lord

that god can dwell in in whom you are also built together for inhabitation of god through the spirit so even though the gentiles are included in this temple where god himself will dwell and that's this that's what we're a part of that this is an active responsibility that we all

have to edify the body to look out for one another to build up one another and to realize that god gives us teachers

gifted teachers not for their ego sake but for our sake to protect us from false doctrine

and to bring us into full enlightenment of his word

that through this knowledge we can access this tremendous power that he used to raise christ from the dead which now operates in us to edify one another and to do the work of ministry

but this is done over time it doesn't happen overnight and we have to be patient

and we have to work with one another but we have to keep out false doctrine this i say therefore and i testify in the lord

that you henceforth walk not as other gentiles walk

stop it in the vanity of their mind what a shame that we are allowing these gentiles

in the vanity of their mind to lead us to be our leaders we're reading their books

we're following their knowledge we're getting caught up in their emotional states

instead of staying focused on this immeasurable gift that god has given us

to be part of this first fruits calling having the understanding darkened being alienated from the life of god through the ignorance that is in them they think they have knowledge they think they're very knowledgeable marxism is a very intellectual endeavor and all the professors are are pushing this different flavors of marxism in very intellectual ways and it feels like knowledge paul calls it ignorance because they have no knowledge of this they are alienated from the life of god this power that we've been talking about they they've disconnected from it they've swerved away from this through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart and he's been praying that the eyes of our enlightenment would be opened so that we can do this work of ministry but instead we blind ourselves with our ignorance who being past feeling and it's not that they have no emotions they are very emotional but they have no spiritual sense who being past feeling they have no spiritual conscience and our pastor murray gave a great sermon on this called for conscience sake which is in the archive but they're being past this conscience being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness this is the spirit of jezebel to work

uncleanness with greediness this is

all

## covetousness

this is getting caught up in this material world and they have what we don't have and we're very upset that they have this why don't we have it and we got to

write about this we're above all of us we're not getting caught up in this because you have not so learned christ notice the emphasis on the learning somebody taught you christ this is why we need teachers you have not so learned christ if so be that you have heard him maybe there was interference maybe the elders were not doing their job and you didn't hear

but if the elders were doing their job you did here and you did not learn christ this way

and have been taught by him the teacher christ is not on earth

he's in heaven but his body is on earth and his body is structured in such a way that

the teachers are gifts to the body as the truth is in jesus that you put off concerning the former conversation the old man

you we shouldn't be acting the way we acted before we came into the church put that off which is corrupt that way of behaving

is corrupt according to deceitful lusts when we get into what we want when we get into our ego lust of the mind and of the flesh

satan will deceive us so whatever you're passionate about be careful the same way he deceived eve that he said you know this fruit it's good for you it'll make you wise it'll make you uh it'll be pleasant to you

it'll taste good to you and it's all about you you you it's a deception because he was doing all satan was presenting all of this for himself

but he's able to deceive her through her lusts and so we need to be very careful are the causes that we're getting caught up in are they for our own self-interest because it's my race it's my people it's my thing

or is it truly for christ and instead be renewed in the spirit of your mind

this is what this is what matters these teachings that renew the spirit of our mind

that we put on the new man which after god is created in righteousness and true holiness there's a difference with righteousness and true holiness and the deception and the corruption of sin therefore put away lying speak every man truth with his neighbor

for remember is one of another again there's no independent christian here where members one of another and pastor murray gave a great sermon yesterday

on psalm 15 very expertly crafted going through revelation zechariah the different passages and showing how this question raised in psalm 15 is a mirror for us and we need to be able to look in the mirror and be able to stand before god as he presents this to us so again if you have access to the archive

look at the sermon for day five during this feast he says be you angry but don't sin don't let the sun go down upon your wrath some people are carrying anger

passover to passover to passover they've been in the church for decades and they're angry about something that happened years and years ago and the instruction is don't be be angry but don't sin and don't allow the sun don't if you're don't let the sun go down on your wrath and yet we go from passover to passover neither give place to the devil all of this that he's sharing with us and you know one to three it was very conceptual and now four to six we get very practical a little bit of conceptual teaching around the importance of teachers but now it gets very very practical because this is how we wrestle with the principalities and powers this is how we make sure we don't give place to the the devil it has to do with how we interact with one another let him that steal let him that stole steal no more but rather let him labor do the opposite working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needs let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth and it's amazing you know you look on facebook and you wonder are these church brethren that are speaking like this that are liking things like this let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying we need to be very purposeful we edify the body and we do the work of ministry we edify the body

to do the work of ministry so all we're focused on now

is how we communicate to edify the body to do the work of ministry

that it may minister grace unto the hearers

and grieve not the holy spirit of god don't do this whereby you are sealed

unto the day of redemption

unless christ says notwithstanding i

have this against you

let all bitterness and wrath and anger

and clamor and evil speaking

be put away from you with all malice

this is how we wrestle

against the principalities and powers

it's in our conduct

it's in our holy conduct and do the

opposite

be you kind one to another tenderhearted

forgiving one another this is how we

build an endeavor to keep the unity

of the spirit in the bond of peace

even as god for christ's sake has

forgiven you

what a wonderful passage brethren jesus

christ

is lord jesus christ is king

uh he has nothing but blessings for us

brethren

we have access to this great power if

we will resist false teaching

and we will embrace the truth that the

apostle paul

wants us to understand in this great

mystery that's been hidden

not only from the the saints and the

prophets

but even from the principalities and powers and it's been revealed unto us

through the apostle paul if ancient israel

were to was to rejoice at the feast

because of the physical blessings

by the work of their hands how much more should we rejoice because of these rich spiritual blessings which come at the work of god's hands jesus christ is lord have a blessed feast brother god you