

CHRISTIAN HERALD

WASHINGTON
DECEMBER 2014 Number 1112

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH
Rev. Laddie J. Benton, Pastor



From the Pastor's Desk

Teaching Elder Laddie J. Benton

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO GOD'S PEOPLE ON EARTH

*Behold I bring you good news of a great joy;
for to you is born in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

(Luke 2: 10 - 11 – New Revised Standard Version)

CHRISTMASTIDE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Dear members and friends of Washington Presbyterian Church (USA),

The season is now approaching when Christians around the world are waiting with great anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. During this season, often referred to as Christmas, people are shopping and buying gifts for their loved ones to be opened on Christmas Day. For many, the celebration of Christmas ends on December 26. For them Christmas will have come and gone, and they look forward for Christmas to return the following year.

Some Christians are unaware that Christmas does not end after the date set aside for the birth of Christ. Christmas/Christmastide "is the festival of the birth of Christ, the celebration of the incarnation. Christmas/Christmastide begins on Christmas Eve and ends with Epiphany (January 6)." Many Christians celebrate what is often referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas." This is how the Christian Church Calendar is set-up.

As we gather with friends and family to celebrate Christmas, and exchange gifts; let us not forget the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas: "...a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulder, and he is named:

Wonderful Counselor

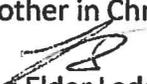
Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9: 6)

To God Be the Glory!

Your Brother in Christ,


Teaching Elder Laddie J. Benton, pastor

STAND UP FOR JESUS!

STAND UP FOR WPC!

SICK, SHUT-INS AND BEREAVED FAMILIES

Margie Walker, Joan Marshall, Teondré Morrison-Cooper, Claudette Carter, Justin Johnson, Kevin Herring, Joyce Beckett, Ethel Kinkaid, James Gravett (Pastor's friend), Linda Hobbs (Pastor's sister), Marjorie McNeil, Daisy Patience, Marie (Flood) Rhodes, Monica (Joan Reppert's granddaughter), Janice Washington (Alicia Lee's mother), Hannah Matthews (Will's mother), Yvonne Lewis, Lillie Foster, Christina Key (Bobby Nelson's cousin), Bennie Blue, Mason (8 mo. old baby), Sonya and Ceani, Genease Brown, Veronica (Amber's friend), Robert Nelson, Sharon Lanning (Donna's sister), Edna Plaza (Tammy's co-worker), Maurice Alexander, Mabel Rauch (Yvonne's friend), Keesha Scott, the Ebling family, the Eberly family, LaKeshia Green & Family and Constance (Tina) Davis, Viola Jefferson and Patricia Wilson.

PRAY FOR THE BEREAVED

The family of Annie Fisher (Amish friend).

SCRIPTURES

December 7	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15
December 14	Psalm 126:1-6	Luke 1:46-55	2 Thessalonians 5:16-24
December 21	Psalm 89:1-4	2 Samuel 8:1-11, 16	Romans 16:25-27
December 28	Psalm 147:1-11	Isaiah 61:10-11	Galatians 4:4-7

STANDING COMMITTEES

Christian Concerns – April Coleman
Christian Education – Alexis Green
Evangelism – Yvonne Lewis
Finance – Toni A. Brooks
Property – Stephen Greer
Stewardship – Sharon Davis/Yvonne Lewis
Worship Committee – Pauline Johnson/Alexis Green

BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Mark 1:1-8
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Luke 1:26-38
Luke 2:22-40

SESSION

Pastor – Rev. Laddie J. Benton
Clerk of Session – Oliver Carter
Church Treasurer – Toni A. Brooks
Benevolence Treasurer – Oliver Carter
Club Fund Treasurer – Winnie J. Burden
Sunday School – Sharon Davis

ORGANIZATION

Men's Fellowship – Oliver Carter
Pastor's Aid – Toni A. Brooks/Winnie Burden
Personnel – Stephen Greer
Presbyterian Women – Alexis Green/LaKeshia Green

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Senior Choir Thursday 1:00 P.M. – Director – Mrs. Janet Arms
Youth Choir (after Sunday Church Service) – Director – William P. Kinkaid

**WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL ACCEPT DONATIONS
FROM ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH OUR MISSIONS.**

**WPC WEB PAGE: WPC1823.ORG
Presbyterian Women's Annual Cookie Sale
December 13 and 14, 2014**

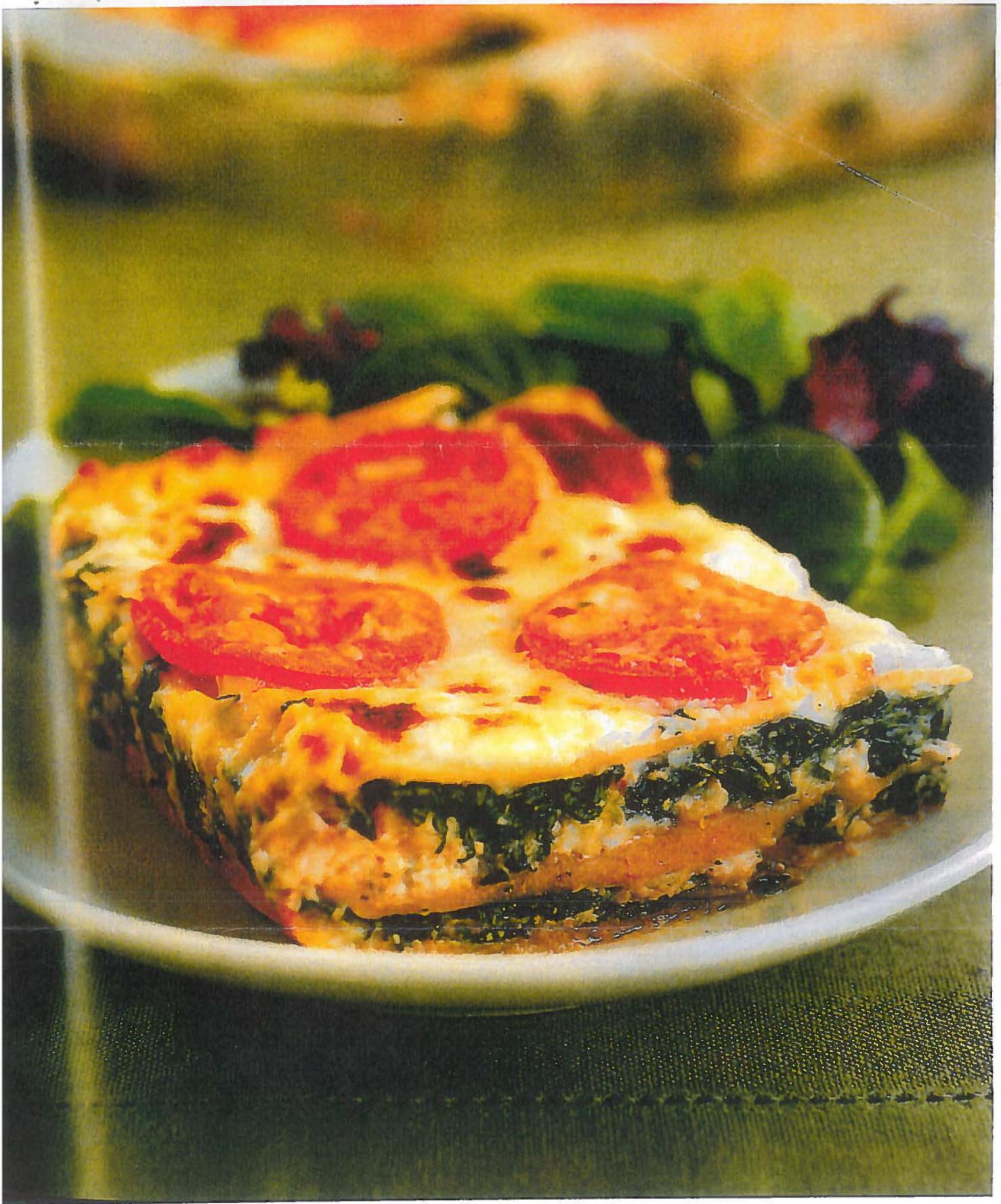
Orders and money due by November 30, 2014

**\$10.00 - Small
\$12.00 - Medium
\$15.00 - Large
Assorted**

December 2014

* Denotes Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	December 1 World Aids Day Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness	2 Dr. Joseph Amprey *	3 Bible Study – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM Diana Williams *	4 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Eric Parker *	5 Derric Burden *	6 Dreanna Matthews *
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Communion 10:00 AM Sunday Service	8 Alberta Carter *	9 Worship Committee Meets	10 Bible Study – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM Jerell Scott * Sharon Davis * Human Rights Day	11 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	12	13 WPC cookie sale Pickup
14 WPC Cookie sale Pickup Tatiyaña Sanchez * Communion 10:00 AM Sunday Service	15 Session –7:30 PM	16	17 Bible Study – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM First Day of Hannukah	18 Senior Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM	19	20 Jordan Johnson *
21 First Day of Winter Christmas Joy Offering 10:00 AM Sunday Service Joash Chest	22	23 Wanyá Cooper *	24 Bible Study – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 6:00 PM	25 Christmas Day	26 Tearah Burden * Boxing Day (Canada) Kwanzaa Begins	27
28 10:00 AM Sunday Service	29 Jaeleanyse Phelps *	30	31 Harold Jackson * New Year's Eve			



SPINACH & GARLIC
LASAGNE

DIABETIC EXCHANGES

1½ starch 0 fruit ¼ milk
¼ vegetable 3 protein 1½ fat

SERVES 6

- 1 tablespoon olive oil or canola oil
- 15 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 10 cups baby spinach leaves
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped toasted walnuts (page 138)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 4 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 2 cups nonfat milk
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- Cooking spray
- 9 cooked whole-wheat lasagne noodles
- 1 large plum (Roma) tomato, about 4 oz, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 375°F. In a large frying pan, heat ½ tablespoon of the oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté until lightly browned, 1–2 minutes. Transfer the garlic to a small plate. Add half of the spinach to the pan. Sauté until the spinach wilts, 4–5 minutes. Stir in ¼ teaspoon of the salt and transfer the cooked spinach to a large bowl. Add the remaining ½ tablespoon oil and spinach to the pan. Repeat, sautéing until the spinach wilts. Stir in the remaining ¼ teaspoon salt; transfer the spinach to the same bowl. When the spinach has cooled, add the eggs, cottage cheese, half of the garlic, the ricotta, toasted walnuts, parsley, chives, and 1 tablespoon of the basil. Toss gently to mix well. Set aside.

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the milk, flour, and remaining garlic and whisk until blended. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened, 8–10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the remaining 3 tablespoons basil and the pepper.

Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Spread ½ cup of the garlic sauce in the dish. Arrange 3 noodles lengthwise over the sauce and spread half of the spinach-cheese mixture on top. Top with another ½ cup sauce. Repeat with the remaining noodles, the remaining spinach-cheese mixture, and another ½ cup sauce, beginning and ending with noodles. Spread the remaining sauce over the noodles. Arrange the tomato slices on the coated noodles and sprinkle with the Parmesan.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 15 minutes. Uncover and continue to bake until the noodles are tender and the sauce is bubbly, about 20 minutes longer. Let stand for 15 minutes before serving.

NUTRIENT ANALYSIS FOR ONE SERVING

Calories 350	Carbohydrates 39 g	Total Fat 12 g
Protein 24 g	Fiber 5 g	Saturated Fat 4 g
Sodium 493 mg	Sugars 8 g	Monounsaturated Fat 4 g
Cholesterol 90 mg		Polyunsaturated Fat 3 g

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I have a list of folks I know all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
And this is when I realize that these names are all a part,
Not of the book they're written in but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,
And in that meeting they've become the "Rhythm of the Rhyme".
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you shaped my life more than you can think.
For once you've met somebody the years cannot erase,
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think that Christmas cards are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a tattered list forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on that list of folks I am indebted to.

For we are but a total of the many folks we've met,
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some ways you have had a part of shaping things I do.

And every year at Christmas time I realize anew,
The BIGGEST GIFT that life can give is meeting folks like you.
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures,
Leave its richest blessings in the heart of YOU and YOURS.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

UNITY, LORD? HOW?

As we continue to search and study your Word, Lord, we see, to our surprise that we are not at all obedient to you.

Father, we need you not only to forgive us, not only to cleanse us; but, Lord, our God, please, teach us how to Believe, Understand, come to Know your Word, and then Fully Obey Thy Word.

Lord, help us to become like your Apostle Paul, your prisoners who walk worthy of the calling with which we were called.

Help us to bear with one another, as we walk with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering and love, helping us to become "unified" in the spirit and in the bond of peace. Cause us to know the truth that there is only One Body, One Spirit, One Hope of our calling.

Convince us that there is truly One Lord, One faith, One Baptism: One God and Father of us all who is above all, and through all, and in you, all.

Father, God, teach us also that your Son, Jesus said, there is but One way to reach you or your heavenly home. Only Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life. Please, teach us to accept your Word as you give it to us and not to change it to make it suit our whims and wishes.

Dear Lord, we also don't seem to know who is head of your church nor who you have anointed to be your earthly leaders. Your Word says that Jesus, himself gave the church these: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and said some were to have these positions for a specific purpose.

They are to equip your saints for the work of the ministry and for the edifying the Body of Christ. Because he wants us to be "united" in the faith and of the "knowledge" of the Son of God, to a "perfect" person, to the "measure" of the stature of Jesus, the Son of God, that we may reach the "fullness" of Christ.

Lord, we know that you don't expect more of us than you will help us to attain. But, Lord, sometimes it looks so hard and impossible to us, that we won't even try to do as you ask. Take away our "fears", Lord, and give us a "holy boldness" to "obey" you, no matter what!

We often say we believe you. Help us to push past this point into knowing, with you on our side, we can move from merely believing you to what you have said is absolute truth and we know you will bring to pass all that your word says.

Thank you Father, thank you. We do know we can trust you. We do know that when you speak of "Unity" you are not speaking of the kind of unity we hear of here on earth.

You tell us that because you love us and you make us members of your family, therefore by your Holy Spirit's Power, you cause us to become United in you—into One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. Oh, Lord, please keep moving us into a strong, loving relationship with you. That we will always be your obedient servants while becoming all you want us to become.

AMEN.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Verse of the Month

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:7

Unity in the Body of Christ Ephesians 4:1-16

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

God has chosen us to be Christ's representatives on earth. In light of this truth, Paul challenges us to live lives worthy of the calling we have received—the awesome privilege of being called Christ's very own. This includes being humble, gentle, patient, understanding, and peaceful. People are watching your life. Can they see Christ in you? How well are you doing as his representative? NIVLASB

³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

To build unity is one of the Holy Spirit's important roles. He leads, but we have to be willing to be led and to do our part to keep the peace. We do that by focusing on God, not on ourselves. NIVLASB

⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

All believers in Christ belong to one body; all are united under one head, Christ himself. Each believer has God-given abilities that can strengthen the whole body. Ask God to use your unique gifts to contribute to the strength and health of the body of believers. NIVLASB

⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

In Psalm 68:18, God is pictured as a conqueror marching to the gates and taking tribute from the fallen city. Paul uses that picture to teach that Christ, in his crucifixion and resurrection, was victorious over Satan. When Christ ascended to heaven, he gave gifts to the church, some of which Paul discusses in 4:11-13.

⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Christ is Lord of the whole universe, past, present, and future. Nothing or no one is hidden from him. The Lord of all came to earth and faced death to rescue all people. No one is beyond his reach. Our oneness in Christ does not destroy our individuality. The Holy Spirit has given each Christian special gifts for building up the church. Now that we have these gifts, use them. Are you spiritually mature, exercising the gifts God has given you? If you know what your gifts are, look for opportunities to serve. If you don't know, ask God to show you, perhaps with the help of your minister or Christian friends. Then, as you begin to recognize your special area of service, use your gifts to strengthen and encourage the church. Working together, the church can express the fullness of Christ. NIVLASB

¹⁴Then we will not longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Christ is the truth (John 14:6), and the Holy Spirit who guides the church is the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). Satan, by contrast is the father of lies (John 8:44). As followers of Christ, we must be committed to the truth. This means both that our words should be honest and that our actions should reflect Christ's integrity. Speaking the truth in love is not always easy, convenient, or pleasant, but it is necessary if the church is going to do Christ's work in the world. NIVLASB

Living as Children of Light Ephesians 4:17-32

¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

Living "in the futility of their thinking" refers to the natural tendency of human beings to think their way away from God. Intellectual pride, rationalizations, and excuses all keep people from God. Don't be surprised if people can't grasp the gospel. The gospel will seem foolish to those who forsake faith and rely on their own understanding. NIVLASB

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

²⁰You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

People should be able to see a difference between Christians and non-Christians because of the way Christians live. We are to live as children of light (5:8). Paul told the Ephesians to leave behind the old life of sin, since they were followers of Christ. Living the Christian life is a process. Although we have a new nature, we don't automatically

think all good thoughts and express all right attitudes when we become new people in Christ. But if we keep listening to God, we will be changing all the time. As you look back over last year, do you see a process of change for the better in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? Although change may be slow, it comes as you trust God to change you. (See Romans 6:6; 8:9; Galatians 5:16-28; Colossians 3:3-8).

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Lying to each other disrupts unity by creating conflict and destroying trust. It tears down relationships and leads to open warfare in a church. NIVLASB

²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. The Bible doesn't tell us that we shouldn't feel angry, but it points out that it is important to handle our anger properly. If vented thoughtlessly, anger can hurt others and destroy relationships. If bottled up inside, it can cause us to become bitter and destroy us from within. Paul tells us to deal with our anger immediately in a way that builds relationships rather than destroys them. If we nurse our anger, we will give Satan an opportunity to divide us. Are you angry with someone right now? What can you do to resolve your differences? Don't let the day end before you begin to work on mending your relationship. NIVLASB

²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit within us is a seal or guarantee that we belong to God. Ephesians 1:13-14. NIVLASB

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.

This is Christ's law of forgiveness as taught in the Gospels (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:35; Mark 11:25). We also see it in the Lord's Prayer—"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." God does not forgive us because we forgive others, but solely because of his great mercy. As we come to understand his mercy, however, we will want to be like him. Having received forgiveness, we will pass it on to others. Those who are unwilling to forgive have not become one with Christ, who was willing to forgive even those who crucified him (Luke 23:34). NIVLASB

Jesus the Great High Priest Hebrew 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Christ is superior to the priests, and his priesthood is superior to their priesthood. To the Jews, the high priest was the highest religious authority in the land. He alone entered the Holy of Holies in the temple once a year to make atonement for the sins of the whole nation (Leviticus 16). Like the high priest, Jesus mediates between God and us. As humanity's representative, he intercedes for us before God. As God's representative, he assures us of God's forgiveness. Jesus has more authority than the Jewish high priests because he is truly God and truly man. Unlike the high priest who could go before God only once a year, Christ is always at God's right hand, interceding for us. He is always available to hear us when we pray. NIVLASB

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Jesus is like us because he experienced a full range of temptations throughout his life as a human being. We can be comforted knowing that Jesus faced temptation—he can sympathize with us. We can be encouraged knowing that Jesus faced temptation without giving in to sin. He shows us that we do not have to sin when facing the seductive lure of temptation. Jesus is the only perfect human being who has ever lived. NIVLASB

¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Prayer is our approach to God, and we are to come "with confidence." Some Christians approach God meekly with heads hung low, afraid to ask him to meet their needs. Others pray flippantly, giving little thought to what they say. Come with reverence because he is your King. But also come with bold assurance because he is your Friend and Counselor. NIVLASB

The Light of the World is Jesus

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; The Light of the world is Jesus! Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in, The Light of the world is Jesus! No darkness have we who in Jesus abide, The Light of the world is Jesus; We walk in the light when we follow our Guide! The Light of the world is Jesus! Ye dwellers in darkness with sin blinded eyes, The Light of the world is Jesus; Go, wash, at His bidding, and light will arise, The Light of the world is Jesus! No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told, The Light of the world is Jesus; The Lamb is the light in the City of Gold, The Light of the world is Jesus! Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee; Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me; Once I was blind, But now I can see; The Light of the world is Jesus.