

Chapter 2: Peace Through the Preaching Words (Faith) of the Cross.

Note from the outline above that not only does this ONE COMMENTARY let Paul, or God through Paul, speak but let's them speak in the words and in the outline of Ephesians itself, short departures from the main flow are made only to demonstrate the contemporary applicability or to illustrate the consistency of the whole book of Ephesians and the Word of God, remembering the place of Ephesians in the total New Testament Canon and the sixty-six books of the Word of God and that the study is functional, not academic, to know God through Christ and peace.

Hopefully in this chapter, we can begin to progress beyond MTD, the god of entropy and physics that John Quinn wrote of, and even the spirit guides and energy of Shirley McMichael, the famous wife of the famous John McMichael killed 31 years ago in Northern Ireland supposedly at the doings of the IRA.

1. First Shirley in a Facebook post with which as a FB friend permission was given to quote:

"I believe that we have spirit guides and that these guides can be with you throughout your life ormaybe.... just be with us for a particular event when you most need help. We will all interpret this energy according to our own beliefswhether; we feel it comes from a Guardian Angel or from our loved ones who have passed (animal and human). However, I know that this comforting energy comes from a divine source and when needed it is there for us. We may not even be aware that they have interoened on a particular occasion but maybe feel a particular love and closeness to them on that day."

2. A friend and avowed sceptic John Quinn. In a continuing dialog with an old Navy buddy, John Quinn, of Argentinia Newfoundland, presently of the state of Washington about to move to Florida, All Scripture stated:
 - a. On Dec 17, 2018, at 11:41 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote: Thanks for your patience John. (1) Unless you were in NATTC Millifton on AT training, it had to be in Norfolk on the APS-20 or ECM class. (2) sorry John, equal only in the American Democratic faith as citizens, but it is a different story from heaven's perspective as all the world is divided into children of light, by the grace of God, and the children of this world that have failed to believe IN CHRIST and be regenerated.
 - b. John, a retired President of an aerospace company in San Francisco and always good at PR, definitely feels a kinship as we are survivors, was courteous and frank as always in making this reply:

On Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 12:51 PM John Quinn <john@quinnplatz.com> wrote: Now Jerry, my memory may be slipping, but I distinctly remember that we were roommates somewhere, and it

involved schooling of some sort. I am fairly certain I am way beyond the 'point-of-no-return' regarding those beliefs. Not to worry, we shall all end up as equals after we're gone. Take care Sailor! John.

- c. The sequence of the dialog is somewhat confusing, but it was felt that some very positive and personal statements of faith needed to be made to such a Friend:

On Dec 17, 2018, at 10:42 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote:

For an immediate reaction, (1) God the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible thru Jesus and Apostles in the NT and Prophets in the OT, (2) the intent was the salvation of your soul and the rest of the world from God the Your Creator, (2) Since the Bible came from God our Creator who knows us best and has the hairs of your head numbered (are yours even more than mine) and knows when you sit down and get up and move to Florida, it is sufficient of all you need for life and living; (3) wish I could reproduce for you the great and classical field of Christian Philosophy and Apologetics, but know you do research so considered online men like Elton Trueblood, Bernard Ramm, Dr. R. A. Millikan of Physics fame, Mosma with his book why 40 scientists in government and education believe in God and more; (4) McAdams on Biblical Backgrounds, (4) Werner Keller on The Bible as History translated from German into English. But don't overdo it as request that you follow and read One Commentary on the Bible.

Jerry McMichael By the way John your memory is slipping are you are confusing me with another AT1, my training was not in Biloxi but Millington Tenn., but since you since photos of us in Argentia suppose that you were also in VW-15 or what it -11 or -13. Anyway, we have a great history together and thanks for the time, just hope as I told an AF Colonel working for be at Edwards AFB in F-16 flight test, "Just pray that you have not passed the point of no return, in that you have committed the continued sin of unbelief which is without forgiveness. The Ascended Christ sent God the Holy Spirit to earth to convince the world including you of sin, righteousness, and judgment, so it is His opinion that you must worry about, not mine. Hope it goes well with the Two of you.

- d. Has it previously been mentioned the general post on Ephesians and this commentary that was shared with John to start the dialog:

On Dec 17, 2018, at 9:06 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote:

It is hardly possible to consider oneself as all around open and educated without a good survey of the Bible, even as only classical literature, even better to honor and respect the Bible both as a Book your parents revered and as the divine Word of God and from God. Perhaps you should consider it during this special holiday season.

Since this is a lot of Bible, and needed, on this SunGrist WordPress site you can free download this chapter. If you have trouble because of your device getting to the SunGrist on WordPress, make it known in the comments below with your email address and a full PDF copy will be sent to you immediately. Or if you prefer, you can email for a ONE Chapter 1 PDF to sungrist@gmail.com .

<https://sungrist.net/2018/12/16/one-chapter-1-introduction-to-the-one-commentary/>

NOTE: You mention of Quantum physics and entropy, just the mention of Physics that most people avoid and as one privileged to get a degree in Physics and some graduate work, consider adding to the One Commentary on Ephesians, first written in 1984 and not yet on Amazon, both you and some Physics. Entropy is of course the second law of

thermodynamics stating essential that the universe is running down, and we can find that the same is true in the social, political, and Christianity world. Let me know if you would read it. By the way if you are interested in knowing about the 15 books SunGrist has already put on Amazon, here is the link -- <https://sungrist.net/2018/12/13/books-by-sungrist-on-amazon/>

- e. John like the Millennials is a thoughtful sceptic, replied—

On Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 11:40 AM John Quinn <john@quinnplatz.com> wrote: No doubt Jerry. I am very interested in the Bible, when it was written, by whom and the intent of the writer/editor. Equally important is what was excluded and why, as well as collaborating accounts/absence thereof from contemporary societies. Lastly discoveries in the fossil record and ancient documents. On the whole I do not consider the bible a holy book and certainly not a reliable historical document. Wishing you a Merry Saturnalia, Warm regards, John Sent from my iPhone.

- f. And lastly, John prided himself on his good public relations and sociability, being able to associate and fit in, he says, with his neighbors in Washington:
Don't get discouraged Jerry my old neighbors were over-abundantly religious of every flavor. I was close to many of them and was accepted- I kept them amused with relating to hairless apes. Take care Jerry and celebrate the Solstice- Spring is on the way.....John

NOTE: You have appreciate the fact that these discussions on religion and the Bible go back many years, and so much so SunGrist made the dedication of a website page to John as typical in the world of unbelievers at [http://sungrist.org/Reports To Make Believers.html](http://sungrist.org/Reports_To_Make_Believers.html) headed up with his sending photos of us, our squadron, and planes at Argentina, Newfoundland. In a section of this chapter, it must be mentioned since John is right of "I am not alone" with the photo sent to me with those words; since Shirley and the Millennials also know that they are in the majority and feel good and secure about that. "Security of and in the World".

3. The belief system of the Millennials must be mentioned, and it is purported to be an expression of the American Democratic Faith of American Thought, and adequately represents a majority in America and in the world. (The Description below is from online Got Questions at https://www.gotquestions.org/Moralistic-Therapeutic-Deism.html?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR1Ps3uA_V1dCXBkE6XWegsPbcQG_DuEQdfsfnf8B38LzXD_2UeZ_hGuKmp8 :

"The term Moralistic Therapeutic Deism was first coined by sociologists Christian Smith and Melina Lundquist Denton in their 2005 book Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers (Oxford University Press). Based on extensive research, they identified the predominant beliefs of American teenagers, even those that claim to be Christians. They named the core beliefs Moralistic Therapeutic Deism or MTD. The five core beliefs of MTD are as follows:

- 1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.*
- 2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.*
- 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.*

4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.

5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

2-1: CHRIST IS OUR PEACE.

"For he is our peace " the book of Ephesians tells us. In the words of the NEV, "For he is himself our peace " (2:14). Christ Himself is our peace. And under this subject heading, we will briefly review the exegetical contents of the book of Ephesians with sub-headings of: (1) Peace between God and man; (2) Peace between Jew and Gentile; (3) Peace in the individual heart; and (4) Peace on earth.

Five key verses of all of Ephesians are found in 2:14-18

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (KJV)

1. Peace between God and man. "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby " This speaks of the doctrine of reconciliation. How a sinful mankind was reconciled to a holy God thru the price that Christ paid in His death on the cross. It is the heart of the gospel that Paul talks about in I Corinthians 15: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures " (1-3 KJV) It is similar to justification. It declares the righteousness of God as Paul writes in Romans, "that he (God) might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (3:26 KJV) Just and the justifier. The cross of Christ made God just for the sins He had overlooked in the past, the sins He will overlook or forgive in the present and in the future; and the cross of Christ made God the justifier of all that will believe in Christ.

Redemption is also closely related. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus " (Rom. 3:24 KJV) God redeems or buys back through the cross the lost humanity that really belongs to Him in the first place. "But God, rich in mercy, for the great love he bore us, brought us to life with Christ even when we were dead in our sins; it is by his grace you are saved." (Eph. 2:4,5 NEV) All these words try to describe what happened between God and man with Christ's death on the cross.

Propitiation is another great doctrinal word about the cross. "Whom God hath set forth (Christ) to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God " (Rom. 3:25 KJV)

Always, it is through what Christ did on the cross and through faith that there is propitiation, redemption, justification, and reconciliation. Praise be to our God for the great work that He wrought in Christ's death on the cross:

2. Peace between Jew and Gentile. This is the ultimate test of the gospel., If it can make peace between the Jew and the Gentile, it can do it all. Or more specifically, if it can make peace between the Jew and the Arab--although while there could be some question as to whether an Arab is a Gen tile, he is certainly not a Jew; and with only two categories in the scripture, he must be a Gentile--then the gospel is unlimited in its capability to bring peace on earth.

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace " (Eph. 2:14-15 KJV)

God made Jew and Gentile one; God broke down, through the cross of Christ and faith in Christ, the great wall that stood between Jew and Gentile; God obliterated the enmity- and that within itself is peace--between Jew and Gentile; and God brought the two together in one new humanity. That is peace. Yet we don't see peace between every Jew and every Gentile. We definitely do not see peace between most Jews and most Arabs. What happened? God made peace between them. The capability is there. The potential exist that did not exist before Christ's death on the cross. Yet it is through faith as well as through the cross. Individual faith. Each individual Jew and each individual Gentile must personally exercise faith in Christ's blood for the peace to be effective.

What peace that already exists on this earth through faith in Christ, Paul will later urge all Christians to capitalize on. **"Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives." (Eph. 4:3 NEV)**

3. Peace in the individual heart. As the individual--any individual believes, the individual heart rests at peace. It is a peace that comes from knowing that all is right between us and our Maker. That the way He has provided for salvation--call it propitiation, justification, redemption, reconciliation, the cross, the blood, or in many-other descriptive terminology of the Bible--that way has been accepted by the believing individual. It is Philippians, not Ephesians, that talks of, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (4:7 KJV) But it is Ephesians that speaks of, "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (3:19 KJV) Passing knowledge is passing understanding; keeping the heart and mind is like unto being filled with the fulness of Gods and the great prayer of Paul for all Christians in chapter three of Ephesians ends with a reminder: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 1:20,21 KJV)

That brings peace. It even goes beyond the requests of prayer in Philippians that prefaces the "peace that passeth understanding": **"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil'. 4:6 KJV)** Our requests which we can think of and ask of God are to be continuously made to God; but the message of Ephesians is that God can do far more than we can even ask or think. That brings peace. A confidence of the power that works inside us: **"For through him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Eph. 2:18 KJV)**

4. Peace on earth. The angel announced the birth of Christ: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." {Luke 2:10,11 KJV} A multitude of heavenly host was with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (2:14)

Did the heavenly host lie when it said, "PEACE ON THE EARTH"? You don't see peace on the earth. Could the heavenly host been deceived even as it looked down from the vantage point high above at what was happening in the Roman Empire of 1 A.D.? No, I think not. For peace was on earth, because as of then Christ was on the earth. For, "Christ is himself our peace."

Once on this earth, Christ "came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Eph. 2:17 KJV) Preaching peace, Christ said: **"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." (John 14:27 KJV)** Preaching peace, Christ said: **"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever "** (John 14:16 KJV); Preaching peace, Christ said **"I will not leave you comfortless I will come to you." (John 14:18 KJV);** and Preaching peace, Christ said: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:11-3 KJV) And lest we as Christians miss all these benefits of peace, Paul reminds us near the conclusion of Ephesians to be practical about the matter, appropriating for ourselves this inward peace and power by: **"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (6:10,11 KJV)**

2-2: A PRACTICAL COMMENTARY.

Peace as the world can give through "Star Wars" may or may not come, as laudable as are the efforts of President Reagan. Peace on this earth may not even be possible except in the sense spoken of by the heavenly host in announcing the birth of Jesus when they said, "peace on earth and good will toward men." Or peace may be available only in the sense Jesus meant when He said the peace He gave was not as the world gives. Some even think that while peace is an idealistic and worthy goal for achievement, it is not practical to consider that it will spread over the whole world.

Ephesians is practical. The book talks of a peace that is practical and that is immediately achievable in this life and with prospects for deeper and more lasting peace in the life to come. ONE COMMENTARY ON EPHESIANS, like Ephesians, is practical. Initially focusing in the devotional comments on some of the down-to-earth and practical subjects like the boss, the job, security, and purpose, it from the beginning shows the relevance of Ephesians to the life we live each day.

Ephesians is a book about life; and ONE COMMENTARY, taking the clue and tone from Ephesians, is a practical commentary on life. Both face up to the worst that man can be as alienated from God and without hope in the world as well as the best man can be as in the words of Stott as part of God's New Creation. There are grand, way-out themes in Ephesians. It occasionally soars all the way up into heavenly realms to view the decisions that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit made in the councils of eternity, yet each time Paul's feet return to this earthly planet where with renewed inspiration a practical application is made that will help the Christian Pilgrim progress along the thorny paths of life. ONE commentary is a commentary on life as well as on Ephesians. Ephesians itself is a commentary on life.

Existing commentaries on Ephesians--both old and new- have made contributions to this study, and acknowledgements where possible will be made to these scholars. However, ONE commentary is more functional than academic: the goal has been to cull that which is practical in the daily living of the Christian life. And since this is also the goal of God through Paul, who would have us "complete every task and still stand", the extent to which scholarship has been faithful to the purpose of God for Ephesians in the New Testament Canon has helped to bring us all into a unity of understanding on this portion of the Word of God.

2-3: This Is Your Life.

When you read Ephesians, you are reading about your own life. If you are a Christian, it will remind you of both what your life was like before you became a Christian and what it is like now or can be. If you are not a Christian, you can find in Ephesians from your Creator a description of alienation from God that should strike accord with the feelings of your own heart and a description of a more peaceful way that should

challenge the best in you. Ephesians chapter 1 tells us that IN CHRIST we have been blessed by God with all kinds of spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms. Christians are chosen from before the foundation of the world; they are adopted as sons by the very God of the universe; they are forgiven; and they are sealed by the very power of the God that created all things, to be kept by the power of God into eternity--just to name some of the spiritual blessings that presently puts the believer squarely in heavenly realms.

Then in Ephesians chapter 2, Christian pilgrims comes back to earth, passing from heavenly realms to earthly history as we are reminded of human misery, sin, wickedness, rebellion, and the trend of this world. But briefly! For that is all we can take or need by way of annotation of our problems. Chapter 2 quickly passes to the solution--God's rescue program for the human race; and even as God in Christ left the security of heavenly realms to walk the dusty roads of life, preaching peace, and then ascended back to the heavenly Father, a similar plan is offered to humanity whereby God "hath quickened us together with Christ" (2:5), "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (2:6,7 KJV)

Your life is bracketed by a discrete amount of time; and although Ephesians is authored on the divine side by the Lord to whom a thousand years is as one day and vice versa, He speaks practically to mortals in Ephesians 2 about time- "Time was when " (2:11 NEV) Your life has memories, many of which you would like to forget; and although God is purposefully forgetful, promising to remember our sins no more, He condescends to human needs, saying "Remember then your former condition" (2:11 NEV) in order to progress from past to present with "But now in union with Christ Jesus . " (2:13 NEV)

2-4: Appreciate Your Blessings Now.

Ephesians 1 contains a "roll-call" of spiritual blessings in heavenly realms that can be appreciated now, chapters 2-5 amplify on and reinforce these blessings, and chapter 6 makes the supreme application of these blessings to life by encouraging the Christian warrior to **"Put on the whole armor of God " (6:11 KJV)**

1. Before God made the world, He thought it more important to choose you as a Christian. Sometimes we are over powered by the things we see in the world, the works of God and the works of man; but the God who "In the beginning created the heaven and the earth " (Gen. 1:1 KJV) and the God who commissioned man, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it and have dominion " (Gen. 1a28

KJV) is the same God "that was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself " (II Cor. 5:19 KJV) and the same God "who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20 KJV)

2. This omnipotent Being has adopted you as one of His sons. "But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name " (John 1:12 KJV)

3. Right now as a Christian you have written in your heart the will that assures you of a complete and eternal inheritance from God, "**after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession "** (Eph. 1:13,14 KJV)

4. God has let you know the secret meaning of the universe. A secret that was hidden from the foundation of the world, but which God has now revealed in Ephesians and on which you can now have illumination with the help of the Holy Spirit.

5. With this purpose for the universe God has also revealed a plan to bring it about; and both are yours today in the book of Ephesians if God through the Holy Spirit wants to let you know.

6. As a Christian, you have hope--an assurance that what God has promised will really come to pass. (Eph. 1:18; Eph. 2:12; Eph. 4:4; and Eph. 6:17)

7. Right now, you have unlimited power available.(Eph. 1:19, 3:20, and 6:10)

8. You are rich in the inheritance that you have with all Christians. "**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."** (Eph. 1:18 KJV)

NOTE: If have not yet become a believer IN CHRIST, it is prayed that these blessings of belief might be yours also. Amen.

2-5: Heavenly Realms to Earthly Armor.

The last aspect to illustrate how Ephesians and ONE are a practical commentary on life takes us from heaven to earth, from blessings to armor, from peace to warfare. It begins with Ephesians 1:3 where we read--

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ " (KJV)

And concludes with Ephesians 6:11 where we read

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (KJV)

As Ephesians passes from heavenly realms to the seven pieces of earthly armor, it also progresses through seven stages of development with each stage dealing with all seven pieces of the armor. The stages are (1) great doctrinal statements or truths about the spiritual blessings in heavenly realms of chapter one; (2) history of the Christian *life* in chapter two with contrasts of time, memory, and Christ; (3) prayer for all Christians, like Jesus's prayer that all Christians may be ONE; (4) then, in chapter four, Christians are encouraged to be worthy of the calling; (5) behavioral modification in terms of "walking" dominates most of chapters four and five; (6) Proverbs from Ephesians are scattered from chapter four to six; and (7) the focal point of the Christian life in chapter six, where life is lived and the battle is fought each day.

2-6: ULTIMATE INTEGRATION.

The ultimate theme of Ephesians is ultimate integration. The more you revel in this portion of God's Word, the more you will see it's the supreme integration in God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the integration of heaven and earth under the Lordship of Christ; the integration of human character and personality into a whole person; the integration of husband and wife into one; and the integration of individual Christians into the total church body of all God's people.

The word "integration" as commonly used has at least three distinct meanings. Socially. We Americans that have lived over half a century have witnessed personally dramatic changes in the integration of races in our schools and churches. Mathematically. As students know all too well integration and differentiation are the two opposite processes of the branch of mathematics known as calculus. Psychologically. Wayne Oates, a Christian psychologist, in his book *THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY* lists integration along with meaning and purpose as dimensions of man's religious being and becoming personality.

Not as commonly known is a higher integration which is the major theme of the book of Ephesians. This theme may encompass much that is implied in social, mathematical, and psychological "integration"; but goes far beyond it, as far as the heaven is from the earth. Ultimate integration is an integration into God and into God's purpose. It is an integration from infinity to infinity, from before the beginning of time to eternity, represented mathematically as: It is an integration under the rule of Christ, into the body of Christ, and through the Holy Spirit integration as part of God's new creation; and represents the trend of progression for the universe, a happy portion in the great world climax, and an inheritance incorruptible with a down payment now on assurance of the full glory to come.

Ultimate integration is a matter of personal identification with the God that made this whole thing. While in Genesis we learn how the ONE God of Father, Son (John 1:1-3),

and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:12) "In the beginning, created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1 KJV); in Ephesians we learn for what purpose God made it all and how we can fit into this plan and program.

It is a big universe; Our God is bigger because He made it all. His purpose and plan is also big; and although we may feel small in comparison, which we should, we can have a part in this large program, In fact, the assurance of Ephesians is that even before the Trinity set out to create the heaven and the earth, God chose us to be Christians "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4 KJV). God cares about the world, because He is going to redeem it also; but He cares more about the people in the world for which all things were made and for whom Christ died on the cross.

Mathematicians get closer to ultimate truth than they realize as they delve into the mysteries of this universe. For example, as in the integration of calculus or as in the matrix theory of algebra and computer programming. They have defined in matrix theory the IDENTITY MATRIX as:

1 0 1

0 1 0

0 0 1

with three members of one. Also, it is interesting to note that even in the fundamental arithmetic of mathematics that any number multiplied or divided by one retains its own identity. Our God is a mathematician and a physicist and a psychologist, for He created all these mysteries that humanity is just now beginning to understand; but He is also a PERSON that loves people and that actively seeks for people to personally identify with Him through Christ.

The seven ONES of Ephesians 4:4-6 are clustered around the three members of the Trinity--

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, am in you all." (KJV)

Surely ONE is the ultimate integration, God and God's people become as one, God's purpose and the Christian calling as one, God's plan and Christian methods as one; heaven and earth, one; tangibles become one with things which cannot be seen; personal priorities become one with eternal. priorities, visible integrate with invisibilities 1 doctrine and Persons become one; and the Living Truth becomes truth that is alive and rightness that which is livable, One with God the Father, one with God the Son, and one with God the Holy Spirit; and the close relationship of the Trinity Itself

tightens the integration of connections with the Three, The message of Ephesians is to tighten those connections or associations with the members of the Godhead!

"... make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives," (Eph. 4:1-3 NEV)

Yet we are alarmed when the "Peace Committee" of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention reports that "there can be no peace without causalities," Surely Southern Baptists represent a large portion of the presently existing body of Christ, and yet they cannot find grounds for peace and unity even among their own members,

NOTE: This is a much larger problem of the Falling Away and how the SBC made significant contributions to the Falling Away, not only by showing a lack of unity and peace by splitting into 3 separate denominations, but by the warfare lead by Criswell, Rogers, and Stanley that destroyed the careers and reputations of much better men of love and service that were preachers, pastors, and teachers. It is little recognized but what really destroyed the SBC was Scofield, the Scofield Reference Bible, and Scofield mites: the Roman Vatican had its great falling away apostasy about 1000 A.D. as the "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils" forbade priest to marry (now in the law courts you are seeing what this caused); and now in the law courts you are seeing something of the type of Scofield mite like Judge Pressler that hatched the 10 year takeover plan of a lack of peace and unity. You can make a very good case for in the SBC the doctrines of devils of Scofield and Scofield mites had to accompanied with seducing spirits, the type that caused divisions and the type that made that casualty stated of the so-called Peace Committee led by Adrian Rogers, and the statement shortly before the split made by Criswell to Bill Moyer of "we are going to keep fighting until one side or the other wins."

We think of this social and religious warfare in the SBC, we think of the long history of wars centered around religion and religious differences, we think of the troubles in Ireland between the catholic and Presbyterians, likewise in Scotland with "the killing times" of the covenanters. Can you imagine and remember that some authorities on history during the 50's were saying that all wars were over but look across the world that all we have now! Israelis daily battle with Muslim countries that would seek to destroy them and democracy in the Middle East; within their own borders with Gaza and the West Bank are breeding grounds of Palestinian terrorists with some legal claims to the land. Hezbollah in Lebanon, in Syria, and in Iran underground efforts are made against the current borders of Israel.

What is the criterion for peace and unity among Christians?

That is the prime subject of the book of Ephesians, it lays God's foundation or criterion for peace and unity--more peace and more unity with more ultimate integration, the unity of Ephesians comes from each member of the Godhead, but the Holy Spirit gives

it as the point of practical implementation in the individual, life of the believer and in the total collective body of Christ. It is a unity through God's purpose--a purpose at work in history from the beginning, a purpose established from before the beginning of history, a purpose revealed through the Apostle Paul in Ephesians as one of the great mysteries of the ages, and a purpose that inevitably will find fulfillment at the end of time as we know it, Unity through the death and Headship of Christ.

Ultimate integration speaks of total redemptions of the world, God's people, and the Christian--body and soul. It alludes to a "new heaven and a new earth" in that this is the only place for ultimate fulfillment where no murder or unrighteousness is allowed. Ultimate integration of Christian personality in this life can be described under the word's "integrity" and "learn Christ." It is a matter of coming to the "full stature of Christ" with integrity that includes honesty, reality, intellectual honesty, and characters like Job who lost everything and still God gave him the supreme compliment that Job walked in the integrity of his heart and like David, who although he sinned, God still summarized his life as "he walked in the integrity of his heart", we also can work toward the achievement of this ultimate compliment from God Himself.

2-7: God is in Control.

We all know that often it seems like with the god of entropy and physics for John Quinn, there is no control and giant purpose in this universe, or like the energy of some spirit of Shirley that intervenes periodically, and that reminds us of the MTD beliefs of the millenniums and their parents and teachers.

The famous in Ireland Shirley McMichael allowed me to make the following comment in her John McMichael memorial of 31 years:

"Jerry McMichael Thank you Shirley McMichael, that had to be hard and at the moment don't know what to say, maybe later; but to express my own convictions that God is in control and it is by the grace of God that any of us live and continue to live. Also think that I need to share equally with you the true story of when I died 6 times almost 8 years ago while playing tennis on the McLeland tennis courts, well 3 times on the court and 3 in the ambulance. To be brief because this is your story and John's, not mine, the true miracle was after rehab when the doctors and others wanted to implant an AED close to my heart which was turned down for a poor quality of life, then later my blood flow increased beyond the need. Excuse me for saying like the ER doctor at John Hopkins Hospital that yes "it was a medical miracle", and the answer to prayers of my wife and loved ones, and Coreg and other medicines, a good open heart surgeon; but it MUST BE STATED the overall miracle and overseeing miracle was God our Heavenly Father and his guardian angel like you stated. thanks again Shirley McMichael, and hope this helps some without intruding on your story that all McMichaels would love to hear about the most famous of McMichaels, John and Shirley. With your permission and I will wait for that,

would like to share it in the Scots, Ulster Scots, and McMichael group.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/225769544474946/> “

2-8: Security of and in the World.

There is little doubt that the Millennials and their American society, also Shirley and John feel secure by being the majority in the world. With your patience and forbearance, it is necessary to be frank about these matters from God Himself and Jesus as recorded in the Bible, the Word of God. Like Martin Luther, “We stand on the Word of God, we can know nothing less”; however more than that we know of a surety and the Bible is the Word of God: divine in origin, sufficient in its message for life and living, dynamic alive and with high fidelity on communications when the internal rules for understanding in the Bible are met, self-interpretive with the ASPI version, and if educated men like Christian Smith of Notre Dame and the average citizen knew this they would not make the excuse and excuses of “there are too many translations of the Bible”. This is worse than the many who say, “Physics and Math are too hard to understand”, which really says either they have had some unpleasant experience with or have not studied it. (At least John wants to claim a god of physics and entropy and hope he will listen to Millikan in “Evolution in Science and Religion” about absolute truth and relative truth.)

1. First, Jesus said the majority would not believe and will go the broad way of ease and comfort and pride of life to destruction.

**“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
(Matthew 7:13,14)**

2. Secondly, the pride of life and other lusts and sins are not part of the original creations of God, and WILL PASS AWAY, no eternal life.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (I John 2:15-17)

3. Later comments on the beliefs of the millennials and their society, but for now the Got Questions have a sufficient answer from the Bible.

“The most important point concerning Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, however, is not the difference between theism and deism, but how far removed from biblical truth some young people

are. The beliefs of MTD are not isolated to Millennials, either. It seems that many people simply view God as a “cosmic genie,” a “divine bellhop,” or a roadside assistance mechanic – you don’t know Him or need to, but you can call Him when you are broken down and He will come and get you going again. The most important thing, according to MTD, is to be good, nice, and tolerant, and God will ultimately receive you into heaven. This view is probably held by a lot of Americans and seems to be becoming the dominant “civic religion,” which emphasizes the horizontal relationships with other people but minimizes a relationship with God. In short, MTD puts humanity at the center and, ultimately, each individual at the center of his or her own belief system.

Biblical Christians will have problems with all 5 key points of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

1. Not just “a god” exists, but the God of the Bible, who has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Whoever does not honor Jesus Christ as God does not honor God (see [John 5:23](#)).
2. God does not just want people to be “nice” but commands that they obey Him. He is the One who defines good and nice. He calls sin “sin” and promises to judge it (see [Romans 1:18–32](#)).
3. The central goal of life is to give glory to God. A by-product may be that we feel good about ourselves, but that is not the goal (see [Romans 11:36](#)).
4. Our primary goal as believers is to be constantly in tune with God, following His leading and in daily fellowship with Him. We are to “pray without ceasing” ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)).
5. No one is good enough to go to heaven. All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory ([Romans 3:23](#)); no one is good enough, and that is why we need Jesus. He lived the perfect life that we could not, and He died to pay for our sin so that we might be made acceptable to God. “‘He himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed’” ([1 Peter 2:24](#)).

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism is not an official religion. Probably no one would ever identify himself as a “Moralistic Therapeutic Deist.” The real problem is that [moralism](#) is not Christianity, and most people who hold these beliefs are likely to identify themselves as Christians when in fact they are living to glorify themselves!”

2-8: Exegesis of Ephesians the Goal, probably more Analysis since there is only One ASPI interpretation of the Bible (II Peter 1:19-21), so a Preview for encouragement of Chapter 3 of ONE commentary, chapter 1 of Ephesians.

Possibly you are wondering with this transition chapter from Paul’s statement of faith and practice in Ephesians of chapter one, really an outline, paraphrase, and exegesis, to the next chapter three, WHERE IS THE EXEGESIS OF EPHESIANS? So, at the end of this chapter we want to give you a brief preview of Chapter 3 on “IN CHRIST”, which is an exegesis of Ephesians chapter 1:

“IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1)

Chapter one of Ephesians immediately turns the reader's eyes upon Jesus and then counts one by one the many spiritual blessings that belong to the Christian in heavenly realms, in Christ. one "From Paul " in the first two words. with "Christ Jesus" used twice in the first twenty-two verses (NEV), is addressed to Christians without the use of the word "Christian", "to God's people at Ephesus, believers incorporate in Christ Jesus." (1:1) How do you address a group of Christians? The word "Christian" is found only three times in the Bible in the King James Version; In Acts 11:26 disciples of Christ existed before they were first called Christians at the city of Antioch; and as far as we know from the Bible, Jesus never called them Christians. God the Holy Spirit inspired Paul in Ephesians, as translated by the New English Version (NEV), to call theme (1) God's people at Ephesus, with the name of the local church left blank, to be filled in by the reader of this circular letter; and (2) believers incorporate in Christ Jesus, placing the emphasis on Jesus and on "believers incorporate in". Ephesians 1 in the KJV addresses as "the saints at Ephesus. and the faithful in Christ Jesus " All this reminds us that it is not so important what we are called as it is that we are identified with Christ and that we are God's people "at" the particular location where we are "commissioned by the will of God", If not as an "apostle" like Paul, still as an essential. member of a local body. knit together with all the rest.

"In Christ" is the favorite choice of Paul and God in the first chapter of Ephesians as the status and standing of the Christian is described. Ten times in Ephesians 1 in the NEV the words "in Christ" are used. It is a praise to Christ for the spiritual. blessings that Christians have in heavenly realms while Paul breathlessly enumerates them in one long sentence from verse three to fourteen in the original Greek.