

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:” - Ephesians 1:1

“Paul”

1. Paul had strong _____ in Christ.

Paul continually had _____ and _____ in view.
(II Corinthians 5:6-8)

Paul had an earnest expectation and hope in the _____ of _____
_____. (II Corinthians 4:11; II Timothy 1:12)

Think about it! How frail and weak is our Christianity? How soon does our exercise in the faith of Christ fall to the background. How often does one temptation ruin our fellowship with God? How little does our faith accomplish in times of trial?

2. Paul had great _____ for Christ.

This was evident in the way he _____, how he _____, and when he _____. (II Corinthians 5:14; I Corinthians 4:11-13; Philippians 3:8)

Paul gloried in his _____ for Christ’s sake because the love of God was shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost. (Romans 5:5) How did Paul triumph in his love of Christ in the midst of his sufferings? Romans 8:35-37

Think about it! How many of us put aside Christ's glorious excellencies and His wonderful love replacing it with so little emotion. How many of our hearts very commonly freeze up by the worldly affections we rather take part in?

3. Paul had _____ for the world and set his mind on _____ matters.

Paul despised its _____. (Acts. 20:33) Is it possible he had this verse in mind?

Paul despised the _____ of the world. (I Corinthians 9:27; II Corinthians 12:10)

Paul despised the _____ of the world. (I Thessalonians 2:6)

Think about it! How many Christians have their minds chiefly occupied about the things of the world? About gaining riches or acquiring honors?

4. Paul abounded in _____ and _____.

He thanked God for the Christians at _____ and prayed for them. (Romans 1:8)

He heard of the faith and love of the Christians in _____ and prayed for them. (Ephesians 1:15-16)

He gave thanks for the Christians at _____ and prayed for them. (Colossians 1:3)

He heard of the faith and labor of the Christians at _____ and prayed for them. (I Thessalonians 1:2-3)

He remembered to pray for _____ every day and night. (II Timothy 1:3)

5. Paul had _____ under the various trials that he faced. (Philippians 4:11-13)

6. Paul had _____ under abuses and had _____ for his enemies.

Multitudes _____ him, but he showed no appearance of _____ anyone. (1 Corinthians 4:12-13)

He wished _____ upon his accusers regardless of those _____ which they had brought upon him. (Acts 26:29)

Think about it! How many of us, if we were abused and suffered reproach or injury, have thereby indulged a spirit of hatred against others? How many of us bear a prejudice whereby we are always apt to entertain a distrust? How many of us seek and embrace opportunities against others? How many of us are sorry for their prosperity and glad at their disappointments?

“an apostle of Jesus Christ”

The Greek word for “apostle” is “_____.”

This word, in its Greek form, is used _____ times in the New Testament.

The basic definition of the term “apostle” is _____
_____.

The extended definition when referring to the twelve (including Paul) is _____
_____.

In Philippians 2:25, it is translated as “_____” when referring to Epaphroditus as “one sent on a commission” for the church at Philippi.

Many of the apostles shared these common trends in their ministries:

1. They _____ the _____. (I Corinthians 1:17)

2. They _____ and _____. (Acts 6:4)

3. They performed _____. (II Corinthians 12:12)

4. They established other _____ in the _____. (Acts 14:23)

5. They _____ the _____ of _____. (Ephesians 1:1)

In regards to Paul's apostleship:

According to I Corinthians 15:9, Paul declared _____ as an _____ of Jesus Christ.

According to Romans 11:13, Paul was an _____ that was _____ specifically for the purpose of reaching the _____.

According to Galatians 2:7-8, Paul had the same _____ in reaching the _____ as the other apostles that reached the _____.

“by the will of God”

The word “will” means “a _____ to _____ for a specific _____.”

Galatians 1:1 shares insight into this meaning as Paul was not _____ by _____ or _____ to be an _____.

Question? Can the Will of God be disobeyed? In other words, can God determine a purpose for a person and that purpose be rejected by man?

Read Acts 21:3-4, 10-14.

What was God's will in these verses? _____

Did Paul obey the will of the Spirit of God? _____

Scriptural uses of the word “will” when referring to a “determination to choose for a specific purpose” by God:

Christian Living

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove [to discern; to examine] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will** of God.” - Romans 12:1-2*

What three things must we do in order to discern the good, acceptable, and perfect **will** of God?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Describe God's part in determining His good, acceptable, and perfect will:

Can we, as Christians, determine not to discern what is God's good, acceptable, and perfect will?

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who **will** not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but **will** with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” - I Corinthians 10:13*

*“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his **will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” - Colossians 1:9*

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.” - I Thessalonians 4:3

Salvation:

*“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not **willing** that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9*

Describe God's “determination to choose for a specific purpose” in this matter of salvation:

*“Who **will** have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” - I Timothy 2:4*

Describe God's “determination” for all mankind concerning salvation:

Did you know the Bible never describes God's determination or will as condemnation to Hell? Why?

There is a difference between God's part (Determining to do what He has to do to make something possible) and man's part (Determining to do what he has to do to allow God to work through him)!

Regarding salvation, look at John 3:18 and describe God's part and man's part:

In Paul's case (e.g. Ephesians 1:1), God determined to make him an “apostle.” It was God who determined it and Paul who accepted God's will for his life.

“to the saints”

The Greek word for “saint” is _____.

It literally means “_____.”

This occurs when a person repents of sin and _____ in the finished work of Christ for salvation.

That person, in God's eyes, is taken out of the _____ and placed _____.

This phrase shows God's perspective in that He **makes** a person _____ in His sight.

“His (God) opposition to sin manifesting itself in atonement and redemption or in judgment. Or as holiness, so far as it is embodied in law, must be the highest moral perfection, we may say...holiness is the perfect purity of God, which in and for itself excludes all fellowship with the world, and can only establish a relationship of free electing love, whereby it asserts itself in the sanctification of God's people, their cleansing and redemption” (Cremer)

Think about it? As someone who has repented and placed their faith in Christ for salvation, do you realize the perfect righteousness of Christ has been deposited to your account? See Romans 3:21-22; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 3:9

Compare and contrast the difference between a “saint” as defined by the Catholic church and a “saint” as defined by the Bible:

God's Word	Religious Tradition
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. _____

How many times does Paul address the readers of Ephesians as “saints”? _____

Was Paul addressing people that died? _____

Ephesians 1:1 - “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **to the saints** which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 1:15 - “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto **all the saints.**”

Ephesians 1:18 - “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance **in the saints.**”

Ephesians 2:19 - “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens **with the saints**, and of the household of God.”

Ephesians 3:8 - “Unto me, who am less than the least **of all saints**, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:18 - “May be able to comprehend **with all saints** what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height.”

Ephesians 4:12 - “For the perfecting **of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 5:3 - “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, **as becometh saints.**”

Ephesians 6:18 - “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication **for all saints.**”

Think about it? God has set us apart from the world to live for Him. In all that we say and do, no matter what the circumstances, do we show forth the holiness of God in our lives?

“which are at Ephesus”

1. It is extremely important to God that we have _____ that He has given to us.

“Every _____ of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou _____ unto his _____, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” - Proverbs 30:5-6

“The _____ of the Lord are pure _____: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt _____ them, O Lord, thou shalt _____ them from this _____.” - Psalm 12:6-7

“Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my _____ shall not pass away.” - Luke 21:33

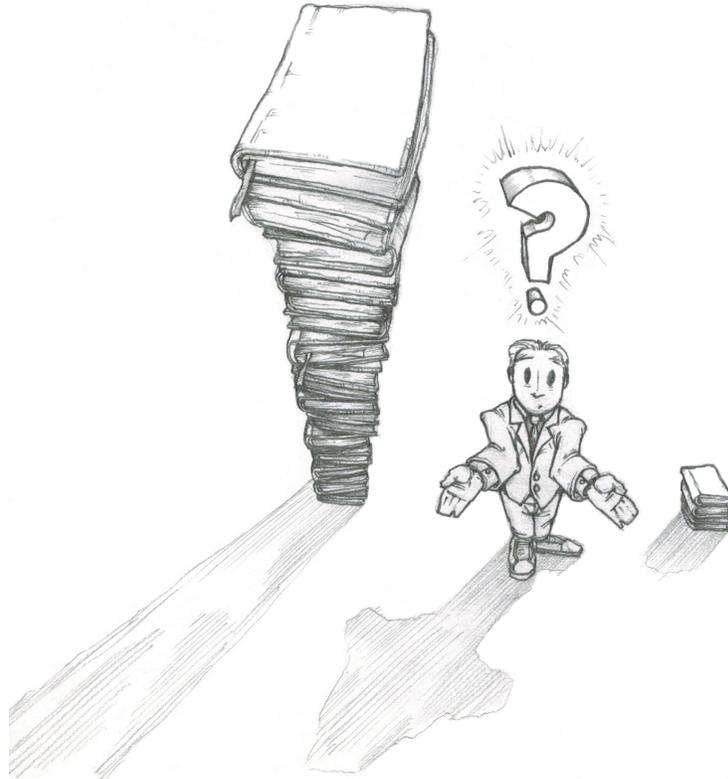
“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” - Matthew 4:4

2. Most modern _____ of the Bible add, remove, or question the very _____ of God.

Common Phrases That Question God's Word

1. “The most reliable early manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have...”
2. “Some manuscripts do not have...”
3. “Some early manuscripts read...”
4. Many times whole verses are altered or removed without any explanation.

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the _____ of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall _____ unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall _____ from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” - Revelation 22:18-19



3. The words _____ are removed (or questioned) in modern versions because they are excluded in _____ Greek manuscripts out of more than _____ manuscripts existing today.

a. These manuscripts are identified as Codex _____ (Vatican) and Codex _____ (Sinai)

b. These manuscripts add, subject, or change almost _____ Greek words. In English, this would equal the entire book of Romans by itself, the entire book of I Corinthians by itself, and the entire books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and I Thessalonians.

c. These _____ manuscripts are the basis for most _____ versions published after 1880.

d. It is also the basis for _____ students in their translation work for the Greek language.

4. Since God promised to _____ His words, the evidence in defense of the King James Version and its traditional Greek text, the _____ or Textus Receptus, is overwhelmingly strong.

a. All existing Greek _____ manuscripts contain the words “at Ephesus.”

(1) A _____ were portions of Scripture that were written in Greek and Latin to be read in the churches.

(2) Out of 2,143 Lectionary Greek manuscripts... _____ are missing the words “in Ephesus.”

b. All _____ versions contain the words “at Ephesus.”

(1) The Vulgate – A version written in Latin.

(2) The Syriac – A closely related dialect to the Aramaic language.

(3) The Coptic – A ancient Egyptian version.

(4) The Armenian – A version written in Armenian.

(5) The Ethiopic – A Semitic version closely related to Arabic.

(6) The Georgia – A version closely related to the Russian language.

(7) The Slavic - A version closely related to the Russian language.

c. All ancient church _____ attested to the words “at Ephesus.”

(1) Pseudo- Ignatius

(2) Chrysostom

(3) Theodore

(4) Victorinus of Rome

(5) Ambrosiaster

(6) Jerome

(7) Pelagius

(8) Only the heretics, Origen and Marcion, omit the words “in Ephesus” in their writings. These men denied that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and Savior; and denied His physical birth, death, and resurrection.

d. Interestingly, those who omit the very Words of God including “at Ephesus” retain the title as the “Epistle to the Ephesians.”

Think about it?? If God promised to preserve His Words and we have to trust in man to find them, then this promise is void. If only the newest English translations are “more accurate” because they are based on the “most reliable manuscripts,” then the Christian church has not be reading the Words of God for over 1800 years. Did you know Satan has been questioning the very “words” of God since the beginning? “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.” - Romans 3:4

“and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.”

“Faithful” describes a person who has _____ faith in Christ.

Both the words “_____” and “_____” are connected to the phrase “in Christ.” (*“In Christ” is a keyword in Ephesians that is used for the first time in this passage.*)

Whereas “saints” emphasizes the supernatural work of God in that when God saved us He “set us apart” from the world unto holiness, it is God who makes us holy and not ourselves. It is the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to our account that makes us fit for heaven.

The emphasis of the word “faithful” demonstrates the _____ side of salvation. Those who have put their _____ or _____ in Christ for salvation have demonstrated the “believing” aspect in salvation.

The word translated “faithful” carries with it three word definitions:

1. _____ - People who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties
2. _____ - One that can be relied on
3. _____ - One who trusts in God's promises

Although in its main context this verse is talking about ones relationship to Christ, it is important in any relationship that it be _____ to others.

“But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and _____ thyself rather unto _____. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto _____ things, having promise of the _____ that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a _____ saying and worth of all acceptation.” I Timothy 4:7-9

“But _____ with contentment is great gain. For we brought _____ into this world, and it is certain we can carry _____ out.” - I Timothy 6:6-7

“This is a _____ saying, and these things I will that thou affirm _____, that they which have believed in God might be careful to _____ good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” - Titus 3:8

Think about it?? LOOK OUT!!! You are being watched! Does your behavior demonstrate godliness or do you only appear “godly” when you come to church? II Timothy 3:1-5

The phrase “in Christ” occurs 19X in this Epistle.

This phrase shows the _____ between “saints” and “faithful.”

It is impossible to be a “saint” if you are NOT _____.

In addition, it is impossible to be considered “faithful” if you are NOT _____.

In Christ shows that these people became _____ and _____ by their _____ in Christ.

How do you demonstrate that union? **KEY: Your present life should have its _____ in Him. Philippians 1:21**

As you look at your own life in Christ, compare yourself to the Apostle Paul and the trials he had to go through. What character traits that Paul demonstrated are lacking in your own life?

Can the Will of God be disobeyed?

Where can we find out the will of God?

What things can you do to help keep yourself accountable to following God's will?

What is a “saint” and how does that word relate to how we should live?

Is it important to have the thoughts or intentions of God, or must we have the very “words” of God (Use Scripture to support your answer)?