

Growing in the Fragrance of god's Beauty! Ephesians 5:1-2

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October 10, 2022

Introduction

This paper is an Exegesis of Ephesians 5:1-2. In the first two verses of Ephesians 5:1 and 2 Paul encourages the believers to follow God as dear children (Eph. 5:1). He exhorts the followers of God to walk in love (Eph. 5:1a, 2a). Paul reminds the believers in Christ that God loves them, and has given of himself an offering and sacrifice (Eph. 5:2). In the 5th chapter of Ephesians, Paul is instructing believers to walk as children of light. He is encouraging them to walk in love as Christ has loved us. Christ gave his life as an offering and sacrifice to God for us (Eph. 5:2b). Therefore we can grow up in the fragrance of God's beauty, giving God glory by Jesus Christ. "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Lk. 6:36). This was a reference to Ephesians chapter five verse one, which is advising the believers to be dear children like their Father God. In Galatians 1:4 Paul reminds us that "Jesus gave himself for our sins," which in Greek it means that "in exchange for." Jesus Christ gave himself in exchange for our sins. I John 3:16 talks about the aroma "we perceive the love of God because He laid down His life for us, we should do the same for our brethren. Many children imitate their parents in what is good.

The character of Jesus that we bear as children of God compels us to mirror him. We shall be a sweet smelling savor, because we are Christ's body here in the earth.

Main Idea:

"Growing in the Fragrance of God's Beauty!" In the first two verses of Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul encourages the believers to follow God as dear children (Eph. 5:1). He exhorts the followers of God to walk in love (Eph. 5:1a-2a). Paul reminds the believers in Christ that God loves them and has given of himself as an offering and sacrifice (Eph. 5:2).

Outline

- A. Follow God as Dear Children:
- B. Follow Christ, and Walk in Love.
- C. Follow Christ as a Sweet-Smelling Savor.

Context

Bob Yandian talks about Galatians, chapter one verse four in his book about Galatians, *The Spirit-controlled Life*. He reminds us of our deliverance. Throughout the word of God we read that Jesus took our curse and gave us the blessings of God. What did Jesus receive? Our sins. We received his righteousness and redemption. What else did Jesus receive? He received unrighteousness and our curse. We received his riches. He took our poverty. He gave us healing and he carried our sickness away. It is wonderful to know that God loved us so much that His Son took all our sin and the curse. “Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree” (Gal. 3:13). God gave us His holiness, righteousness, riches, and health. This is what happened at the cross of Calvary. This is the truth Paul wants us to understand from the onset of becoming a Christian. In order for Jesus to deliver us from the present evil world, He gave himself in exchange. The world itself is not evil; it is the age we live in that is evil. In the beginning God created the world and all that is in it; and He said it was good. The world has been corrupted by the evil that is loose in it. This evil age will not last forever, this is temporary. It is a comfort to know that in this present age of sin, we can live in Jesus joy and righteousness, and Jesus is coming soon (Yandian, pg41).

Content

A. Follow God as Dear Children

The time is now to forsake the darkness, and walk in the light of God's Word. This is the truth that Paul wants everyone to understand from the onset of becoming a Christian. In order for Jesus to deliver us from the present evil world, He gave himself in exchange. The world itself is not evil; it is the age we live in that is evil. In the beginning God created the world and all that is in it; and God said it was good. The world has been corrupted by evil that has been loosed in it. This evil age will not last forever, this is temporary. It is a comfort to know that in this present age of sin we have hope, and that hope is in Jesus. We can live in his joy and righteousness, because Jesus is coming soon (Yandian pg. 41, 1985). Children often do what they see their parents do or other adult do. When we act to our nature as children of God, we will imitate Him. We will become representatives of God, before those who have shut God out of their life. "What are we sent into this world for? Is it not that we may keep men in mind of God, whom they are most anxious to forget? If we are imitators of God, as dear children, they will be compelled to recollect that there is a God, for they will see His character reflected in us. I have heard of an atheist who said he could get over every argument except the lesson of a godly mother: he could never answer that" (Spurgeon/ per Matthew Henry).

B. Follow Christ, and walk in love, as Christ loves us:

Paul reminds us of when we walked in darkness. Now we are "light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8) Paul admonishes us to "walk worthy" of the Lord in unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1b). "And walk in love, as Christ has also loved us" (Eph.5:20). Paul was building leaders and making disciples. Discipleship development was a concept that Paul understood

Well. Everyone should become disciples and born leaders as they are sent. (Malphurs, Mancini pg. 33).

Paul made the best of every opportunity, whether visiting a local synagogue addressing a great audience, great philosophers, or sitting in chains in a Roman prison cell. He always engaged in the business of winning souls. He made every opportunity work for the good, and had many sons in the Lord as a result. Paul said, "In whatever circumstance he found himself in, he was content, "he knew how to be both abound and abased." Paul planted the gospel in someone's life everyday (Phil. 4:12). Paul deposited himself into the lives of his disciples by way of letters that bear their names (Conley pg. 102). "Walk in love as Christ also has loved us:" As in all things, Jesus is our example. As Jesus loved us and gave himself as a sacrifice pleasing to the Father.

C. Follow Christ as a sweet smelling savor:

We may also become an offering and a sacrifice just as Christ did. We can choose to give of ourselves to God by witnessing of the goodness of God. We will become that sweet-smelling aroma, as we give to others in love. Many times we think of laying down our life in a dramatic way to show love for others. But God calls us to lay down our lives little by little and day by day to help hurting people (Henry). The character that we bear as God's children compels us to look like Him in love, goodness, and mercy. And those who follow after those things are His children. It follows, "and walks in love" (v. 2). This godlike grace ought to direct and influence our entire conversation, which is meant by walking in it. This is the principle by which we ought to act; it should lead the ends at which we aim. We ought to be careful to give evidence of our genuine of our love one for another. We are all joint sharers in that love, and

Partakers of the comfort of it. Christ having loved us all and given such evidence of his love for us (Guzik).

Application

When Paul wrote letters to the Romans in the middle of the first century, he wrote it in Greek. The letters Paul wrote were collected by Professor E. J. Goodspeed has suggested that the publication of Acts may have stimulated the collection of the letters of this great church planter. There is considerable evidence that by the end of the first century the letters of Paul has been collected.

There are similarities and differences in the writers that were inspired of God to perform their task, Paul, Peter, James, and John and some other New Testament authors. It is clear that no trustworthy speculation of creativity can rule out the fact that Biblical writers wrote in their own words and that their writing reflects differences in outlook, emphasis, approach, and the ability to handle the Greek language (Martin 1966) pg. 383. John Mark was a traveling companion of Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey; he left the party in Pamphylia. Ephesians was probably written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, around A.D. 60-62, (Pauline Epistles." During this time Paul was being held under house arrest, but he had freedom to receive visitors and teach the gospel (Acts 28:16-31).

Paul and Barnabas parted ways on their second missionary tour because Paul refused to allow Mark to make the trip (Acts 15:36-41). In later years Mark regained Paul's trust and was singled out as being useful of the Apostle (2 Tim. 4:11). In later years Mark became Peter's co-worker in "Babylon," which was a code name for Rome. This makes it probable that mark was

in Rome with Peter and Paul in A.D. 64-65, this is about the time they were believed to have been martyred (pg 384).

The authority in religion; the humanistic liberals stressed the human ability to understand God. They point out human reason, moral sense, and original sources of religious truth. Kierkegaard did believe such ideas. He argues that genuine religious truth must come from God by revelation (Monk 2003) (pg 131) consequently an Apostle like Paul; a person who is involved in God's revelation is in a different category from wise, well-educated persons. Whose teachings may be simply products of finite human capacities? The prophet and the Apostle have authority from God, that the others do not have (Monk 2003) (pg. 131).

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(Guzik 2018)

(Henry 2022)