

New Morning Magical – 8-7-20

God is faithful

The next letter the Apostle Paul writes is to the Corinthians. This group consisted mostly of former pagans and, as we'll discover, they had some issues that Paul needed to address. Just an interesting side note: What we call 1 Corinthians is actually Paul's second letter to them. We have no record of the first letter, but Paul refers to it fleetingly in this epistle.

Let's start in the first chapter and the fourth verse:

4 I am thanking my God always concerning you over the grace of God which is being given you in Christ Jesus,

5 for in everything are you enriched in him, in all expression and all knowledge,

6 according as the testimony of Christ was confirmed among you,

7 so that you are not deficient in any grace, awaiting the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 Who will be confirming you also until the consummation, unimpeachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 Faithful is God, through Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In verse 5, Paul says that *"all expression and all knowledge"* is our enrichment. It's never about status, wealth, or success as the world measures anything; rather, Paul says that you are enriched fully in Christ when you possess *"all expression and all knowledge."* Paul added in verse 6 that *"all expression and all knowledge"* was evident by, *"the testimony of Christ [that] was confirmed among you."* Testimony is not necessarily verbal; it may be demonstrated through behavior and character, which is what I think Paul indicated here.

In other words, Paul said, *"I am so grateful to God for the grace He's poured out on you in Christ, so that in all knowledge and expression of the Lord, you are truly enriched, which has all been confirmed amongst you by how you behave toward one another. You can't fake this stuff, you know."*

In verses 7 and 8, Paul then makes kind of a startling declaration:

so that you are not deficient in any grace, awaiting the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 Who will be confirming you also until the consummation, unimpeachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The image I get here is Paul as a mechanic, is looking under the hood of the Corinthian car and sees that all the fluids are topped off, the oil is fresh, the spark plugs are clean, and everything is in great shape for the long wait until the Lord returns. Oh, and until then, the Lord Himself will be confirming you – He will back you up in your comings and goings – so when He does return, you’re going to look as good to Him then as you do now. You’re unimpeachable, meaning that no one can say anything against you that could take away from you in the Father’s eyes; and in His eyes, you are “*holy and flawless.*”

Here’s Paul in Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ,
4 according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, **we to be holy and flawless in His sight,**
5 in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will

When Paul writes, “*we to be holy and flawless in His sight,*” he is indicating that we are already that in the Father’s eyes; He is choosing to see us already as holy and flawless – today, with all our shortcomings that we and others see. The Father sees none of those, bless Him.

We’ll look at this more when we get into Ephesians. For now, though, let’s move on to verse 9 of 1 Corinthians 1:

9 **Faithful is God**, through Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Father will never leave you out on a limb, even if no one you know believes as you do or knows the Lord as you do. God is faithful. He does not waste time, lives, or words. When He calls you, chooses you, speaks to you, lives inside you, He’s not playing a game; He is wild about you and He’s after only your highest and best.

The “*fellowship of His Son*” is a kind of sweet intimacy with Yeshua that few may ever know. Seek it, treasure it, nurture it and you’ll get through the rest of this present wicked eon just fine.

10 Now I am entreating you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all may be saying the same thing, and there may be no schisms among you, but you may be attuned to the same mind and to the same opinion.

Oops! Hold on now: *“All may be **saying the same thing**, and there may be **no schisms** among you, but you may be **attuned to the same mind and to the same opinion**”*? I suspect that Paul would be horrified to see the Christian church today: dozens of denominations, no coherent single message, and plenty of conflicts to go around; add to that the Catholic and Orthodox churches and I can just see Paul throwing up his hands in despair. How in the world could all these disparate doctrines and interpretations of Scripture possible say the same thing? Schisms? They’re everywhere! And don’t even get me started on the idea of having the same mind and the same opinion! The only agreement, in all these religious systems, is that Yeshua was born of a virgin, lived, died, was resurrected, and was ascended to the Father. That’s about it. Now, that’s important, don’t misunderstand, but that central agreement gets buried among the ceremonies and rites of passage through these church systems.

You and I don’t have to adhere to any religious system, any more than Paul did, once he left Judaism. If Christ is the center of your life, and the Holy Spirit is operating in you, then you already have all you need and the Apostle Paul, whom the risen Lord sovereignly chose, will fill in the blanks and remove disagreements between you and others who are of the same mind, however few they may be.

Now forgive me, but when you *“correctly cut the word of truth,”* as Paul instructed Timothy, you’ll avoid a lot of trouble; and this is where, in my opinion, Christianity failed, and the freedom that Christ won for us was lost. What arose in its place was a kind of bondage that Yeshua never authored and with which Paul disagreed vehemently.

When Paul wrote, *“We have the mind of Christ,”* in 1 Corinthians 2:16, he was painting the picture of our minds of being in total lock-step with Yeshua. In Him – inside His mind – you and I can know Him and the Father in the most profound and intimate way. Add the faculty of the Spirit of Holiness operating inside you, and you simply cannot be swept away by the waves, tides, and winds that rip across our world. In Christ is real peace and quiet and all you have to do is welcome it and guard it.

Tomorrow, we’ll pick this up in 1 Corinthians 1:11.

Until then . . .

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN