

Practical Living Part 2

My Notes 12-5-2023 Handfuls On Purpose Tuesday Morning

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[Ephesians 4:20-32](#)

Here we are uh back in Ephesians chapter 4 going to look at the whole text again and kind of focus in on the 21st verse but ye have not so learned Christ if so be that you have heard of him and have taught been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus that you put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which after God in is created in righteousness and true Holiness wherefore putting away lying speak every man truth with his neighbor for we are members one of another be ye angry and sin not let not the sun go down upon your wrath neither give place to the devil let him that stole steal no more but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may Grace unto the hearers grieve not the holy spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice and be ye kind one to another tenderhearted forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Lord these are pithy Commandments that you give to Believers we pray that all of us are here to be ready to listen and hear and learn and that we would be sanctified by your truth so you help us Lord and lead us our teaching this morning Lord in this group there are many different needs and problems and situations that need your address and we pray that you would come to us Lord and uh give us according to your will Lord those good and perfect gifts that you so promised we thank you for our savior who gives us the ultimate hope that beyond the problems of this world you have promised a place where none of these things can molest our thoughts and we're looking forward to the day of revelation so in the meantime let us be found useful in your kingdom and may these passages that are before us set us in the paths of sanctification in Jesus name amen.

Okay so we're back here to this particular verse 22nd verse and it says that you put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts so it's almost like well changing clothes right to take off the old put on the new and always a delightful thing you know when you take off those dirty old pants or whatever you might have you know and I had done a little bit of work yesterday and had some mortar all over my pants and in my boots and I was glad to take those old things off fact my wife doesn't let me come in the house you know unless I have I have to be clean imagine that so I got to put off all the old and you put on the new then right go take a shower and clean up and really as a believer it's the same thing we're we're taking off the ailments of the world remember it was [Jude 23](#) that said hating even the garments that's spotted by the flesh right so the notion of putting off the garment the old garment and putting on the new one remember in [Isaiah 64:6](#) we're told that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags so we have to remove that that old covering that we had it wasn't going to do us any good standing before God so we had to be clothed in his righteousness and so we put off the old put on the new so it refers here to the old man former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust you know you don't go too far in the Bible where we're all reminded of our temper of our corruption of our current state so the Bible always keeps us humble doesn't it so we must never lose sight of the fact that this is we can't stand before God as we are it is what we shall be so we're renewed in the spirit of our minds so it's a new mind a new mind that the Lord gives to us it's a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost that [Titus 3:5](#) speaks about this cleansing of the heart and the mind this this is the uh this is the result of a new birth uh without which no man shall see the kingdom of God as Jesus said in [John 3:5-6](#) so be renewed revived in fact there's it's a regeneration as a matter of fact renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness now sanctification has been well it's gotten some bad press I think by the modern laodicean church today the lean church is all about antinomianism we're not given to the law in any fashion and the law is no good the laws you know has nothing to do with the believer and this is of course a distortion of the truth the law is Holy just and good as [Romans 7:12](#) says the problem is that the law can't save you so the all the law can do is condemn so so this new man created in righteousness is the new nature that's imparted to us that now that law that would have condemned us is now written in our hearts fleshly table of the hearts it says in [2 Corinthians 3:2-3](#) so that the new nature is implanted imputed uh so this now becomes the new directive in the believer's life you're not your own you're bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit with your Gods so despite the the modernistic teaching that doesn't matter how you live your life and it's okay to be worldly and all the rest really the Bible doesn't give any credence to such a notion believers now are expected to put on the new man and this is again something that we must do you'll notice here that this isn't something that's forced upon us it's something that we must choose to do put on

the new man so that's an imperative that's up to us to do put off the new put on the new or put off the old and put on the new which after God is created in righteousness and true Holiness I think we made the point last week that it's true Holiness so why does he modify Holiness with true because there's such a thing as phony Holiness and going through the motions and that sort of thing God's looking for the heart that is true and sincere so let us be found in sincerity and in truth here's a passage in [Psalm 40:2](#) that we refer to often and it speaks of that being brought up out of an horrible pit as I said you can't go too far in the Bible where we're not reminded of what we were and our the jeopardy of our condition we were in a horrible pit and we had to be brought up out of the pit to preach Sunday night in [Matthew 14:28-31](#) Peter going down in the waters you know he couldn't save himself so he had to be rescued he had to be brought up out and so the Lord was there with a mighty hand and lifting him up out of the waters so he brought me up also out of an horrible pit out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings what a grand contrast we have the horrible pit the miry clay that we were stuck in and then the deliverance of the Lord to pull us out of that situation quick sand you know we couldn't save ourselves all we could do is sink and sink faster into degradation so the Lord pulls us out and then he sets us up upon a rock and establishes our goings which would indicate that before we were saved we really didn't have any purpose to life we we had no certitude about our direction now our direction is established our goings are settled of the Lord are going out and our coming in from this day forth even forever more the last verse of [Psalm 121:8](#) so uh many shall see it in fear and shall trust in the Lord well that's our witness and the world ought to be able to see uh the great difference in our lives and it's so reflective that people people would stand and take note and say what's happened to this person their conversation is different their deportment is utterly changed their focus of life is no longer self-centered but Christ centered people take note of this and see it in our lives especially those that were close to us that knew us one what we once were and what we are now in [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) this verse that I think we've all memorized therefore If any man be in Christ he is a new creature old things are passed away behold all things become new all of these verses that we're giving you here are an iteration of the new life in Christ this is who we are this is what we were this is what we are now Jesus said except a man be born of water and of spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God that which is born of the flesh is flesh now what a statement that is so what does that mean flesh is flesh well flesh is temporal flesh is corruptible so it's said simply in a statement like that if you're born of the flesh it's flesh that's all it is but that which is born of the spirit is spirit and what is the prevailing nature of spirit but eternity so there we have it in a single verse the the contrast between the flesh and the spirit as it were the Inward and the outward man we have these concepts so often found in the scripture so earlier in [Ephesians 3:16-17](#) and I think we did chapter 3 at one point there that he would Grant you according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by by his spirit in the inner man that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith that you may be rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all saints but is the depth and the breadth and so forth so the

inner man verses the outer man so we have the notion of the difference that is caused when we were born again again in [2 Corinthians 4:16](#) For which cause we faint not though the outward man perish inward man is renewed day by day again it's the inward man that is everything that's the spirit nature that's the eternal nature of man now this is not just a New Testament concept it was well known in the Old Testament as well and we have the difference there in [Ezekiel 36:26](#) where he speaks of the new heart so he says A new heart will I give you and take a new spirit I will put within you I'll take away the stony heart out of the flesh I will give you an heart of flesh so something different happens a believer begins to understand that difference and experience that difference in Christ. [Ezekiel 18:31](#) has further things to say Cast away from you all your transgressions whereby you have transgressed make you a new heart and a new spirit when Jesus rebukes Nicodemus [John 3:10](#) Art thou a master in Israel you know not these things so uh Nicodemus didn't know what Jesus was speaking about when Jesus alluded to the new birth unless a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven [John 3:3](#) so Nicodemus ponders the statement says well what what must I enter the second time into my mother's womb and be born and he's chided by Jesus are you a master in Israel you understand not these things so apparently it was something they should have understood already and here's why because the prophets had alluded to this new birth Ezekiel speaks of it here as we see twice so cast away the transgressions and make make a new heart make a new spirit so it should have been understood and a man who was considered a teacher in Israel a master Nicodemus should certainly have known these elemental truths and yet we can see what happens you can have all the study in the world and all the scholastic credentials and still be quite lost that was the poor estate of Nicodemus but uh his meeting with Jesus that night would be transformative and ultimately he would come to saving knowledge so now what proceeds after uh in this particular handful of purpose in the in the fourth chapter is what we call hortatory text so you know the word exhortation so exhortation so hortatory means means uh that you are urged on to a higher level and exportation is the idea of giving forth instruction that would increase a person's uh knowledge and ultimate powers of s sanctification do this and grow is basically what hortatory text is so we have um we have these wonderful bite-sized imperatives you know you can take them each verse is very instructional so it begins with well here's the list we might go down a to-do list if you like to-do list this is the this is the place to come remember I use this concept in [1 Thessalonians 5](#) which is one of the handfuls of promise that I think I began with in our little lectures to do the to do this so as we follow through the text we'll see well it says don't lie don't be angry don't give the devil any place in your life don't steal certainly labor with your hands which is a positive don't use bad language grieve not the holy spirit so if you wanted to break it down into little portions this is what this hortatory text is about each line is giving us some instructions as to what to do if we hope to achieve a higher level as a believer so let's go over each one of these here it's very instructional as I said so in [Ephesians 4:25](#) we have wherefore putting away lying speak every man truth with his neighbor we could go all the way back to the Old Testament and find there in the decalogue or

the Ten Commandments [Exodus 20:16](#) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor so very valuable and importantly we have the notion of being truth tellers Jesus [John 14:6](#) said I am the way the truth and the life so his followers ought to be given to truth now we're living in such a day today such prevarication we don't know who's telling the truth anymore it's very difficult to tell and to discern these things some folks are convinced that they know and they understand a thing and so on they heard it on the news well the news source has a bias and you don't know when you're listening to the news what their bias might be and is there some angle to it are they telling the truth that sort of thing very discouraging and as a result people are not given over to certitude anymore where everybody's concerned about whether or not they're being lied to even today in the courts of law well the same courts that outlaw the reading of the Bible in the classroom and yet when you go into a courtroom you have to swear to God to tell the whole truth so you know we have a schizophrenic generation obviously but the great arbiter of truth our Lord and our savior who is the truth uh expects for believers to follow the truth and so many words it say so not lie or putting away lying speak every man truth with his neighbor so we all want to attain to that so in the Book of [Proverbs 6:17-19](#) we have those seven things that God hates remember and one of them is bearing false witness right the lying tongue so six things do the Lord hate a seven are an Abomination to him a proud look a lying tongue and hands that shed innocent blood and heart that deviseth wicked imaginations feet that are swift to in running to mischief a false witness that speaketh lies and he that soweth discord among brethren these things are to be assiduously avoided by believers we don't want to be caught in any of this this God hates so you see there in a rather prominent place here you might say second in the list is a lying tongue so there's so much instruction about this in [Psalm 40:4](#) it says Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust and respect threads newscasters like Brian Williams you know he was caught in a scandal about 10 to 12 years ago for telling his lies you know and inflating his stories about being shot at as he was going down to get get a story and well they fact checked him and found out that the pilot there said Brian Williams wasn't even ever on his plane so and they put him out of his a job there he wasn't the famous Anchorman for one of the news NBC but of course he's back I think he's back lying on some other station now we can't we can't get news that's not news we've got prevaricators in charge of distributing the news imagine that dangerous proposition and even more dangerous we might say is bearing false witness in court of law perjuring ourselves well we had the infamous President Bill Clinton that perjured himself before a grand jury people forget this but and I guess most people don't even understand the severity of doing such a thing you try it they' put you away for at least 20 years in a in a federal penitentiary but nothing really happened to President Clinton he was absolved of any criminal actions as far as any kind of sentencing he was impeached by the Congress but the Senate upheld it and kept him in his seat it was all politics of course you might say nonetheless he could not uh he should not have held the office but people defended him and so that's the end of that lying of course then becomes in a sense acceptable when the when the man that holds the highest office of the

land is able to lie before a grand jury and still get away with it then what's the common man think other than it must be okay to do but bearing false witness in the court of law thou shalt not raise a false report put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness and so when one swears to tell the truth and the whole truth so help me God they need best keep the vow we remember in the Old Testament this lying virago Piper's wife who latches hold of Joseph and tries to lure him into her bed of seduction and Joseph flees from her presence but unfortunately leaves his coat behind and she uses that as a witness that and then Bears false witness against him he came unto me to lie with me and I cried with a loud voice and put him away in jail for three years because of his false witness by the way this happens every day in our courts and false witnesses is given and then there are people that are incarcerated for no good reason they did the same to our Lord didn't they Joseph was a mere type of Jesus we see in [Matthew 26:1-5](#) that the chief priests and elders and all the council sought false witness against Jesus to put him to death uh and we we read that they came in one after the other but they they could not corroborate their Witness one said this thing or that and uh they as a result the witnesses uh not being able to corroborate a witness against him he should have been let out um and the and the case should have been dismissed but instead uh the high priest prevailed Upon Jesus and uh insisted that he give him a a witness against himself which is was against Jewish law as well as it is ours today you don't testify against yourself obviously but Jesus answered him I am and that uh uh that was enough for them to condemn him to death let's move on know anybody like this well I hope there's nobody in the Bible study like this that we don't everybody here ought to have a calm disposition uh we shouldn't be given to emotion and certainly shouldn't be given over anger well some folks say well I was just born that way and maybe that's the truth but if you're born again it seems to me we have now the Holy Spirit controlling us and uh we shouldn't be given over to fits of rage and this passage reminds us in [Ephesians 4:26](#) be ye angry and sin not and let not the sun go down upon your wrath perhaps we need some explanation here the language is a bit confused so when it says be ye angry it almost sounds like all right well go ahead be angry but it says be angry and sin not and certainly occasions where anger is appropriate [Psalm 7:11](#) God is angry with Sinners every day the psalmist writes so our anger has to be justifiable there has to be good reason for it and and if it's exhibited it should not be it should not cause us to sin in some fashion folks get angry and do terrible things and then they rue the fact that they lost their temper and the and then they pay terrible results well years back I remember a fell telling me well I had counseled he and his wife they had issues constantly arguing and basically basically she would uh Institute some problems and uh he would respond to them well he responded one day by pulling a knife out of the drawer and stabbing her 23 times in the chest and they put him in jail of course and because I had access to that to the jail uh in that particular unit which was a psych unit I was able to see him and uh he told me he just lost it was rather Cavalier way of saying it too and I thought well you just lost what do you what do you mean how could uh well it just lost it lost his temper and 23 times um you know stabbing your wife

repeatedly it's quite incredible still in jail he'll be in jail the rest of his life and the sad repercussions of anger and giving over to anger the believers especially those who have had problems in times past with controlling their anger need to really get this one under wraps because otherwise the consequences are severe so in this case be angry and sin not so if you have righteous indignation if you have a reason to be angry fine it can be exhibited is certainly a part of the human emotion but don't let it lead you to sin that's the notion here and even here it instructs us let not the sun then go down upon your wrath meaning that we don't let it sit and brew you know and incubate in our heart and mind and this is what people do often times there's such a thing as first degree murder and first-degree murder is premeditated murder the idea here I had a fellow back at the well this is way back into the 80's he was an older fellow he was in my Bible study at the jail and he he came up and I wondered why he was there he didn't look like he belonged he probably in his 60's and kind of a mild mannered fellow I usually don't ask anybody what their crimes are I'm here to get them saved but uh he finally told me his story in here he had worked for so many years at a dairy farm in Monroeville and he uh he had a young fellow that just kept needling him every day and needling him and making fun of him and mocking him because he didn't he couldn't remember things and didn't get things right and you know he had worked so many years and after a while I don't know what some of you realize but as we get older our memories start to fade at any rate uh it it so bothered him that he finally told the Young kid he said you know you better stop needling me here because I'm going to I'm going to get my gun and shoot you and others heard him say that well he never acted on it but he he kept telling him that kept threatening him with it and finally one day he came in with his gun and he shot him point blank killed him and that's why he was in jail so you know he didn't let the sun go down upon his wrath there's a sense in which he had a right to be angry that a young punk was basically mocking him because he was a senior but look what it brought him so he ended up spending the rest of his life in jail and the reason being that he had premeditated and the judge said look you had made the threat several times which means you had time to think about it and to meditate on it and to decide the better of it but instead you decided to act on your threats and so that's considered premeditation or first-degree murder which is a life sentence now isn't that foolish but this is what anger can do and it can uh it's devoid of all calm and sense you know last week we spoke of [Ruth 1:19-21](#) and we think of the bitterness that was in Naomi's heart she said is this Naomi and she said unto them call me not Naomi call me Mara for the almighty had dealt very bitterly with me I went out full and the Lord had brought me home empty so you see she ruminated on her troubles and she didn't want to be called Naomi which means sweetness she wanted to be called Mara you know the waters of Mara you'll remember were very bitter and so bitterness comes in and settles in to the heart and is very difficult to free people from this bondage of bitterness let's not let it not be named amongst the saints of God I often think what if God were bitter what if God you know kept an anger against us we'd have no forgiveness so the Lord is very merciful and very forgiving and we ought to be likewise in [Colossians 3:21](#) it speaks of children fathers provoke not your children

to anger lest they be discouraged now you see that face on that little fellow there I've seen that face many times dealing with various circumstances little kids become juvenile delinquents there's a lot of anger in some of our young people a lot of it has to do with divorce and they become very angry because the homes are split up and we might even think they're justified in their anger but this is doing them no good at all and like I said I've seen that face so many many times you know was just oh I guess a couple months ago we were I brought up a circumstance of a young fellow and he was he was I think 12 or 13 maybe at the time and his brother died in a car wreck and I was doing the funeral and at the funeral the father came to the younger son that was alive and said to him listen I want you to know that you're not my son and I'm leaving your mother so you could see this face just like this on on that young fellow his countenance changed when he heard his father who well he assumed to be his father tell him this and so the loss of his his brother and now the loss of who he thought was his father came in the same day and his the course of action he took after that was all about bitterness and rebellion and trouble and juvenile delinquency cast out of school in special schools in Schuman Center then other places and graduated to the County Jail psych units you name it he's been there yeah he's now almost 50 years old just heard from him a week ago in fact had been in contact with him for the last 6 months eight months or so he had entered teen challenge I had some of the ladies of my church getting some clothes and you know they bought him a jacket and clothes and boots and you know he had all this he needed he didn't have anything was completely cast out and he needed all these articles and he was so thankful to receive all those things at any rate I just saw him two weeks ago or so went took him to dinner and sat down with him again he said you know you're the only father I have I thought how sad yeah terrible events have brought him to this circumstance sin and bitterness anger in the heart you let it brood long enough and this is what it becomes then I think you know how many husbands and wives are bitter towards each other leads to spousal bitterness for ultimately lead to divorce oh the devil he's the great divider isn't he what he creates what he causes in homes he loves to split people up so the Bible says in [Colossians 3:19](#) husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them now that's sage advice isn't it I would think so so I wonder to myself you know anger and bitterness who gives us the right to be this I mean really who do we think we are asserting ourselves in such a fashion those that are angry and bitter are basically saying to themselves I deserve better than this now what believer could think that believers know the truth believers know that if we were not for the mercy of God we'd all be cast down into hell fire so what it comes down to is I have no right to be angry and bitter to towards anybody so who do you think you are [Romans 9:19-20](#) says Thou wilt say then unto me why do ye yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? nay but oh man who art thou that repliest against God shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus. So what right have we to demand justice or you know to compel playing in some kind of bitter fashion when God has been so very merciful to us Jesus gave that parable in [Matthew 18:26-30](#) about a man that owed a great sum and uh the uh the debt that was owed he couldn't pay and so the man was to be thrown into

debtor's prison but the man that could have done this shows him mercy forgives him for the debt and it's a great sum well then the man goes out and he takes hold of another man that owed him money and instead it's a and it's a trifling sum he casts him into prison debtor's prison says you know until the last farthing is paid now here we are forgiven of a great debt our sin record and we have those that sin against us and so in the Lord's prayer that great model we're instructed to forgive as we have been forgiven well that's comes later here in the text as well in [Ephesians 4:32](#) that we're to forgive as Christ forgave who do we think we are after all to harbor bitterness and anger if God were to do the same there'd be no hope for us well again be ye angry and sin not in [Ecclesiastes 7:8-9](#) Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. It's a good thought so we don't want to be called fools that's for sure but let's not be fooled you know the devil puts that kind of bitterness and anger in our hearts and we're best not to permit it then in [Ephesians 4:31](#) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice and be ye kind one to another forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you we'll have more to say on this one but that's a truism [James 1:19-20](#) tells us Wherefore my beloved brethren let every man be swift to hear slow to speak slow to wrath for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. [Proverbs 15:1](#) A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger. So let's keep all of this in mind of course Jesus had a word on this in The Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5:22-24](#) Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment and whosoever shall say to his brother Raca shall be in danger of hellfire. Pretty serious consequences here for harboring hate in the heart therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee leave there thy gift before the altar go thy way first be reconciled to thy brother then come and offer thy gift so so the Lord's telling you here let not the sun go down upon your wrath you've got a problem with someone go remedy the situation blessed are the peacemakers after all theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

So let's see how the Bible which is certainly always a lesson in contrasts the dichotomy between the **violet man** and the and the gentle man so the violent man the Earth was filled with violence in the days just before the flood [Genesis 6:11](#) you think it's violent today with all the shootings and this that goes on uh considered the anti- antediluvian world it was uh it was far surpassed anything that we have known to this to this point in contrast the **gentleman** is filled with [Galatians 5:22](#) the fruit of the spirit and we see here one of the fruits of the spirit what's love joy peace longsuffering a gentleness goodness Faith meekness and Temperance so gentleness then we have the **violent man** raging [Psalm 2:1](#) poses the rhetorical question why do the heathen rage but again back to the fruits of the spirit the fruit of the spirit is is peace just the opposite of rage the **violent man** is known for his malice [Colossians 3:8](#) so you put off anger wrath and malice the

[gentleman](#) is known for his love [1 John 4:7](#) Beloved let us love one another the [violent man](#) known for hatred [Titus 3:3](#) he's hateful and hating one another look at this that we have in the world today with the so much of uh divisiveness and one people hating another people and God has called us just the opposite [gentleman Colossians 3:12](#) to be kind put on therefore the bowels of mercies and kindness and the [violent man Psalm 10:2](#) is proud the wicked in his pride but the [gentle man](#) is clothed with humility [1 Peter 5:5](#). [Violent man](#) well he's known for his Vengeance [Lamentations 3:60](#) Thou seen all their Vengeance but the [gentleman](#) is known for his compassion passion [1 Peter 3:8](#) having compassion one of another the [violent man Acts 9:1](#) known for threatenings you know there's even uh there's even a felony that you can commit that's uh about threatening people that you can get just by a threat you can go to jail so uh one today has to be very careful about uh kind of words they're saying you know it was rather common before uh what 20 years ago or so or 30 years ago people would say I'm so mad I could kill you now today you say something like that you can be you can be put in jail for just making the threat so one has to be careful but the the [gentlemen 1 Peter 3:9](#) Not rendering evil for evil but contrary wise blessing and what a stark contrast between the saved and the lost between the violent man and the gentle men well our next uh hortatory text in [Ephesians 4:27](#) is neither give place to the devil oh the devil and you know he wants to be your friend he appeared in the garden as a friend and Adam and Eve fell for his lies but the New Testament is very clear [James 4:4](#) Ye adulterers and adulteresses know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God so we we must not even give a place to the devil it's one thing that people give conversation to him but we shouldn't even give him a place so we always have to be aware he's finding some entry point into our lives some way in which he can corrupt us some way in which he can disturb our peace some way in which he can Infuse and inculcate his evil agenda into our hearts believers have to always be on guard. [Ephesians 5:15-16](#) of this walking circumspectly not as fools but as wise redeeming the time the days are evil hey perhaps we'll go right into the fifth chapter right of Ephesians and get more of this hortatory text so of course we we've learned in [Ephesians 6:11](#) to put on the whole armor of God that you may be able against to stand against the wiles of the devil so uh giving place to the devil well this just the opposite is to stand against it to be armored fully armored against it that we are able to take a stand against him so submit yourselves therefore to God. [James 4:7](#) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Well let us not be ignorant of his devices let Satan should get an advantage of you because we're not ignorant of his devices we know what he uses and what sort of strategy he has to trap believers and to pull us under you see there's the passage [2 Corinthians 2:11](#) so we're not ignorant of his devices we know he has his barbed arrows and these are just uh I don't know a brief list of his devices there are many others that we could add to this but these are some certainly of what he uses to weaken the believer and to destroy his testimony so we must not give him place lust of course is everywhere now it's on the market it's one of the devil's chief tools to weaken people then we have false religio there's a

proliferation of false religion right now because of the internet and the ability for Satan now to publish his errors and the willingness of the simple to take it all in they're easily swayed we have false prophets today we have worldly wisdom this has always been one of his devices sumptuous intelligence that people put forth college level courses and so on all of which bring damnable heresies to the heart and mind of the saints of God emulation which is this wicked desire to be as others taking the fashion cues from an evil world wanting to be like your favorite actor I mean this is how they were able to sell cigarettes in the uh in the 40's and the 50's a movie star would light up his cigarette you know and he would look so debonair and everybody wanted to be like that movie actor and so they started a filthy habit that would lead to them emphysema and COPD and lung cancer and yet all of it was done just simply to be like the world and to emulate the world that's how it begins and after a while it just becomes addictive and pulling out is very difficult pride of course one of Satan's great fiery darts is to get people puffed up how important we are how good we are how how smart we are and this is of course the original sin Lucifer saw himself as being above God even and the thought life thought life has to be carefully and sedulously maintained the impure thoughts that come into our hearts and minds so we have to we have to farad out those things that make for evil thinking and I put down here complacency because complacency the devil loves to allow people to sleep we become complacent when we're first save we're excited we can't we can't get enough we want to learn learn you know and we're in our Bibles and but then as time goes on our zeal abates and and little by little we are given over to a lassitude and a complacency and now we are a canon fodder for the devil right he's going to just explode our lives sadly all right so there's some of Satan's devices but there are so many more that we could add to the list but I ran out of space on the shield so take up the shield of Faith wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked so having done all to stand right well we know the devil's design and that's why here this simple auditory text is to give no place to the devil because [John 10:10](#) The thief cometh not but to steal to kill and to destroy. So we have to be aware of of his devices he was a [John 8:44](#) murderer from the beginning so he has nothing but destruction and his desire is to ultimately devour the believer and to make it impossible for the believer to be a witness for the cause of Christ well it's because we are the formidable force that stands against him in a Godless world there is no other hope but the church there are those that think you know political powers if we vote for the right people we're going to push all this stuff back you know but there's no politician that can fight against the devil now most of them are sold out to him to begin with so what can we do about it well I still have great confidence that the mystery of iniquity that's already at work is restrained and that the great preserving power lies within the church the body of Christ. [Matthew 5:13](#) Ye are the salt of the earth Jesus said and Salt's the preserver and we're the ones that are hindering Satan's work to such a point now I'm sure he's aggravated with us and you know remember in [Acts 19:15-16](#) when evil spirit came and wanted to pretend that he could cast out the devil and the devil cried out from the man and said you know Jesus I know Paul I know but who are ye so

you know I hope the devil knows us I hope the devils know who we are that that we are creating that much havoc in the Kingdom of darkness that he would like to be rid of us as a matter of fact but I always believed that we're indestructible until the day that God calls us out of here so in the meantime let us do our part which is to be a preserving force against evil once we're taken out of the way then the devil will have full sway and the man of sin will appear all right so give no place to the devil and his three major aspects from once he tempts is the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life all this is found in [1 John 2:15-17](#) where it says love not the world neither the things that are in the world if any man love the world the love of the father is not in him and all that is in the world the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the father but of the world and the world passeth away in the fashion thereof but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever and so it's a grand text here that gives us the the hope that we can indeed stand against him and give no place to the devil well that's our lesson this glad morning so let's pray.

Lord the word speaks in so many ways to us it diffusion's it's variance its use all of these things Lord speak to us help us in our current distress we are here indeed Lord to be salt of the earth and let our salt be with full savor we're in a day Lord where such a thing is necessary we are to lift up a holy standard against the evil sometimes Lord admittedly we feel rather powerless it seems as though the devil has won the day but we know better we've read the last chapter and we know the out ultimate outcome is that the devil will be ultimately defeated so in the meantime help us to lift high the standard let us do what we can Lord to bring truth to a world that is in darkness help us father to light the light just a few weeks Lord the world will be celebrating Christmas and many peoples will at least verbally acknowledge the lordship of Christ they'll even sing the songs about his soon coming The Joy to the World the victory over the curse all this Lord that we've sung for years perhaps without knowledge we pray that you will prevail upon our people in particular Lord our loved ones our neighbors those Lord that we have had fellowship with that we've mingled with that we have shared the gospel with that this would be a time of awakening for them Lord as it was for us many many years ago and our eyes were opened and we saw and understood the truth and believed it may it happen for our friends and loved ones Lord and may we be the instrument Lord that you'd be pleased to use us and that we could do what we can Lord to to bring the truth, the way, and the life in Jesus name amen.