

Ephesians 14-10-12a

This is Sunday, October the 12th, 2014. We continue our study in Paul's letter to the Laodicean church, copied to the Colossian church, known popularly in our Bible as Ephesians. We are in the middle of chapter 5. We will be resuming in the vicinity of verse 18.

Let's take a moment to go before the Lord in prayer, ensure that we're fully prepared and qualified for the ministry of God's Holy Spirit. That is the only way we can learn anything. Whether we're the pitcher or the catcher, it is only in the power of God's Holy Spirit that the Word of God can make sense.

To those who are outside, it just is a parable. It's just stories. Even those who are inside, without the active ministry of God's Holy Spirit, it just will not have purchase.

It won't have traction. It won't be meaningful and applicable for us if we do not seek out, cultivate, and remain mindful of the presence and power of God's Spirit in our lives. It's the only power that can enable us to rise above our own corruption, our own rationalizations, to escape our own self-deceit.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can understand it? Nobody in their own strength. We must have the ministry of God's Holy Spirit.

That is what distinguishes us and lifts us up out of the miry clay and sets our feet on the rock. There's no more important time to recognize and express thankfulness for His ministry than as we spend time together as a fellowship and in particular as we focus our attention on God's Word. Shall we pray? Father thank you for this day.

Thank you for the opportunity to gather and be encouraged and built up, edified through the spiritual gifts that you have given to each of us. We thank you for those who have the gift of encouragement. We thank you for those who have the gift of faith.

We have those who take care of our logistics, those who are sensitive to the needs of others and make us aware of them, those who work in the kitchen like Martha, those who are gifted at sitting at your feet and helping us to understand the Word. Everyone in our fellowship has been made a partaker and been given a gift that can bless the rest of us and we thank you for each one. We thank you for your grace in entering us into Christ, in giving us hope and light and opportunity in this life.

We pray that as we look at this portion of your Word together this morning that God the Holy Spirit will illuminate it for each heart, that every one of us will come away with a clearer understanding of your love and your character, your call for us, your will for our lives and the bright future that awaits us when the Lord Jesus returns so that we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work both now and in those ages to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, Amen. We

saw that after having laid a great theological doctrinal foundation, a foundation of principles of truths related to what the Lord Jesus did for us when He died on our behalf, what God did for us when we expressed faith in Christ and were entered into Christ.

In Him we have standing, in Him we have resources, in Him we have access, in Him we have strength and power and guidance, all of the things necessary to make our lives meaningful and productive. It's all in Him. God the Holy Spirit seals us into Christ and these are the great meaningful characteristics of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

It's not just a creed or a creedal statement. It isn't just a baptismal formula. It's very practical.

At any time in the day when we stop and realize that we are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and we are His body on this earth, His earthly body once upon a time was here. His earthly body once walked the earth and communicated God's truth, demonstrated God's truth, lived out God's truth, faithful unto death, death, burial, resurrection and here on this earth. That was the Lord Jesus' body.

That body has ascended into heaven and sits at God's right hand. The body of Christ now is you and me and we are to do what we have seen the Lord Jesus doing. Communicate the truth, demonstrate the truth, live out the truth of God, represent the presence of God on this earth.

That's why we're here. That's our purpose, that's our mission, that's our function and God has made every provision so that we can fulfill it. We lack nothing.

Well, I don't know if I've got the courage. God the Holy Spirit is there to give us the courage. You see those guys in the Old Testament grab the jawbone of a dead animal and start slaying Philistines.

You see them stride forth to face the giant Goliath. You see them walk into the fiery furnace, into the den of lions, go out to face the Amalekites in battle. How did they do that? It was the Spirit of God providing the courage.

Be strong and of a good courage. Be not afraid for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever you go, whatever you face. Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of hosts.

Not by might, not by power. In weakness God's strength is made manifest. We wouldn't have an appreciation for God if we didn't recognize our weaknesses and see His enablement and His empowerment.

Empowerment is a big subject here in recent years. I want to be empowered. I don't want to be oppressed or suppressed.

Well, there is no empowerment like God's empowerment. It is permanent. It is living and it is eternal.

This is what Paul is addressing in the book of Ephesians. He lays this foundation. These are the provisions God has made for us in Him, in Christ.

We saw that seven-fold provision, seven-fold enablement in the first chapter. We saw that this is unique and a tremendous opportunity in this age in chapter 2. We saw, and in chapter 3. Beginning in chapter 4, we saw Paul move from communicating these truths to telling us the truth. We saw Paul move from communicating these truths to telling us how they pertain.

So what? I've sat through a lot of seminary classes talking about sort of abstract, systematic theological. I was a systematic theology major, as most of you know, and honing down the fine points of *posi non peccari*, *non posi peccari*, the doctrine of procession, who sent the Spirit, was it the Father or the Son? Is it dispensationalism or covenantalism? There's the pre, mid, and post view of the decrees of God. All of these abstractions.

Paul says, look, I've given you solid biblical truth, solid divine truth, and here's what it means. Here's what you do with it. So in chapter 4, he begins with therefore.

What I want to point out as we continue through chapter 5 real quickly here is the very elegant structure of this part of Paul's letter. We saw the beautiful structure, sort of a menorah of those seven truths in chapter 1. Three here, one in the center, three here, emphasizing the one that is in the center, a beautiful chiasmic symmetry there. We have a similar thing going on here, and I want to back up just for a moment and point it out.

And if you are not intimidated by the clean white margins of your Bible, you can annotate out by the side. A little bit of this has actually been done by, if you have a New King James, they've done some of this for us. Sometimes I'm a little ambivalent about the little notations.

You notice how they go through and they'll label sections, they'll label paragraphs. Sometimes I think, well, they're just labeling to be labeling. But other times it's pretty elegant.

And some of the labeling in chapter 5 here in your New 4 and 5 is actually pretty good. But let me just tell you right now that we have a 5 and we have a 7 in these two chapters, chapters 4 and 5. We've got a 5 and a 7. If you add 5 and 7, what do you get? Twelve. Twelve is a great number, great number of the Bible.

You've got 12 tribes, you've got 12 apostles, you've got some little mysteries in there. You take out one and add another and you end up with 13. But we've got a 5 and we've got a 7 here, and they add up to 12, and I don't think it's accidental.

There are 7 therefore's in this section of Ephesians, 7 therefore's, starting with chapter 4, verse 1, I therefore. And you can scan down through there and find the other 6 or you can wait and I will tell you where they are. I'll remind you where they are.

We've seen them. But there are 7 thereofes, and each of them has a functional purpose. It's not just, wow, interesting structure, go be worn, be fed.

It means something. They're there for a reason. We need to pay attention to them.

They are not accidental and they are like the nails or the bolts that hold the argument together. And I was driving down the road the other day in my sleek German racing machine, just got on the highway heading south, going to work, oh, dark 30, pitch black out. But I was running a little bit late, and if you get on central after 6 a.m., the traffic suddenly gets really, really heavy.

There's like, I don't know, people just sit and wait on the on-ramps, and when it hits the stroke of 6 a.m., it's like somebody shoots the gun or waves the flag and off they go. Five minutes till 6, smooth sailing. Five minutes after 6, it'll take you an extra 20 to 40 minutes to get downtown from where I live.

Well, it's just after 6. I'm in the bus. I'm in the 1977 Champagne Edition Volkswagen Transporter, Type 2, heading south, getting up to speed, getting ready to cruise. That thing does great between 65 to 70.

I'm getting up there. I'm heading down, making a curve there real close to the Campbell or Arapahoe area. All of a sudden, I hear this, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, louder and louder and louder and louder, and I think, what has happened? Have I thrown a rod? It doesn't have a driveshaft.

My thought was, one time I had my universal joint go out in my driveshaft, and it made a thunking noise like that. And I took my foot off the gas, put in the clutch, and it was still happening. And I thought, something awful has happened, which it sort of had.

And so I pulled off the road, but there's bridges and these little fences and things, and I pull off, and fortunately or providentially, I was in an area where right between a bridge and one of these little guardrail fences, there was an open space with grass, and it was steep, but I pulled up on that and got out. And as I began to review my recent work on the bus, and I had worked on the brakes, and I had jacked up the front of the bus, taken the wheel off, addressed the whole disc brake issue, put it back together, jacked up the other side, did the same thing. But as I was letting the bus back down, I had an interruption, and I had only finger-tightened the lug nuts on the driver's side.

And as I thought back, I thought, you know, I wonder if I ever went back with the old wrench and cranked those down. So that's the first thing I checked, and sure enough, they had worked loose, and I was about to lose my left front wheel as I was flying merrily down the road at 65 to 70. You don't want to see any one of your wheels pass you as you're trying to go down the road.

My point being, you want to pay attention to the bolts that hold things together. Make sure you

are aware of them, and you keep them tight. These therefore are like the bolts in this passage.

We want to pay attention to them. Paul put them there for a reason. There's exactly seven of them for a reason.

And we're going to look at each one of them this morning. Secondly, there are five walks, not three. Chinese cooking utensils.

Walks, W-A-L-K-S, not W-O-K-S. Five walk, walks. Five walks in this passage, and they are there for a reason.

They have a beautiful structure, as we will see this morning. The first walk is in chapter 4, verse 1. I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling. Walk number 1, walk worthy of your calling.

If you're going to walk worthy of your calling, you have to know what your calling is. That's what Paul has been describing. That's what he has given us in the first three chapters, is what we have been called to, what God has equipped us for, the positional truth that He has assigned us.

We are in Him. We have been given all of these provisions and expressions of grace. So walk worthy of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Walk worthy. That's number 1. Worthy of our calling. Got to know what the calling is, or you can't very well walk worthy.

If you're going to do one of these, walk for cancer, or walk for the cure, or walk for some purpose, you better know the route. I've seen marathons where some of the runners missed a turn. The crowd is bunched up and they can't see clearly.

You're running 26.3 miles or whatever it is, and if you miss a turn and you're off, now what? How do you get back? Every step you take is decrementing your time. Walk worthy of the calling. You've got to know the calling so that you can walk in the light of it.

Number 2 is in chapter 4, verse 17. This I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the Gentiles walk. No longer walk in futility of mind.

Walk worthy of your calling. The second one is a don't walk. No longer walk the old way.

Empty minded. Futility in the mind. Your thoughts are futile.

No longer walk. Number 3 is in chapter 5, verse 2. Walk in love. What does that mean? I'm in love with the girl I'm talking about.

All you need is love. Love, love, love. Walk in love.

It's almost meaningless unless you know what love is. What is love in this context? What is love by the biblical definition? Well, we've seen that in our study of this chapter. Walk in love.

Number 4 is in verse 8. Walk as children of light. Walk as children of light. John addresses the same thing over in 1 John 1. Remember that? If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with Him and He with us.

We have fellowship. We have fellowship with one another. And the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, keeps on cleansing us from all sin.

This walking in the light enables us to receive cleansing. The cleansing that we need to avoid an unclean, defiled life. If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ keeps on cleansing us and we keep on having fellowship.

Walk in the light. Number 5 is where we are right now. Chapter 5 verse 15.

See then that you walk circumspectly. Circumspectly. You can see what this means.

Circum means around, right? Like a circumference. And spect, a specter is a vision, an apparition. A spectator is one who looks or who watches, right? This is even transferred over into the Latin.

There's a very famous inscription related to Christopher Wren who over in Britain was a very well-known guy. He was an architect and he designed some of the most beautiful buildings, cathedral type structures that the world has ever seen. He lived back in the 1600s.

He built or rebuilt over 50 churches in London. And you've seen these beautifully vaulted ceilings and stained glass walls. His masterpiece is St. Paul's Cathedral there in London.

Well, when he died, they buried him in the cathedral. He's got a monument right there in it. And there is an inscription there related to his burial and it's in Latin.

And it says, *lector si monumentum requiris circumspecti*. Lector, that's reader. That's where we get the word lecture.

But if you're the person reading this inscription, *lector si monumentum requiris*, *si* means if. If you require a monument, if you're looking for a monument to Christopher Wren, if you're looking for his gravestone, if you're looking for his memorial, *circumspecti*. If you're looking for his monument, look around you.

This is what he built. He designed this thing. *Lector si monumentum requiris circumspecti*.

Look around. That's what you have here. See then that you walk looking around.

Walk paying attention. Be aware of what's going on. This is the circumspect walk, number 5, 515.

So we've got the worthy walk. We've got the abandoned walk, the walk that we no longer do as the Gentiles in futility of mind. We have walk in love, walk in light, walk in wisdom, walk circumspectly.

Five encouragements. Now, are these five different walks? These are five descriptions of one walk. And if you look at those five walks carefully, there is a pattern that you see reflected elsewhere in Scripture, such as in Hebrews, where the not laying again the foundation of change of mind away from dead works and faith toward God.

Let us go on to maturity. Let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation. You should have already had a change of mind away from dead works and faith toward God.

You see that same idea here. You have received a call. You're a human being.

The reality of the existence of God has been impressed upon every human heart. God does that for everyone. Dwelling in the jungle, dwelling in the highest realms of intellectual aptitude, highest realms of science or civilization, every human heart has an innate God-given conviction that there is a God.

God has put the knowledge of Himself in the heart of every man. That's why no one has an excuse. Well, what if they don't have a Bible? What if they have never heard of Jesus? There are three, count them, witnesses to God.

The first one is innate. God has put eternity in their hearts, He says over in Ecclesiastes. God has put the knowledge of Himself in the heart of every man so that they are without excuse if they suppress that truth, Romans 1. That's the first face-to-face with God.

God says, I am here, and He speaks it internally. You don't need evidence, you don't need senses, you don't need witnesses other than God the Holy Spirit who convinces the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. And that stuff makes no sense without there being a God.

Eternity is in their hearts. God has put the knowledge of Himself, capital H, in the heart of every man. That makes every man accountable.

What do you do at the point of that conviction? You are either drawn or you are repelled. You are either interested or you are disinterested. You either respond or you rebel.

A God, you mean I can't just do whatever I want? I've got to conform to somebody else's ideas? There are people who make the choice to push that away. I don't like that idea. I'm going to reject that idea.

That knowledge sorts every human into one of two categories. I am either a responder or I am a reactor. And it is independent of evidence.

It is independent of having heard the Scriptures. Think about the angels in heaven in eternity past. There's no lack of evidence.

They're living in the very presence of God. Lucifer, Satan himself, is the guardian cherub of the throne room of God. He doesn't lack information.

What does he lack? Attitude of appreciation, of humility, of recognition that this is a good thing that God is God. This is a good thing that God is righteous. This is a good thing that God operates the way he does and is unchanging, merciful to countless generations, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to change of mind here on this earth, but also a God of righteousness and justice.

And if you think about it, the function of righteousness and justice ultimately protects those who come to God in acceptance, in recognition, in appreciation. If he allows cancer cells to persist and continue, sooner or later they will metastasize. Their malignancy can spread.

And not that they're going to change someone's attitude, but they can damage, they can harm, they can kill. Satan is a liar from the beginning. He's a murderer from the beginning.

And we can only guess at what happened in angelic prehistory that we have not yet been told. But that's the first witness. God has put the knowledge of himself in the heart of every man.

The second witness is creation. Romans chapter 1, what may be known of God is manifest in creation. You can postulate an infinitude of universes.

You can postulate some unknown RNA world or pre-RNA world. You can postulate that there is some unknown all-powerful mechanism that not only created the machinery that produces the proteins that forms life, organic life, but programmed the software at the same time. Listen, I talk to scientists, guys with PhDs that are working microbiologists and alleged avowed premier guys at the top realms of science.

I've asked them this question. I have yet for any single one of them to give me an answer. I asked this question in my college classes.

I've asked it on boards where people can post and consult and bring the best fruits of science to bear. And I asked this question. I never get an answer.

How does a spider build a web? How did that evolve? Well, there was an insect crawling around and one day he had a mutation and sticky stuff started coming out the stern. A mutation, he used to have like a little proto-tail or something and he had a mutation and sticky stuff started leaking out. Okay.

You know, spiders have got six different kinds of web. So this happened six different times and some way he kept all of these different ones. Okay, great.

Let's assume for the moment that this could happen and that it immediately confers a reproductive benefit. It's not just a benefit in catching prey. It's not just a benefit in living longer.

The only, I'm talking science here, this is the science of evolution, only changes, mutations that enhance reproductive viability you have to out-reproduce everybody else for some reason. Do you live longer? Do you eat better? Do you attract mates because you get the peacock's tail or the, you know, the dance that infatuates the prospective mate? How does it work? You have to out-reproduce everybody else with this mutation. It has to not just confer some abstract benefit.

Well, wouldn't it be great if eventually you could build a web? They don't know that. They're just wandering around and sticky stuff is leaking out the back end. Where does the software come from? The spider says, hey, I got some sticky stuff coming out here.

I wonder what would happen if I stuck one end down and then kind of dragged it over here and stuck it somewhere else. That's software. Spiders are not reasoning creatures.

This would be something that has to be a genetic change that happens at the same time as the sticky stuff coming out. There's got to be a mutation in the spider brain, tiny though it is. He's got to have a something that he can pass on to his descendants that says, hey, when the sticky stuff comes out, stick one end down, crawl over here and stick another end down.

And then every successive step in spider web building has to be a mutation that corresponds with, oh, guess what? I've got both sticky and non-sticky. I'm going to turn on the non-sticky to make the support structures and I'm going to turn on the sticky to make the round stuff. That's a software development.

And software doesn't work without hardware. Hardware does not work without software. So now you're not talking about one simple genetic mutation that will be selected for and you will out-reproduce everybody else and all other spiders will lose the ability to not have sticky stuff.

They'll all have sticky stuff. Now they're going to have sticky and non-sticky and eventually they're going to have six different kinds of web. You get the stretchy kind, you get the kind you stick down so that you can travel, you get the time kind that you can make your nest out of so that you can lay your eggs and they don't crawl out and all get stuck and die because oops, wrong kind of web.

Software. It is not enough that you can evolve a PC. It's got to run an operating system and it's got to run software programs.

And you're telling me that this all evolved by happenstance, accidental, fortuitous change, time after time after time after time, millions upon millions upon millions of fortuitous changes. No. Creation declares the glory of God.

Firmament shows forth His handiwork. What may be known of God is manifest in creation. He's wise.

He is elegantly smart. He puts symmetry and beauty into creation. And there is any human explanation of this is just an alternate God.

Well, you know Darwinian, neo-Darwinian evolution, mutation and natural selection has creative power. It can create software. It can create hardware.

It's ubiquitous. It'll show up on other planets. It's everywhere.

Any place you've got organic molecules, evolution will occur. That's just your God. Your God is omnipresent.

Your God is omnipotent. Your God is all-knowing. And, you know, it's the God that can turn blind accident into productive life.

You're just God by another name. You just don't want to accept the God that has revealed Himself in your heart. Oh, no, no, no, no.

I'm going to elevate something else above the stars. I'm going to elevate something else to be, well, how did the universe get here with all of these delicately balanced constants and, you know, off by one decimal point out of 250,000 decimal points and you have a lead universe or you have a hydrogen universe that's also elegantly balanced. Well, you know how that happened.

There's an infinitude of universes. Well, materialists say, if you say God created everything, then who created God? Well, if you say an infinitude of universes exist, where did those come from? Who got that system going? What generated an infinitude of universes? It's God by another name. It's God with a small g. And what are you doing? You are choosing your God.

I will either choose the God that revealed Himself in my heart or I'm going to choose a God of my own invention, a God that we've gotten together and elected to be God that we don't have to be accountable to. What's the difference between the small g God and the capital G God? Moral accountability. Hey, if it's a small g God, I can do whatever seemeth good unto me.

There's a way that seemeth right unto me. I'm going to follow it and I'm not accountable. That small g God isn't going to judge me later.

That small g God doesn't have a plan and a purpose. I can decide the plan and purpose. I will be like the Most High.

I will rise my throne, you know, raise it up above the stars of God. I'll be like the Most High. I will, I will, I will.

Look, I'm, you know, I'm the God of my own imagination. That's the choice. Those two witnesses occur before you ever get to Scripture.

People say, well, how can you trust the Scripture? It's full of mistakes and goat herds wrote it 2,000 years ago and myths and legends. And look, it isn't a matter of evidence. People watch the Lord Jesus do miracles right before their very eyes.

You remember the blind man in John chapter 9? People say, well, you know, the gospels were written 250 years after the events. How can we possibly trust him? The Pharisees had eyewitness testimony on the same day that Jesus healed a man blind from birth, called in the parents and they said, yeah, that's our kid. He's been blind from birth.

All of the neighbors said, yeah, he's blind from birth. The blind from birth man walks in and says, once I was blind, now I see. You explain it to me if it wasn't God.

Duh, you're all together born in sin. Get out of here. Did they accept it? It's not a matter of the quality of the evidence.

It is a matter of the attitude that the conviction produces in your heart. You will explain away any evidence. Next time you're talking to an atheist and they say, well, the evidence is insufficient.

Ask them this question. I'm fixing to ask an atheist this question probably later today. Answer me this.

What evidence would satisfy you? What, what would you want to see that, that you would then, you say you don't want to believe because the evidence is insufficient. What evidence would convince you? Tell me, what are they going to say? Well, if, if God will make a personal appearance, how do you know it's not a hallucination? How can, how do you know you're not just somebody drugged you or, or you, you've had some sort of aneurysm in your brain and you're, you know, you, you claim that people who have had visions and, and dreams and so on had some sort of chemical imbalance or it was physically caused. Can you trust your own mind if you, if you think you've had a vision? Wouldn't you say, you know, I, I think something must have happened to me.

I got a mushroom in my mushroom soup that was really a toadstool or something. I, I've been, you know, I, I can't trust my, my senses. What would convince you? Well, if God would transport me to the realms of glory, how do you know you've been transported to the realms of glory? You're trusting your senses.

You have faith in your senses. What if your senses deceive you and betray you? Can you not be fooled enough to jump when somebody slams the door on a movie screen? That's not a real threat, but you jumped. You know, the, the, the point is there is no evidence, any evidence they offer and say, well, if I saw this, I would be convinced I can poke a hole in it.

No, you wouldn't because you've already got an attitude that says I will reject any evidence you offer because it's not a matter of evidence. It's a matter of attitude. It is a matter of choice.

It is a matter of persuasion. The question is for you and me, what is our choice? What is our persuasion? You've heard a call from God. Walk worthy of that call.

Stop walking in futility. Change of mind away from dead works. That's the second walk.

No longer walk as the Gentiles in the futility of their mind in darkness. It's pointless. It's fruitless.

It's harmful. It's damaging. It goes nowhere.

It leads nowhere. It ends up nowhere. Futility.

You've heard a call. You have a choice now. You can continue to walk in darkness or you can walk in love.

You can walk in light and you can walk in wisdom. That second one is the, is the decision point. You've heard the call.

The convicting witness of God is here and you've heard it again this morning from the scriptures and you have it confirmed in your heart. So the question is, are you going to continue to walk in futility and darkness or be tempted to return to futility and darkness? That's most of our problem is we get too much in this world and we're drawn back in. You know, it's futility.

Our call is to love, to light, and to wisdom. What's the downside of this? I get to the end of my life. I'm laying on my deathbed.

I review the months and the years and I say, you know, I spent too much time in that whole love and light and wisdom thing. Why wasn't I foolish? Why didn't I go off and harm myself and others and create misery and emptiness and futility and wake up with the cold cigarette ashes of a bad night spent? You know, and why, how, why did I, why didn't I go out and just, you know, really tear up the town and make myself and others miserable and love and light and wisdom? What's the good of that? Anybody gets to the end of their life and says, hey, you know what? That was just too much love and too much light and too much wisdom. I should have been foolish, dark, and hateful.

That's how I should have spent my life. Darn it. What was I thinking? I mean, it's a pretty clear choice, but it's amazing.

It was a clear choice for Satan in heaven. It was a clear choice for the third of the angels that followed him. It's a clear choice for everybody on this planet who receives the inner witness of God, who gets the external witness of God, and who if they respond in any positive way to those two will get the third witness in the mouth of two or three witnesses a thing is established.

Go over and read the law. A man will not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. That's the law of Moses.

You will not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. On the testimony of two or three witnesses, a man may be put to death. God doesn't put the human race on trial and say, you better believe the Bible.

You've already had two witnesses. That's just the third. And you say, well, all these Ming Dynasty Chinamen that never got the gospel, those Ming Dynasty Chinamen had two other witnesses and every swinging one of them rejected it.

And God knew they would reject it. That's why he had to be born in China. They don't need to be born near Israel.

They don't need to be born near a place where they're going to get the light of scripture because they've already said no twice. And God knew they would say no. That's why he can scatter people over there.

There's no big problem. What about the heathen? What about the Aborigine that never got a Bible? It doesn't need a Bible. Those people have been located in those places and given to Satan on purpose.

Why is Satan the God of this world? God handed them people and said, look, you want to be God? Here's a bunch of people that have outright rejected me and I knew they were going to do so. I'm going to put them on whole, I'll give you whole continents. I'll give you dynasties.

I'll give you generation after generation of generation of those who are unwilling to respond. I'm going to go, I'm going to put the knowledge of myself in their heart and they're going to reject it. And you can have a whole nation of them.

Do what you will. Take your time. Show me how you're going to be God.

And look at what has happened in every one of those civilizations. Look at what happened on top. What's that Mel Gibson movie with the apocalypso? That's what has happened in every one of these that God has given over to Satan.

Those people chose it. God knew they would choose it. He grouped them in groups and said, here, here's a bunch of people not interested in me.

Take them and show me what a great God you're going to be when you raise your throne above them and you are the God of their world. You look at the heinous evil that has permeated all of those civilizations. That's God's point.

That's why he made Satan the God of this world. He's a God and there's his followers. And look

how it's turned out.

Ripping living hearts out, chopping heads off, blood running down these ziggurats. You look at some of the horrors perpetrated in China. The binding of feet is the least of them.

Treatment of women and exposing them on manure piles when they're born is the least of them. Molec, roasting babies alive. That's why when God said, I'm going to carve out a little spot for my little group of people who do respond to me and I'm going to drive out one little part of your people, Satan, and that's going to be the Amorites who are roasting babies alive, who are openly fornicating and doing all this other stuff in their godless worship and are so evil I can't send another flood to wipe them out.

So I'm going to send my people in. This little postage stamp on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, I'm going to put my people there. I'll give you the whole rest of the world and let's see how it turns out.

Well, people from that little part of the world have turned the world upside down with the gospel of Jesus Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit. That's human history. That's our calling.

Walk worthy of your calling. Be a part of the solution. Don't be another demonstration of the problem, right? Walk worthy of your calling.

No longer walking in the futility and emptiness and darkness and lovelessness of the Satanic side. Walk in love, walk in light, walk in wisdom. Well, the therefores are the illustration of those five walking descriptions.

It's one walk. These are five aspects of it, five sides of it. There's five books, but it's one Pentateuch.

It's one law of Moses, right? These are five different descriptions, aspect. The walk in love is a walk in light. The walk in light is a walk of wisdom.

It is separate and distinct from the futile walk of the Gentiles and it does fulfill God's call. We'll pause here and take our break. When we come back, we'll see the seven therefores.

And we've seen what it is. Now we want to look at how it is. How do you do this? I get it.

Light, love, wisdom. Live in the light of the calling. Get away from the futile walk.

How do I do this? That's what the seven therefores are there for. We'll see you when we come back.