

Philippians 10-09-03b-eph

We pick up our study in the book of Ephesians chapter 4. We have been looking at verse 2 and verse 3 in the light of other passages in the Word of God that emphasize the importance of unity and This when you say unity, it's all the same as fellowship You can't be unified if you don't have fellowship if you don't have somebody to be unified with You have a pretty difficult time fulfilling that Exhortation and In the light of that we looked at passages in in Romans and in 1st Corinthians and in Ephesians 4 I would add to that 1st Thessalonians 5 13 to note these who are working and laboring in the in the faith and to Esteem them very highly in love for their works sake be at peace among yourselves Paul says and as I said you look at the number of exhortations toward harmony and this doesn't necessarily mean the same opinion When it says speak the same thing have the same soul have the same heart have the same mind It doesn't mean that you have to agree on everything So much in terms of opinion week we can be individuals we can have our own opinions We can have our own likes and dislikes. It's If you want to talk about feelings being the same in feeling being the same in enthusiasm being united in Recognizing the goal and recognizing the prize and recognizing the upward call of God in Christ Jesus Recognizing our hope and our faith and our love recognizing the beauty and the consistency and the necessity for the truth of the Word of God and if we have minor Differences of understanding or differences of opinion in areas that are non-essential let it go Maybe you think that hell is Conscious eternal torment, and I think that it's oblivion. I think it's non-existence Does that affect our daily walk our faith and practice does it affect anything that we do its future? It's a thousand years hence Doesn't matter.

It's a non-essential your view of hell is a non-essential Certain things are essential, so we want to be unified and we want to be Unified in the sense of being humble putting others ahead of ourselves It's a great system if everybody puts everybody else ahead of themselves Nobody's going to be selfish and everybody's going to be taken care of system breaks down as soon as people start getting selfish and By the way there. There is a huge Encouragement to subjectivity in our culture today and I was Talking about this. I was explaining to somebody earlier in the week but what you know a lot of us that are older may or may not have much exposure to the advent of social networking My space Facebook Twitter and so on and Bless your hearts.

I've been on Facebook. I know a lot of y'all are on Facebook fine not Condemning it per se, but I would encourage you to think about this the essence the the real substance of Facebook is I want you to know all about me Here's what I'm doing. Here's my picture.

Here's my likes and dislikes. Here's what I'm listening to here's what I read Here's where I went it's me myself and I and Me and my friends and here's my friend Did you friend me and I'm friending you and your friend? Friendened me and the friend of the friend friendened me and now my personal private You know pictures swimming in my backyard pool are now for Distances hints in some friend of a friend of a friend's Running tally of Sam changed his picture Sam wrote on

Elizabeth's walls Sam ate a virtual banana from a ice cream shop, you know, Sam grew a virtual petunia and Sam collected three pieces of bling and I don't know what all goes on it, but But it's it what didn't think about and just think about this What is the definition of subjectivity? What's our working definition of subjectivity eyes on? self eyes on Others eyes on people and eyes on things two out of the three If you if you eliminated eyes on self and eyes on people, there would be no Facebook. There would be no myspace There would be no Twitter.

What's the what's the deal? Why did twits? tweet on Twitter I Want you to know what I am doing minute by minute remember that I told you a couple weeks ago about that plastic surgeon twitting tweeting twittering sending out tweets Hi there fans. I'm driving along the Pacific Coast Highway with my dog Bosco and he's really enjoying the view Suddenly all the tweeting stopped because the guy ran through the guardrail over the cliff died his dog. Thankfully was thrown clear poor dog but you know, I Am so engrossed With this person with this celebrity with this band with this entity with this news story That I've got to have up-to-the-minute text messages flowing into my phone or whatever subjectivity You cannot maintain a spiritual life if you are getting tweets from five or six people all day long and all you're doing is thinking about oh You know Halle Berry just bought a pink dress or Sarah Jessica Parker just got signed to a new movie or Denzel just You know went to a party or whatever.

It may be It encourages our culture our society is steeped in subjectivity All things in moderation get on Facebook tweet Twitter do whatever you want What I'm saying is be aware that it is the edge of an abyss into which many people fall and never escape It is Subjectivity eyes on self. How do I look who see in my pictures? What's what's going on about me me myself and I the wonderful Trinity of my own worship like my favorite source of amusement and You know people are killing each other over Facebook Yeah She de-friended me, you know that just it's it's wild but it's subjectivity so Caution it's just like anything else food is good If you overdo food, you're a glutton and it's a sin a lot of things are fine in moderation, but they're not fine to excess Anything to excess can be turned into a sin anything Bible study to excess can be a sin You're not supposed to spend your day in Bible study. You're supposed to Just like you don't eat physical food all day long and stuff yourself and become an enormous 700 pound behemoth You don't sit around stuffing yourself with spiritual food.

You've got to metabolize you have to process you have to exercise you have to burn it you have to use it and A little manna goes a long way. It is power food The Word of God is spiritual manna and you can learn a little bit and it takes a long time to learn how to apply It that's why God gives us most of the day engaged in common tasks. I used to wonder about this Well, if we're supposed to grow in grace knowledge of the Savior, why does God make it so complicated because I've got to live And do my job and all these constant distraction people constantly making me go places and do things why can't I just sit soak and and grow and just you know, plant my roots by the rivers of water and well because Most of what we learn we never figure out how to apply Little manna goes a long way You know Go with the strength of that meat 40 days

and 40 nights and those are the days of testing Get a little bit of nourishment got to get it tested got to work it out figure out how to make it go and That's why we live in this world.

That's why God gives us circumstances gives us jobs and relationships and families and schooling and things that break and things that go bump in the night and pushing up against evil and it's to apply it we have a much harder time Laying hold of righteousness by faith, which is truth in application So that's what Paul is talking about here when he says you've got to get this mind be unified in that perspective Understand who you are and why we're here. We all understand this, but we all forget it and we all get immersed and we all lose track But by sticking together We can help ourselves remember when one of us is weak The other one is strong two is better than one Three fold cord is not quickly broken where two or three are gathered in my name There am I in the midst and we typically find ourselves in conversations of two or three as believers and it's great We can all get a word in we can we can share our thoughts. We can edify and build each other up Look for the fellowship that God provides if you're looking for it If you appreciate it, God will provide it if you're oblivious to it Why should he provide it if you don't recognize its value? Why should he put it in your path when you recognize what it is? You value it Asking you shall receive seek and you will find knock and the door will be open and it is important It's important You can't fulfill the 50 or 60 one another commands if there's not an other to be one another with To be unified and beat of like mind he's talking about that here.

So in Thessalonians, he says that Be of the same mind first Thessalonians 5:13 be at peace among yourselves author of Hebrews Hebrews 12:14 pursue peace with everyone Pursue peace peace doesn't come naturally. You have to pursue it. You got to figure out ways to achieve it and Holiness without which no one will see the Lord And this is a sobering thought The Lord Jesus is going to come with a shout the voice of the Archangel and the Trump of God the dead in Christ will rise We were alive and remain will be caught up together with them.

And so shall we ever be with the Lord, but guess what? Some believers are going to be so far back that they cannot see the Lord. They'll see the glow They'll see the light shining forth from the throne But there are eight or ten Hundred million people Who were more interested? Who laid hold of more righteousness by faith and you're going to be in the back Jumping trying to see over, you know Anybody got a periscope anybody got a how can I see? Pursue peace with everyone and holiness Righteousness without which you're not going to see the Lord doesn't mean you won't be saved doesn't mean you won't have eternal life Doesn't mean you won't eventually You know work your way up to to get a glimpse But seeing the Lord if you want to be close to the Lord in the eternal future get close to the Lord now If you want to know what the Lord is up to in the future get to know what the Lord is doing now Growing grace and knowledge of the Savior now So that you can be in grace and close to the Savior walk with him in white sit with him on his throne Partake of the hidden manna have the white stone and the new name and all the other overcomer blessings That's hope and It matters how we treat each other. It matters what we think it matters what we say It matters how we spent the time in this past day.

It matters It counts it's written in the book and we can't get this day back But Lord willing we've got tomorrow and maybe the next day in the next to do better and to lay hold of holiness righteousness without which you cannot see the Lord and Peace is linked to that peace with others peace with all don't be a striving contentious Long-eared braying person James 3 17 and 18 the wisdom that is from above If you think you know a lot of the Word of God you think you've got it nailed You're not telling me anything. I haven't heard before Okay, try this the wisdom that is from above is first pure Then peaceable Gentle Here's a tough one willing to yield full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy Each of those Makes it a taller and taller order doesn't it the wisdom that is from above pure peaceable gentle Willing to yield this is yielding of course in the area of non-essentials full of mercy full of good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy all of the accusations of white Abuse of minorities in generations gone by those Christians in their churches were putting down the the blacks and the freed slaves and the in the 1800s and and the genuine Denigration of others based on their skin or based on their culture Based on their people group Do you seriously think that any God-fearing Bible-believing Christian could denigrate or run down or Segregate or otherwise persecute a black man or a black woman or a black child If they had taken this verse to heart if you've got the wisdom from above you are pure peaceable willing to yield full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without Hypocrisy any believer who took this verse to heart and genuinely understood it and lived it out could never be abusive to anybody based on skin color or race or Culture or origin or whatever you couldn't be if you took this to heart Look at the next verse James 3 18 now the fruit of righteousness is Sown in peace by those who make peace You're not going to now notice It says so the fruit of righteousness How does that work? How do we get righteousness? How do you lay hold of righteousness by what? Righteousness by what say it? Faith right righteousness comes to us by faith righteousness of Christ. We lay hold of it by faith so You trust God now.

How does this work in real terms tomorrow Saturday holiday weekend? I'm gonna lay hold of some righteousness by faith. How am I going to do that? well, I don't know yet, but something will come up and I will trust God I Will lay hold of a promise I will be peaceable I will be gentle I will do something faithfully I will do something as under the Lord and not under men. I might need to paint something I might need to mow something I might need to fix something and I can do it two ways I can do it because it gratifies me and fill fulfills my plan And I think you know stick in my thumb and pull out a plumb my what a good boy Am I or I can say as a steward of the things God has given to me? It's important for me to do what I can to maintain them.

This is a part of my stewardship What do I have that I have not received these things are God's I'm a custodian What I can do is try to take good care of them make sure that they that they last that I'm not sloppy that I'm not Spend thrift that I'm not foolish with what God has given me that I I husband it and care for it and treat it as I am a servant of God and it belongs to him whether it's people or things or whatever it may be time I'm going to be a good steward, and I do what I do as under the Lord So let's say I pull that off. That'll be a tall order, but I do it. What have I done? I have laid hold of righteousness by faith That's not what this verse is talking about James 3 18

says the fruit of righteousness is sown So I've got the righteousness and now I am going to sow it How do I sow that fruit of righteousness What does it mean to sow a thing? It means you plant one grain with the expectation that it's going to sprout 30 fold 60 fold or a hundredfold, right? It's going to multiply so how can my righteousness produce or initiate or spawn or encourage more righteousness It's sown if you are doing something by faith, and you lay hold of God's righteousness It's like a seed in that situation.

It's a seed in that relationship. It's a seed in that household It's a seed in that business. It's a seed in the classroom It's a seed wherever you are you have brought righteousness out of heaven by faith You've got it, and you have brought God's supernatural all-powerful righteousness into a secular life Human mundane situation, what's it going to do? one of two things will happen either evil is going to overcome good and it's going to come down and get contaminated and sullied and extinguished or it is going to do like when Jesus touched the dead or Jesus touched the leper and it is going to heal and it is going to energize and it is going to vitalize and it is going to sanctify what it touches Well when we lay hold of righteousness by faith, and we have that righteousness And it is sown we can sow God's righteousness so that it sprouts and produces more righteousness How is it done the verse tells you what does James 3 18 say? Righteousness is sown in peace You can't sow your righteousness in an argument.

You can't sow your righteousness in a conflict You can't sow your righteousness in a schism. You can't sow righteousness when you are battling somebody when you're beating somebody down when you're trying to dominate and conquer and overcome you can't sow righteousness into that situation Righteousness is sown meaning. It's going to get buried into that and sprout more and more righteousness in peace got to find a way to do it without rancor without conflict without bile without vituperation and vengeance It's got to be done in peace righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace People have to do it.

We have to be peacemakers Jesus had something to say about that you remember back in Matthew 5 and 6 Should say Matthew 5 blessed are the peacemakers for they shall what obtain mercy I Can't think of anything more valuable than the mercy of God blessed are the peacemakers Righteousness is sown You sow a thing Up its springs it becomes greater than itself larger than itself multiplies itself when it is sown Peace unity of mind I plead with you. I beseech you you odia and syntyche Be of one mind Epaphroditus help these gals they were yoke fellows With me and with Clement and with the others who are working for the gospel don't let them lose What they started don't let them lose the the fruit of righteousness that they've already obtained help them in this process believers help believers first Peter 2 13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake whether to the king as supreme or to whatever other authorities part of our problem sometimes is we chafe under authority and some of this conflict and some of this irritation and some of this scuffling and stuff is that We don't take well To authority Submit whether to the king is supreme to governors To those who are sent for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good This is the will of God that by

doing good. You may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men You're free, but you don't use your liberty as a cloak for vice But as bond servants of God honor everyone T may saute Pantas T may saute T may root of Timothy's name T. May is honor T may saute you honor Everyone get find a way to honor everyone.

This is another way of saying you can't find something good to say don't say anything You've ever known people that can almost always find something good to say about somebody I've known people like that They were God put him in my periphery and it's a great example And I've learned from is one thing to say honor all it's something else to see somebody that can seems to always be able to find something good in the most useless hopeless examples of Failure that you could think of and somebody says well, but you know what they sure do have a nice smile You say well, you know I do have to give them that they've got a great smile Well honor all find a way You know find something good look for the good look for what is true look for what is honest look for what is lovely look For what is a good report don't have a good report Shut up Honor all Love the brotherhood. This is first Peter to 17 love your Adelphi Love your brethren love them. What does it mean to love love is a policy? It's not a feeling Fear God honor the king Timati tan, Basilea How do you honor the king you don't have to? Talk him up, but you do have to Submit Now to be careful what you say about the leadership of our nation You can disagree with policies Got to be careful about attributing thinking Attributing motives one of the things that used to grind me to no end for the eight years The president Bush was in office is that people impugned his? motives and his character We had a local pastor here who spoke out against some of the excesses of militant Islam and he has been vilified in the press and People saying you know he's he's a repressed gay guy.

He's a hypocrite He's probably doing this probably doing that probably doing the other ascribing all sorts of wildly Improbable and inaccurate and unkind and hateful things without a shred of truth without a shred of faith foundation whether a shred of Basis well, that's wrong, and I don't care how much of a communist socialist Nazi some leader may be Bible says honor the king you can disagree you can speak an opinion you can say I think that policy is misguided I think that's going to lead to the destruction of the nation say whatever you want, but be careful what you say about the king Who is the king when Peter's writing? Who's the king? Nero Honor the king be careful We were taught this as midshipmen Take heed what you say of your seniors be your words spoken softly or plain Lest a bird of the air tell the matter and so shall you hear it again keep Remember what David says in Psalms Lord set a watch over my mouth keep the door of my lips Guess what if you say nothing bad about somebody who actually may be horrible you're not in trouble But if you say the wrong thing now, you're in trouble What have you accomplished by speaking out? You're not going to change Washington. You're not going to change Congress You're not going to change any of the leadership of the Senate or the House of Representatives of the judiciary or the executive branch but We need to be careful Honor all love the brethren fear God and honor the king. No king has authority Nobody is in a position of power except by God's permission And if God's allowed him to be there be careful Moses Could have said a lot of bad

things about the Pharaoh, but he didn't even the angels Remember disputing over the body of Moses did not bring a railing accusation, but said the Lord rebuke you I Commit you to God for judgment, basically He goes on in verse 18 servants be submissive to your masters with all fear Not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to the harsh Be submissive to your masters with all fear.

You're even your harsh masters. You're still supposed to be submissive You can't say you're harsh. I'm not going to submit to you.

You're not you're not being kind to me I'm only going to submit if you if you do your job as a master, right if you mess up as a master I'm not going to submit doesn't say that Says, you know count yourself blessed if you've got a good and gentle master, but if he's harsh you still are commanded to be submissive This is commendable verse 19 first Peter 2 if because of conscience toward God one endures grief suffering wrongfully Doesn't say you rise up in rebellion and cast off the shackles and assassinate the master It says it's commendable if because of your conscience toward God I am doing this because I know this pleases my heavenly Father Endure grief suffering wrongfully what credit is it if when you are beaten for your faults you take it patiently But when you do good and suffer if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God, you know If you're getting beaten and you deserve it, well, you deserve it. You were supposed to be obedient to your master He's a harsh master. You were disobedient and he beats you who's going to come to your defense You were supposed to be obedient.

You weren't now you're getting beat. Well What's commendable about that? But if you've done what's right and you are wrongly punished now and you continue to be submissive now You're commendable. This doesn't justify women suffering in a marriage where they're being knocked around This is talking about within the limits of normal life This is when your boss Treats you harshly at work Doesn't promote you doesn't recognize your work rips you off takes your work as his own and you continue to do a good job Because you're doing your job as under the Lord and not into men and you're not doing it for the praise or for the promotion You figure if God wants me promoted He will promote me and I will be promoted indeed And if I'm not promoted then God's not ready for me to be promoted and this is just the unkind evil mechanism that he happened to employ to keep me where I need to be for right now as under the Lord if you do it for conscience sake before God you're commended and God's commendation is much better than any promotion and it's worth enduring some harshness To this you were called Remember that hope of your calling one hope of your calling to this you were called Peter says Because Christ also suffered for us and he didn't deserve any of it Leaving us an example You should follow in his steps He committed no sin.

No deceit was found in his mouth when he was reviled did not revile in return That's the mind of Christ. Let this mind be in you. He was reviled.

He did not compound the evil soft answer turns away wrath When he suffered he did not threaten

You think anybody, you know, I was quoting Yogi Berra sometime in the last day or so, you know It ain't bragging if you can do it Could Jesus have made threats to people who were trying to arrest him and try him and crucify him and judge him wrongfully could he have said, you know, you'd really better be careful because I Happen to be the Son of God. I've got legions of angels at my command. I could incinerate you I could think a thought and your molecules would fly apart.

You wouldn't be here if it wasn't for me Jesus didn't say any of that you talk about somebody that had a you know a snappy comeback for the accusations Jesus had an answer for everything a perfect answer and he didn't say anything When he suffered he did not threaten he committed himself to him who judges righteously, that's God the Father He himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree that we having died to sins might live for Righteousness live to grab that righteousness by faith plant our righteousness in situations and relationships and Circumstances so that it springs up and bears fruit That's why we're here. That's our calling By whose stripes you were healed So that's what Peter says About being of the same mind in the next chapter 1st Peter 3 8 through 11 Peter says the same thing Paul says listen to how how similar the message is you would think it was inspired by the very same Holy Spirit Peter says 1st Peter 3 8 through 11 Finally all of you be of one mind having compassion for one another love as brothers He's talking to believers love as brethren love as Adolfo Be tender-hearted be courteous not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling But on the contrary blessing Knowing that you were called to this in order that you may inherit a blessing Is that not exactly what Paul has been saying in Philippians you would think that Peter and Paul were taught by the very same Lord Gifted and inspired by the very same Spirit All of you be of one mind having compassion for one another love as brothers be tender-hearted be courteous not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling but on the contrary blessing knowing that you were called to this that you may inherit a blessing for He who would love life and see good days let him refrain his tongue from evil This is the thing that gets us if you can bridle your tongue you got it made Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit speaking evil Let him turn away from evil and do good. Let him listen to this seek peace and Pursue it seek it.

You got to find where the peace is. How can I get peace out of this situation now? I see where it is. Now.

I've got to push for it. I've got to pursue it I've got to go after it and grab hold of it. It's two different steps seek it When you find it chase it Pursue it overtake it tackle it get a hold of it Blessed are the peacemakers pursue peace with all with everyone Seek peace and pursue it.

It just doesn't get any clearer than this. That's what Paul is talking about in this passage and He gives us this example of these two ladies he goes on to say in the next verse Rejoice in the Lord always again. I will say rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to all Men and the word men is actually there Let your gentleness and this is a really Interesting word it is epi a case Epi e ik es. This is one of the few Greek words.

I'll give you tonight, but it's very important because It's just nearly untranslatable epi a case and it's you can see the Compound nature of it it starts with epi which normally means upon and A case is Something that is useful Something that is appropriate Something that meets the need fills the gap.

It's it's not that much different than than Sentaiki's name something that Plugs in and goes where it's supposed to go and does what it's supposed to do And so it means what is fitting it means? Something that that is is practical But it's it's really a difficult word to pin down and one of the best ways we have of figuring out what it means Because this is a command if I just told you right now let your epi a case be known to all men all Anthropoid everybody in your periphery. They need to know about your epi a case What are you going to do? What what characteristic are you going to manifest? Let your Gentle gentleness doesn't catch it Let your the King James says moderation And I've often thought of this. I'm the moderator of a of a chat board on the internet And I've often thought well, I'll just quote this verse let your moderation be known to all hey I just moderated this guy.

I took his post out because it was Full of bile and nasty and had bad words in it, and I moderated it I've let my moderation be known to all that doesn't really really cover it. What is epi a case? well, this is a Word that it actually comes up fairly frequently in the New Testament and We can see what it is by the context for example. It's found in first Timothy 3 3 and you remember we're getting into the qualifications of an elder and It says that the guy should not be not given to wine not violent not greedy for money, but epi a case So to be epi a case among other things you're not given to and when it says given to wine this means excess You know if you say boy that guy's really given to anger that means he's characterized by anger.

He's you If you say well, he's really given to playing video games well It means just every time you see him. That's what they're doing so why they're really given to What we saw a lady driving up to Central today had the flamingest reddest Artificialist red hair I've ever seen in my life the bows of the clown wig was not as was not as bright as this hair patty saw it patty saw it I Think this was some kind of plug-in hair that ran ran on batteries I would say that woman is given to being noticed then she there's no place that lady can go and not be noticed that hair is just a scream in The visual realm it's it's just it's like fingernails on a chalkboard screaming red not just your orange red this was like a Red red like a clown nose red just Startling shocking repugnant red. I don't know where she got that.

I don't think they even bottled that for hair I don't know what that stuff was but it was You would say you know that's nobody is gonna think of that woman without thinking of her hair And it wasn't just a streak I think maybe it was something who's designed just to be a streak well She just washed it in a hole ahead, and it was was hanging out I mean she was a lane over and two cars up, and I was startled by her hair Well that you would be given to something and you not given to these things not care people don't think of this when they think of you Not given to wine not violent not greedy for money But at be a case not quarrelsome not covetous It's right in the

middle if you are at be a case all of these things are off the table You can't be these things and be moderate peaceable Flexible, and I'm going to offer you just up front. I think one of the best translations for FBA case is flexible be flexible Let your flexibility be known to all you know. He's the easiest guy to get along with He wouldn't say mush if he had a mouthful.

You know he's just just peaceable non-rancorous non-violent Non-drunk non-greedy Non-quarrelsome non-covetous you look at that first timothy three three That's the goal. That's the goal that a lot of us You know would love to achieve and need to achieve and need to work harder at achieving is being epi a case just balanced easy going flexible Flexible and easygoing that's what epi a case is you just you know that it just fits in any situation Keeps their head when all others are losing theirs just couldn't Couldn't get them to fly off the handle. They don't even have a handle to fly off of Titus 3 2 To speak evil of no one to be peaceable epi a case showing all humility to all men How many different ways the scripture need to tell us this how many times is scripture stress? doctrinal purity Compared to how many times it stresses speak evil of no one be peaceable be gentle show all humility to all men putting others ahead of yourself one mind Lowliness and humility I mean over and over and over and over It's just it's almost redundant, but we need to be told this many times because we have such a hard time achieving it That's epi a case Titus 3 2 We have it here in our passage It's in first Peter 2 18 The one we just read servants be submissive to your masters with all fear not only to the good and the epi a case masters But also to the harsh So epi a case is the opposite of harsh.

It's non harsh, it's mellow James 3 17 our final passage the wisdom that is from above is first pure then peaceable epi a case willing to yield full of mercy We just went through that passage epi a case is in that context. You see how closely James and Peter and Paul are Of completely like mind on this subject as we should be so If you're going to rejoice in the Lord always and again Paul says rejoice let your flexibility your equanimity your Unruffled calm your peaceableness your gentleness Be known to all this is what you're known for This is your reputation Why? The Lord is at hand Hercules and goose Hercules the Lord and goose near Angus is a very interesting word because it can mean spatially near near in terms of proximity. It can mean near in time When Jesus said when you when you look and see this that happening, you know that summer is near When you look and see this not happening, you know that such-and-such is near, you know, the time is near even at the door Well when it's talking about time it will usually give you a time and say that time is near summer is near The end time is near and goose, but we don't have any reference to time here.

It says the Lord is near So does it mean that the Lord is close at hand in terms of where two or three are gathered? There am I in the midst near or does it mean his return is near in the sense that his his actual? Presence in the future kingdom and age Since does it mean near now or near? Eschatologically, yes, the Lord is near How easy would it be to to give a soft answer how easy would it be to be at a case at BA case When we are conscious of the fact that the Lord is right here, do you really want to get in somebody's face? Do you really want to be rancorous and

bitter? Do you really want to you know argue and cause schisms and and seek your own? And not be humble be given to anger be given to wine be given to Greed be given to self-interest when the Lord is standing right there How would we act if the if you know instead of what would Jesus do? WWJD, how about what if Jesus was standing right here? There that's the bracelet. I need to wear What if Jesus was standing right here? Well Paul says the Lord is near the Lord is in goose The Lord is right here So live like it If you love God's Word and you have it in your heart and you want to live in its light Jesus said I'm coming to make my home with you. I'm near I'm standing at the door knocking so I can come in and we're gonna have a fellowship meal Well, if you are anywhere near that and the Lord is near how ought you to act? Do you really want to him, you know as it were embarrass the Lord? Go counter to his thinking at all when he's right there It's amazing how people talk one way about you when you're in the room.

I'm talking about, you know Secular people and they talk completely differently about somebody when they're out of the room Makes a difference when somebody is near Children act one way when their dad's in the room that completely different perhaps when the dad's out of the room Presence makes a difference people who are vilifying and very bitter to the sitting president Whoever you may be they can be total enemies and hateful and spiteful and say all kinds of bad things but when they meet him How do you do? Mr. President, you know different Different when the presence is there and Paul says don't forget about the presence of the Lord Jesus Yes, he's coming But this is I think is not so much a reference to the future coming of the Lord is look Don't forget that the Lord is here Isn't that who we're supposed to be living to please and in his sight and and so forth It's gonna be standing at his judgment seat How curious and goose well this brings us to verse Six which is going to give us a chance to talk about anxiety Care and that's a subject for its own. So we'll we'll pick up at that point next time. Let's close here in a word of prayer Father thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for its consistent witness it's consistent message the clarity and the Precision with which you have laid out the the calling and the purpose for which you saved us we pray that God the Holy Spirit will keep us ever mindful of these truths and Enable us to recognize the opportunities that we have to put these things into practice to make application to lay hold of righteousness by faith and then to plant that righteousness in our lives and in our Circumstances so that it can bear and multiply fruit. We know that all of these things will reflect your glory and fulfill your plan and Will ultimately read down to the praise of the Lord Jesus Christ who? Made it possible for us to enter into all of these things We thank you for him and for our standing in him and we pray these things in his name. Amen