

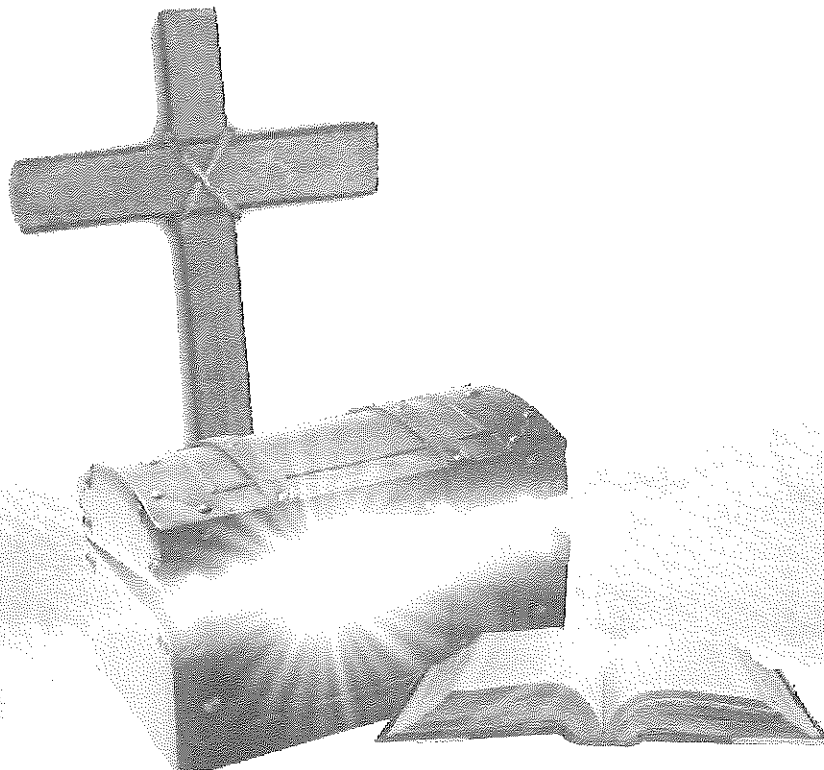
TRUE TREASURES

LESSON 20

The *Treasure* of Intimacy with God

“...praying at all times in the Spirit,
with all prayer and supplication.
To that end, keep alert with all perseverance,
making supplication for all the saints...”

Ephesians 6:18
(ESV)



TRUE TREASURES

Lesson 20

Ephesians 6:18-20

The *Treasure* of Intimacy with God

THE TREASURE OF PRAYER

A. The most important **weapon** is prayer.

1. Prayer is where the battle is **won**.
2. Prayer is where we **connect** with God *in* the battle.

"It's like a walkie talkie on the battlefield to a superior officer!"

Robey Barnes

B. The five **elements** of prayer

1. Spirit-**filled** prayer
 - a. We pray as we **ought** to.
 - He will bring **things** to mind.
 - He will **direct** us.
 - b. We pray with **energy**.
 - Asking Him what He **desires** for us
 - We line up our **mind** with His

"Prayer is the sincere, sensible, affectionate, pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God hath promised...for the good of the Church..."

John Bunyan

2. **Constant** prayer

- a. It is a posture of the **heart**.
- b. Our hearts are in constant **communion** with Him.

"...His heart is ever lifted to God....In this he is never hindered, much less interrupted by any person or thing. In retirement, on company, in leisure, business or conversation his heart is ever with the Lord....having the loving eye of his mind still fixed upon Him, and everywhere seeing Him that is invisible."

John Wesley

3. **Varied** prayer
 - a. Continual prayer creates **different** types of prayer.
 - b. It can be a powerful **witness**.
4. **Determined** prayer
 - a. Increasing **intensity**
 - b. Increasing **persistence**
 - c. Increasing **bigness**
5. **Intercessory** prayer
 - a. Praying for each **other**
 - b. Praying for **warriors** of the Faith

"Unless I am badly mistaken, one of the main reasons so many of God's children don't have a significant life of prayer is not so much that we don't want to, but that we don't plan to....There is a race to be run and a fight to be fought. If you want renewal in your life of prayer, you must plan to see it. Therefore, my simple exhortation is this: Let us take time this very day to rethink our priorities and how prayer fits in....Make this a day of turning to prayer - for the glory of God and for the fullness of your joy."

John Piper

SUMMARIZING THE TREASURES WE POSSESS

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON 21

*"We are one in the bond of love...we have joined our spirits
with the Spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love!"*

Otis Skillings

Day 1

1. What is the central truth of this passage?

2. What are some key words in this passage?
What is their significance?

Day 2

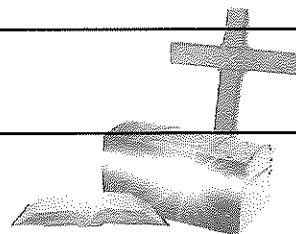
3. What qualities of friendship do you see in Tychicus
mentioned in verses 21-22?

4. See II Corinthians 11:26-27 where Paul describes the challenges he faced on his journeys with Tychicus. What further insight into this friendship do you see?

5. Is there someone you could be a Tychicus to? Explain.

Day 3

6. Name the four elements of Paul's final blessing in verses 23-24. Explain their meaning.



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7. How is it that we can experience peace? With God?
(See Romans 5:1) With others? (See Ephesians 2:14)

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8. How are we able to have love for one another? See
Romans 5:5 and I John 4:19. Why do you think it is so
hard for us to love one another? Who do you struggle
with most? (You do not need to share this with your
small group!) What can you do about it?

Day 4

9. Read Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 13:5b; and Romans 8:28.
Summarize what God has promised His children. How do
these truths affect your faith and trust that Paul mentions
in verse 23?

Day 5

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12. As you look back at the various areas in which you expressed a desire to make a change in your life, as a result of this study, how are you doing with follow through? Is there anything you need to continue to concentrate on?

OPTIONAL:

Read and summarize I Corinthians 13:2-8. Even though this passage is most often thought of as describing marital love, explain how it can apply to any relationship that God gives us. What love traits do you think are the most difficult to apply to your friendships and the Christian community?

OPTIONAL CHALLENGE: Memorize Ephesians 6:23-24.