

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 65 (#912245)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 65 – We Are To Love God With An Incorruptible Love

FRIDAY

OPEN

Would you like to sense, to experience the favor of God on your life? Just poured out on you, in lavish extravagant grace, would you like to have that? Well, Beloved, one of the ways to have it is to make sure that you are loving God with an incorruptible love, with an untainted love, with a pure love, not with a divided heart, but with a passionate love. We’ll talk about that today.

PART ONE

This is another milestone, Beloved. Do you realize that we’re on our last lesson on the book of Ephesians? Think about what you have learned if you have been with us from the beginning. Think of the skills that you’ve learned of observing the text. Think of how the meaning of the text has come up and how you’ve taken these truths and applied them. And what you’ve

learned as a result of it and how it’s impacted your life. I am so proud of you. I am so proud of you for being in there with me. I am so proud of you for studying his word, for valuing his precepts and understanding that they are precepts of life. I love that scripture in Psalm 119 in verse 102 and it says, [I have not departed from your commandments, I’ve kept your commandments. For you, yourself have taught me.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 119:102) If you’ve opened the good book, if you have read the text of Ephesians, if you have been studying it, if you have marked it God himself has been teaching you. Yes, I’m a vehicle. Yes, this program is a conduit. But it is God that is teaching you, because when you look at the text and you take it apart, then Beloved, it is God himself that is revealing truth to you. Well as we come to the close of this epistle I want you see Paul in your minds eye in Rome in his rented quarters chained to a Roman soldier day and night, sitting there with quill in hand finishing this epistle. What does he have to say? How does he bring it to a close? It’s very, very interesting and I think it has some valuable insights, some valuable precepts for us even as he brings us to a close. In verse 21 he says, **“But that you...may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. I have sent him to you for this...purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.”** (Ephesians 6:21-22) Paul was concerned about those at Ephesus because those at Ephesus were very concerned about him. Do you remember what we read in Ephesians chapter 3? In Ephesians chapter 3 just before he segues into his second prayer for the people he tells them that he has been **“...Made a minister, [of this gospel] according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to [him] according to the working of His power. [And to him], the very least of all [the] saints...,”** it says, **“...this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God**

who created all things.” (Ephesians 3:7-9) And then he goes on to say in verse 13, **“Therefore, I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations....” (Ephesians 3:13a)** Yes I’m a prisoner, yes I’m under arrest, yes I am scheduled for a trial but I don’t want you **“...to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are [for] your glory.” (Ephesians 3:13b)** He had already said in chapter 3 in verse 1, **“[I’m a] prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:1b)** Yes, I’m here because of that but I don’t want you to lose heart. And because I don’t, I have a strategy, I have a plan. And my plan is that I am going to take **“...Tychicus, [and my] ...beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord..., (Ephesians 6:21a)** and I’m sending him to you because I want you to look at his face. I want you to see and hear his words. I want you to be able to ask him questions about how I’m doing, and the rest of us are doing. I want you to be comforted. He says, **“...So that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.” (Ephesians 6:22b)** What does this show you about Paul? That Paul cared deeply for those that he ministered to, that they were his primary concern. He didn’t want to be a burden; he didn’t want to be a source of heaviness. We minister in 121 countries. We minister in many countries that we can’t tell you about. And we can’t tell you about it because of the safety of our people. I think of one story. It’s in a Muslim country. It’s in a very tightly controlled Muslim country, a very fanatical Muslim country. And our worker ministers one on one because all you can do is minister to maybe two or three at the most because it’s just not safe. Well they had a young man that they had started ministering to and he had disappeared and they couldn’t find him. They didn’t know where he lived, his name was Joseph. And so our worker got the other two disciples that he is working with and he said, “You know I am very concerned about him and I want to find out how he’s doing.” And they said, “But how can you, you don’t know where he lives, none of us know where he lives.” He says, “I know that we don’t know but God knows. Let’s pray and ask God to lead

us to Joseph.” Well they prayed and then they started to walk the streets, now this is not a small city. So they started to walk the streets and look for Joseph. And all of a sudden, after walking not to long a distance, Joseph comes by on a bicycle. And they shout to him and Joseph is so excited to see them and they ask, you know, “where have been and why haven’t you come back? And he said, “I want to so badly.” He says, “But my father says I’ve got to work in the fields.” And there, they just take them out of any schooling that they have because they need the money and life is very hard and very, very difficult, And he says, “But I’ve wanted to come.” And he said, “You know my mother has told me that you are such a fine man and that you are a good teacher.” Now he teaches the gospel and he teaches it without shame and he teaches about Jesus Christ. He is not afraid. And he doesn’t water anything down. Well as they talked they went back to his father and they talked to his father and his father said, “Okay, if this means this much to Joseph, then Joseph can come but he can only come three times a week.” Well when Joseph came and they sat and talked our worker said, “How did you mother know about me? Why did she say I was a fine man? Did you tell her I was a Christian?” He said, “Oh no, I simply did what you taught us.” He said, “Remember how you told us that it’s so important to love people, to care about people and to show our love and and to verbalize it? Well I wrote a note to my mother. And I told her how much I appreciated her and how I noticed how the things that had been hard in her life but how she persevered. And then I took her a present.” And he said, “You know what happened?” He said, “My mother read that note and she cried and she cried and she cried. She couldn’t stop crying. And she looked at me and she said no one in all my life has ever said thank you to me. Your father has never said thank you to me. He’s never told me that he appreciates me.” And she said, “This is so wonderful.” And she said, “Why did you do this?” And he said, “My teacher taught me that we’re to appreciate our loved ones.” And she said, “He’s a good man. You go back and you let him teach you

more.” Paul was a good man. And Paul was concerned about those that he ministered to. He wasn’t just concerned that they were praying for him, that they were supporting him, that they were interested in. He was caring about them. And that’s what it’s all about. And you see if we love God with an untainted love, with a love that is incorruptible then this is the way we’re going to respond to others. And I want you to see this as you look at the end of Ephesians at the very last two verses. He says, **“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus...with [an] incorruptible love.” (Ephesians 6:23-24)** Now what is an incorruptible love? [It is a loving of God with all your heart, your soul, you mind, your body and strength and others like yourself.] (PARAPHRASE, Luke 10:27) Grace is there for you if you love him with an incorruptible love. In 2 Timothy chapter 4, Paul knows that the time of his departure is at hand. He knows that he is being poured out as a drink offering. This is what he says, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; [and] in the future there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day; and not [to me only], but also to [those] who have loved his appearing.”** He says, **“Make every effort...,”** and he’s writing to Timothy, **“Make every effort to come to me soon.”** And he says, **“... Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me....” (2 Timothy 4:7-10a)** He did not have an undying love. He did not have an incorruptible love. He loved this present world more than he loved Jesus Christ. So he would not know and experience the grace of God. It says, **“[He] has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he’s [useful for me to uh] useful to me for service. But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. (2 Timothy 4:10b-12)** Paul knows that the time of his departure is at hand. He is not keeping those men to him. He wants

Timothy; he wants Barnabas because he is going to work all the way until the end. He is going to persevere. And yet, he is interested in others and he has built a team around him that are able to do the work. Build a team around you, Beloved, that are able to continue and to expand the work that God has called you to do.

PART TWO

In the last four verses of Paul’s epistle he mentions a beloved brother, a faithful minister, one time. You look at his name and you think how do I pronounce this? When I pronounce Tychicus I think that’s crazy. Am I saying it right? It is not a common name, although it was common in those days. Just one time, and yet he tells us about this man. As we look his name up and if you got the study guide and you studied along with me you looked at the scriptures. But as we look up his name, all of a sudden, he takes on a personality. And in taking on a personality and in contemplating what Paul is saying at the end of his letter, we see a very important precept for life. And that precept for life is this that you and I, Beloved, are to have a faithful brother, a beloved brother, a beloved sister, a faithful minister. Someone that is beside us that has the same passion for Jesus Christ that has the same goals, the same desire to further the kingdom of God. God never intends for us to be alone in ministry. He always intends for us to be mentoring another person, to bring another person alongside us, to impart to them the things that we have heard you see this in Paul’s life. You see it as he writes to Titus. You see it as he writes to Timothy. You see it in that last epistle as Paul knows that he is going to die and he’s handing the baton, so to speak, to Timothy and he’s saying, “Run, son, run.” People are important and it’s not that you should be the whole show; it’s not that you should be the most prominent person. But it’s that you should remember what he has taught us in Ephesians. And that is that we are part of a body. We are members one of

another. [We are to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling that we have received in Christ Jesus.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1) [We are to be diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit until we attain to the unity of the faith.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:3) Each one of us are to understand our spiritual gifts and we are to grow up and we are to remember that as we grow and as we use our gifts and as we participate as that particular member of the body that our lives are of value. And that they are being used for the growing up of the body and love. Well this is what you see in Tychicus. You meet him for the first time in Acts chapter 20. In Acts chapter 20 verse 1 it says, **“After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.” (Acts 20:1)** Where was he? Well in Acts 19 he’s in Ephesus and there is an uproar in Ephesus. Remember they’re in the temple and they’re shouting **“...Great is Diana of the Ephesians.” (Acts 19:28b, KJV)** Well, as we look at this we see something very interesting. This is the first time Tychicus’ name is mentioned in the word of God. And it says, and, **“When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. And there he spent three months, and [then there was a plot against him. And he] set sail for Syria, [and] he decided to return through Macedonia. And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gais of Derbe, and Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.” (Acts 20:2-4)** All of a sudden now, because you’re studying the Bible inductively, because you’re looking at people, because God’s all about people, and you want to know the five W’s and an H, and who and what and when and where and why and how. So now we find him mentioned as he has being sent back to Ephesus by Paul. But all of a sudden we find out hey, he’s been traveling with Paul and Timothy is among those and so are many others. So he was his traveling companion. He sees Paul being troubled by the Jews on those travels and he watches this valiant

warrior. Well then you come to Colossians. So I want you to turn to Colossians chapter 4 and in Colossians chapter 4 in verses 7 to 9 we find him being sent another place by Paul. It says, **“As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. For I have sent him ... for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.”** (Colossians 4:7-8) And it goes on to say, **“And with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who was one of your number....”** (Colossians 4:9a) He’s not going to send them alone. He’s going to send Onesimus with him. Now Onesimus is a slave. Read the book of Philemon and you’ll find out about Onesimus. So what is the point of stopping and looking at these scriptures? Well here is a man that Paul has mentored. Here is a man that is valuable to Paul. Here is a man that is able to represent him. And my question is, as we bring this epistle to a close, do you realize the body is not one member, it’s not just you? But there is a whole host of believers around you and some of those believers need to be very close to you, so that you can do the work of ministry more effectively. This is what I see in our work in 121 countries and in almost 70 languages, is we have built an army of nationals. We work with the nationals, we train the nationals because it’s the best use of your money and it’s the best use of those people. It’s not just sending in Americans to do the work, because they can’t do it as effectively. But dealing with those people, raising them up, do you realize that we teach people how to study the Bible inductively in all these languages? Many of them could leave and come to the United States of America now. But they won’t because this is what they say. “I have found the way to minister, the way that absolutely changes lives.” And so these people are going out. They’re going into public schools and they’re teaching my book, “The Truth About Sex.” They’re going into universities, secular universities and they’re teaching, “A Marriage Without Regrets,” our inductive study course, our

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precept course on this. They are being used in all sorts of communities. Why, because God has the world on his heart. So what enables them to go? If we were going to go to Titus we would see that he was going to send Tychicus to help Titus and to check on him. Here was a man that must have been an exhorter. Here was a man that loved God with an undying love. And because he loved God with an untainted, incorruptible, undying love he could be mightily used of God. The grace of God was upon him. My prayer is that you would [know his peace and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And that “Grace would be upon you all who love the Lord Jesus Christ with an incorruptible love.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:23-24) And I would urge you to continue with me as we study God’s precepts for life. As we devour word book by book and chapter by chapter and verse by verse so that you know the whole council of God. Now as we bring this to a close, remember that you are seated in heavenly places, chosen before the foundation of the world, part of the body of Jesus Christ and that you are [to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1) because you are a representative of Jesus Christ, love him with an undying love.