

Ephesians and other Scripture passages
Theme: "Following Christ, Unity in Christ"

PULPIT STUDY QUESTIONS: 2 July 17 to 31 December 17

<p align="center">July 2, 2017</p>	<p align="center">Remember your Creator Ecclesiastes 12:1-8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to "Remember Your Creator?" How does this affect our attitudes and actions? Why is it important for us to do this while we are young? Ps 100:3; Matt 22:34-40. 2. What is depicted in verses 2 through 7? Explain the symbolism. What does the Preacher say about these things in verse eight? (vv. 2-8; Gen 2:7; 3:19; Ps. 104:29-30) 3. What makes us yearn more for the Lord? In what practical ways can we cultivate it? 4. How do we stay focus in our spiritual pilgrimage? Or how do we go from strength to strength? 5. What is the most important thing you should ask God today?
<p align="center">July 16, 2017</p>	<p align="center">An Old Fashioned Virtue Proverbs 6:6-11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What lessons are implied in the ants having no commander or ruler? vs 6-8 2. What are the attitudes and behavior of a sluggard? What parallels can we draw in our modern day living? 3. Why is sloth or laziness a deadly disposition? Prov. 24:30- 34, Prov. 26:14, Prov19:24 Prov. 20:4 Prov. 21:25,26 4. What are the biblical principles governing work? 2 Thess. 3:6-15, Phil 4:19, Ex 20:8-11, Col 3:23-24, Matt 24: 45-46, Eccl 9:10 5. How can we avoid the pitfalls of the sluggard?
<p align="center">July 23, 2017</p>	<p align="center">The Joy of Contentment Proverbs 15:16-17</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the principles when making choices in our lives according to Proverbs 15:16.17 2. What is contentment? Why is having contentment in our lives important? 3. What are the obstacles to cultivating an attitude of contentment? 4. What should be our attitudes toward wealth and possession? 5. How can we be better stewards of what God have entrusted to us?

<p>July 30, 2017</p>	<p>Keeping Your Cool Proverbs 16:32</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain in practical ways why and how a patient person is better than a warrior according to this verse. How would you define patience in your daily life? 2. Victory over self is the hardest of all victories. Share your own experiences. 3. Why is it difficult to be patient? What kind of circumstances prevents or hinders your patience? 4. How can we be more patient and have more self-control? What help do we have?
<p>August 6, 2017</p>	<p>The Christian Citizen Romans 13:1-7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should we as Christian relate to the governing authority? Why? 2. What are the motivations for living out 13:1-7? 3. How do the purposes of the Church different than those of the State (see 13:3-4)? 4. In what way do we need to be cautious in the way we interpret what Paul says about the state as a divine institution with divine authority? What are the limits of the state's authority? 5. When laws are enacted by our government that contradicts God's law, what should we do? See Acts 5:27-32
<p>August 13, 2017</p>	<p>We are all Commissioned Officers Matthew 28:16-20</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Great Commission? What are we commissioned to do? Why are we commissioned? 2. Why is it so difficult to carry out the Great Commission? How and what can we do to obey this command? 3. What is a disciple? 4. How is being a disciple different than simply being a Christian? Do we consider ourselves a disciple? 5. How does one actually 'make disciples'? How does HPC go about making disciples?
<p>August 20, 2017</p>	<p>Do you know the Shepherd? Psalm 23:1-6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verses 1-4 describe God as a shepherd who cares for His sheep. According to the passage, what are some ways God cares for His sheep? 2. What are some green pastures and quiet waters in your life (v.2)? Do we voluntarily seek them out and spend time there? Why or why not? 3. What does 'fear no evil' mean for us? How is this possible? Do we find it easy or difficult? How can we have peace and live without fear? 4. What does it mean to 'dwell in the house of the Lord forever'?

		<p>5. Can we confidently say 'The LORD is my shepherd'? Why or why not?</p>
<p>August 27, 2017</p>	<p>Do you know the King? Psalm 24:1-10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What difference would it make when a person really believes the truth expressed in verses 1-2. 2. According to verses 3-6, what should be the attitudes of those who approach Him to worship? What does it mean to "seek Your face"? 3. Are the gates or doors of our life open to 'this King of Glory'? Share the struggles if any. 4. How can verses 8 and 10 impact our lives? 5. How can this Psalm help us grow in our worship of the King?
<p>September 3, 2017</p>	<p>The Essence of Worship Psalm 29:1-11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways do verses 1 and 2 align our focus in worshipping the Lord? 2. Reflect on your posture of worship. Spend a moment of silence with closed eyes meditating on the greatness of God. 3. Read verses 3 to 9 in the emphasis on 'The voice of the Lord'. What characteristics of God do these verses bring to mind? 4. Do the noises of our surroundings or circumstances hinder us from hearing God's voice speaking to us? Read 1 Kings 19:11-13 (ESV version) 5. Sometimes God uses a storm to draw our attention to Him and cause us to fall before him in awe, but He also is the source of strength and blesses his people with peace (v. 11). How can this passage helps you better understand the ways of God and his workings in your life?
<p>September 10, 2017</p>	<p>Imitating God Ephesians 5:1-7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the apostle Paul propose? v. 1a. What does he mean by "imitators"? v. 1b. How well do your own children imitate you? Give examples of habits (good or bad) picked up by children. 2. What kind of life are we to live? What example does Paul commended? 3. What kinds of bad conduct should Christians avoid? 4. What attitude should Christians reflect?
<p>September 17, 2017</p>	<p>Between Light and Darkness Ephesians 5:8-14</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What were they before knowing the Lord? v. 8a. Explain what Paul means by "darkness." What are they after knowing the Lord? v. 8b. See Matthew 5:14-16. 2. What does the fruit/light image represent? v. 9. Compare with Galatians 5:22-23. Do you know

		<p>through personal experience if this pleases the Lord? v. 10.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What does the fruitless/darkness image represent? vv. 11-13. Compare with John 3:19-21. 4. Verse 14 is a reminder and motivation for any of us who have lapsed or stagnated in our Christian walk. Some of us, who may never have fully awakened or risen from the dead, may need to renew our commitment so Christ will shine on us as well. 5. Reflect on your conversion experience and take stock of your spiritual growth at the moment. Are you being reminded and motivated to a greater passion in your walk with Christ? 6. Take a moment to renew your commitment to God.
September 24, 2017	Wise Living Ephesians 5:15-21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What caution does Paul give to believers? v. 15. Why? v. 16a. Compare with Colossians 4:5-6. 2. What does Paul mean by: "because the days are evil"? v. 16b. See Galatians 1:4; Philippians 2:14-15. 3. What does Paul mean in verse 17 between foolishness and understanding what the Lord's will is? 4. What vivid illustration of living foolishly verses living wisely does Paul make in this verse 18? See Proverbs 23:31-35; Luke 15:13; 2 Timothy 1:7-10; 1 Peter 4:1-5. 5. In what ways do we seem to be living foolishly or living wisely in God's eyes? 6. As a believer in Christ, how often do you seriously reflect on your behaviour in all spheres of life? 7. As a believer, are you conscious of the fact that your Christian moral behaviour is an example and witness of Christ's love for the people around you?
October 1, 2017	Let the Children come to me Luke 18:15-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways could believers be a hindrance to others, believers or non-believers, coming to Jesus? 2. What characteristic of children is Jesus pointing to as an essential characteristic of disciples? 3. How do the following words; Innocence, openness, trust, receptivity and humility, guide us in the attitude of coming before God. 4. What characteristics of children is Jesus pointing to in this context that he wants his disciples to emulate?
October 8, 2017	A Transformed Husband-Wife Relationship Ephesians 5:22-33	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you are a husband, do you love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her? 2. If you are a wife, do you submit to and respect your husband? 3. How do you think most people would describe their marriages: Happy, content, marginal, conflictive, or war

		<p>zone? Where do you place your own marriage? Why (be constructive in your answer)?</p> <p>4. What are your areas of strength and weakness? What can you do to capitalize on your strengths weaknesses as potential growth for your marriage?</p> <p>How do we as fellow worshippers at HopePC submit to Christ as the Head of the church in building a loving community of disciples and servant leaders?</p>
October 15, 2017	A Transformed Parent-Child Relationship Ephesians 6:1-4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What makes a child's obedience so important? 2. Christian children are also commanded to honor their parents. What is the difference between obeying one's parents and honoring them? 3. How does obedience relate to having a good life and living long? 4. Obedient is one of the fundamental characteristics of being a disciple of Jesus. What aspects in our lives do Jesus finds us obedient to His teachings? 5. What does it mean not to 'provoke your children to anger?' 6. How should parents help in bringing up their children? Whose teachings are children to be given? Read also Proverbs 22:6. <p>What is your assessment of Christian parenting in the 21st century? How well are Christians instructing and training their children in the Lord?</p>
October 22, 2017	A Transformed Employer-Employee Relationship Ephesians 6:5-9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take a moment to reflect on your relationship with Jesus Christ. Does your relationship with Jesus Christ reflects your relationships with your superior/leaders? 2. What can we learn from verses 5 and 6 about obedience to people whom we are under their authority? 3. Although there is an enormous cultural difference in Paul's instructions to slaves and masters, how may the principles be applied today? 4. View your present job as your assignment from Christ; how is that going to affect the way you do your work? How do we treat those under our charge?

<p>October 29, 2017</p>	<p>Our Jerusalem and Judea Acts 1:7-8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you ever have questions about when God's restoration of His kingdom on earth and in heaven would take place? Does it matter? Why or why not? 2. How does the assurance of God's given power through the Holy Spirit encourage us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ? 3. Define "witness." What does this tell you about the work of the apostles? 4. Describe the possible ways in which we can be effective witnesses for Christ?
<p>November 5, 2017</p>	<p>Anger for a Moment, Favour for a Lifetime Psalm 30:1-12</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to exalt the Lord? 2. Does God heal all faithful followers? 3. How does verse 5 helps us to have a deeper understanding of God's character? 4. What does David say is true about the Lord's anger? In contrast, what does he say is true about the Lord's favor? 5. How does God's way of dealing with anger in verse 5 help us to cope with conflict? 6. What is/are our source of security in life? 7. As David repented upon his sinfulness before God, he also realized that only God could forgive and restore him. How has David's attitude towards his sinfulness and gratitude towards a merciful God apply to our spiritual growth?
<p>November 12, 2017</p>	<p>Under the Heavy Hand of God Psalm 39:1-13</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How difficult are we to keep our tongue or emotion from leading us to sin in stressful moments? 2. In our moment of silence over a pressing issue how quick do we turn our thoughts on God? Or do our minds be overwhelmed by the matter and become bitter or depress? 3. How does considering your own mortality affect the way you think of the present and the future, your possessions, and your relationships? 4. Are we looking forward toward our eternal goal? If our citizenship is to be in heaven, do our lifestyle and values align to the hope we profess?

<p>November 19, 2017</p>	<p>Have Mercy on me, O God Psalm 51</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psalm 51 is David's earnest plea to God for forgiveness. He openly acknowledges his sin and sorrowfully recognizes that it has separated him from God. In what ways do we see ourselves as sinful before God? 2. Do we come before God only when we are convicted of our sinfulness or coming before God to convict us of any sins we are unaware of? 3. How important is the attitude of David's seeking forgiveness and restoration from God a good example for us to emulate? 4. Do you see sin as something that actually offends God? Do you see it as a personal break in your relationship with God? How do you attempt to repair the breach? 5. Do we extend our request for forgiveness to include a request for renewal, even for the necessary changes to live differently going forward? Do we realize that the quality of our witness and service to others is affected by the consistency—or lack therein—of our walk, that we're "steadfast" for others as well as ourselves?
<p>November 26, 2017</p>	<p>Be Battle Ready Ephesians 6:10-24</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do Christians be made "strong in the Lord"? 2. Why does Paul give such a command to believers in verse 11? See 4:26-27. 3. According to verses 12-13, what reminder does Paul give of the kind of war being waged? And who are the true adversaries of every believer? 4. Four times in verses 10-14 Paul urges his readers to stand firm in the battle against the devil's stratagems. How are we as Christians susceptible to instability? 5. How does the "armor of God" (vv. 13-17) prepare us for spiritual battle? 6. Which piece of armor do you need most to fight your spiritual battles? Explain. 7. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to pray on all occasions and for the Lord's people. Reflect on your prayer life: Do you see prayer as an important aspect of spiritual growth?

<p>December 3, 2017</p>	<p>The parents (Joseph & Mary)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. How do you think Joseph felt when he found out Mary was pregnant? 2. How do the faith of Mary and Joseph be an encouragement to our spiritual walk? 3. How do you think Joseph recognized that his dream really was a message from God? 4. In what ways do we see God's plan and purpose in our lives? In sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ? 5. Do we see ourselves worthy of God's calling? How might we be a vessel of God's blessings to others?
<p>December 10, 2017</p>	<p>The Shepherds</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Luke 2:8-20. Shepherds were considered lowly people and often despised by their countrymen but God chose to bring Good News to the poor and humble. Shepherds were the first recipients of the Good News of Jesus' birth. Is there any significance why the Good News of Jesus' birth is proclaimed to the shepherds first? 2. As disciples of Jesus Christ do we feel afraid to share the Good News to others? 3. What are the responses to the Good News of Jesus' birth in Luke 2: 18-20? 4. Which of the responses to the Good News are present in your life? 5. How has the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ impacted your life? 6. In what ways could you participate in your church's outreach program during Christmas season?
<p>December 17, 2017</p>	<p>The Magi and Travellers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Matthew 2:1-12. This passage tells us about the Magi's eagerness to search and follow. In your faith journey, would you say that you are searching or following? In what aspects are you searching or following? 2. Read verses 9-12. What filled the Magi with joy? Why does their mission make them joyful? What fills you with joy during this Christmas season? 3. What can you learn from the Magi in this passage? How can we be diligent and passionate as the Wise men were in gaining a deeper understanding and knowledge about God? 4. What Christmas activities detract you from or draw you closer to having this sense of joy and worship of who Jesus is?

<p>December 24, 2017</p>	<p>Jesus (The Son of God)</p>	<p>Read the following passages:</p> <p>Luke 1:35 — And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.</p> <p>John 20:31 — but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did the Angel say this would prove about Jesus (Luke 1:35)? What does this show about the purpose of the Virgin Birth? 2. Discuss among the group: What is your knowledge about Jesus as the ‘Son of God’ in the Bible? 3. Read Matthew 14:33. Do physical evidence of the person of Jesus Christ gives us assurance of Christ’s divinity? 4. What does Jesus teaches about faith? 5. How convicted are our faith in Jesus as our Saviour, our provider, our comforter, our source of wisdom and our guidance?
<p>December 31, 2017</p>	<p>Living with a Clear Conscience Proverbs 29:6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the effects of transgression as compared to the effects of righteousness? 2. Explain how sin can ensnare people? 3. Reflect on our attitude and behavior towards others. In which aspects are we being ensnared by negative attitudes or behaviors in relating to others? 4. Reflect on your attitudes toward God. Do we come before God with a humble and contrite heart seeking God to search our inner beings and be convicted of any offensive ways within us? 5. Are you being ensnared by any bitterness that robs you from being glad and joyous? 6. Spend a moment giving thanks to God and share how God has brought you through year 2017.