

Ephesians Series

Lesson #185

March 19, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2023, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

**Spiritual Skills:
Learning to Love God
Deuteronomy 6:5–8**



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

What we learned last time:

- **Salvation is not by works, but for good works, Eph. 2:8–10.**
- **All Christians will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Cor. 5:9–10; 1 Cor. 3:12–15.**
- **All are saved eternally, but not all receive rewards, 1 Cor. 3:15.**
- **All run the race, but some are disqualified from receiving crowns, which are rewards, not eternal life, 2 Cor. 9:24–27.**

Three things to remember:

Good works are not inevitable. After being saved we must decide to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ or not.

Regeneration, being born again, does not minimize our sin nature. It only gives us a new identity and new relationship to God where we are no longer under the tyranny of the sin nature.

The skills we need to control the sin nature are our study.

In this lesson:

- **There are two categories of heirs: heirs of God, and heirs of Christ if we suffer with Him. Rom. 8:17**
- **What and why do we suffer?**

What the Bible Teaches About

**Spiritual Skills for
LIFE**



Spiritual Adolescence (νεανίσκοι, *neaniskoi*, 1 John 2:13)

Personal Sense of Your Eternal Destiny

Rom. 8:16–17

Spiritual Childhood (τέκνον, *teknon*)

Confess
1 John 1:9

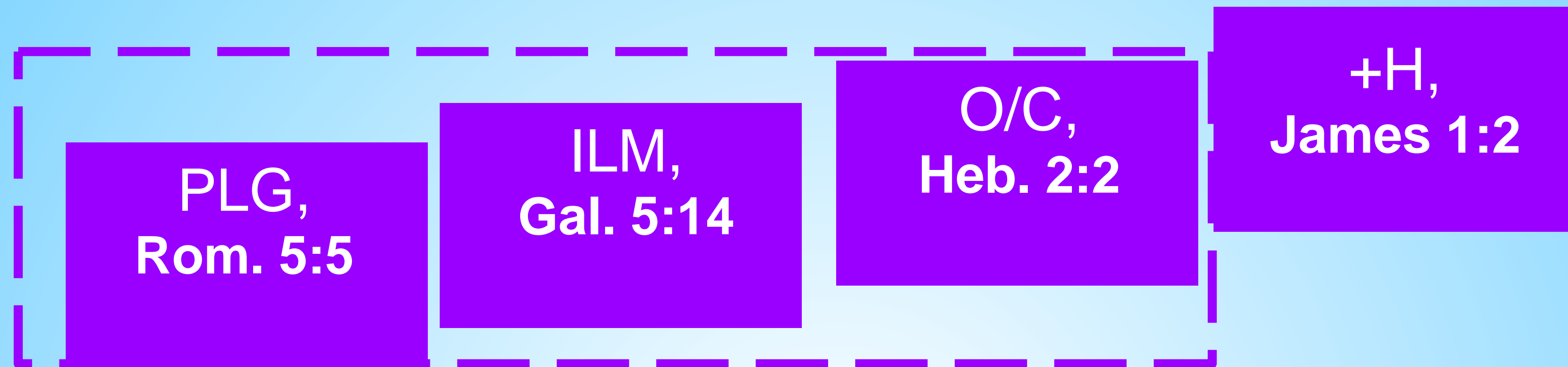
WHS, FHS
Eph. 5:18

FRD
2 Pet. 1:3, 4

G/O
2 Pet. 3:18

D/O
2 Pet. 3:18

Spiritual Adults (υἱοὶ, *huioi*, adult sons, Rom. 8:14)



Spiritual Adolescence (νεανίσκοι, *neaniskoi*, 1 John 2:13)

Personal Sense of Your Eternal Destiny
Rom. 8:16–17

Spiritual Childhood (τέκνον, *teknon*)



Living in Light of Eternity

Spiritual Skill #7 Personal Love for God

Conclusions

1. Every Christian builds on the foundation of their salvation: faith in Jesus Christ as the promised and prophesied Messiah, who like the Passover Lamb, died as a sacrifice to take away the sin of the world.
2. We build with **moral** works which God has nothing to do with (wood, hay, straw), or we build by walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and those divinely enabled **spiritual** works have eternal value (gold, silver, precious stones).
3. Thus there are two kinds of believers, those with rewards, those without, but all are saved. In this life we cannot determine which is which.
4. Our life's work will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

What the Bible Teaches About Christian Suffering



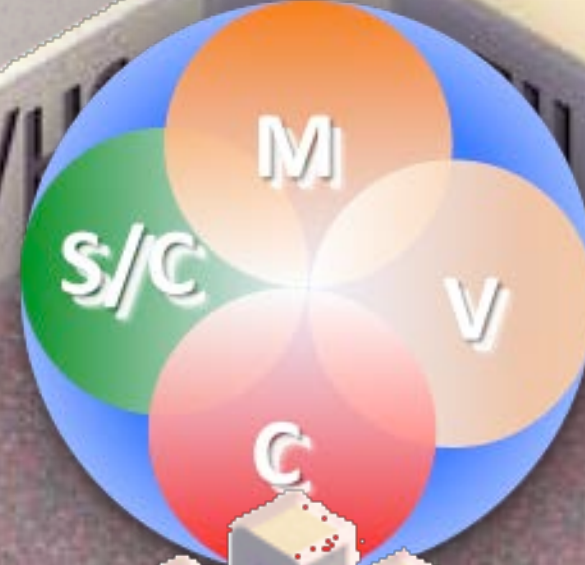
What Have We Learned:

- 1. Each of us will be rewarded by a Judge who has suffered as we have.**
- 2. All believers in Christ are heirs of God.**
- 3. Believers who are faithful receive an additional inheritance. “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
Luke 19:17a.**



PERSONAL LOVE
for GOD

FAITH
REST
DRILL



FILLING/HOLY SPIRIT

FILLING/HOLY SPIRIT

DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION

PERSONAL SENSE
of ETERNAL DESTINY

GRACE
ORIENTATION

GRACE
ORIENTATION

FILLING/HOLY SPIRIT



#7 Personal Love for God

- **As the believer learns about God and all God has provided for Him, appreciation increases along with a desire to obey God and serve Him.**
- **Love for God is measured by obedience, not emotion.**
- **Love for God motivates the believer to press on to spiritual maturity.**

#7 Personal Love for God

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Deut. 11:1, “Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.”

#7 Personal Love for God

Josh. 23:10, “One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you.

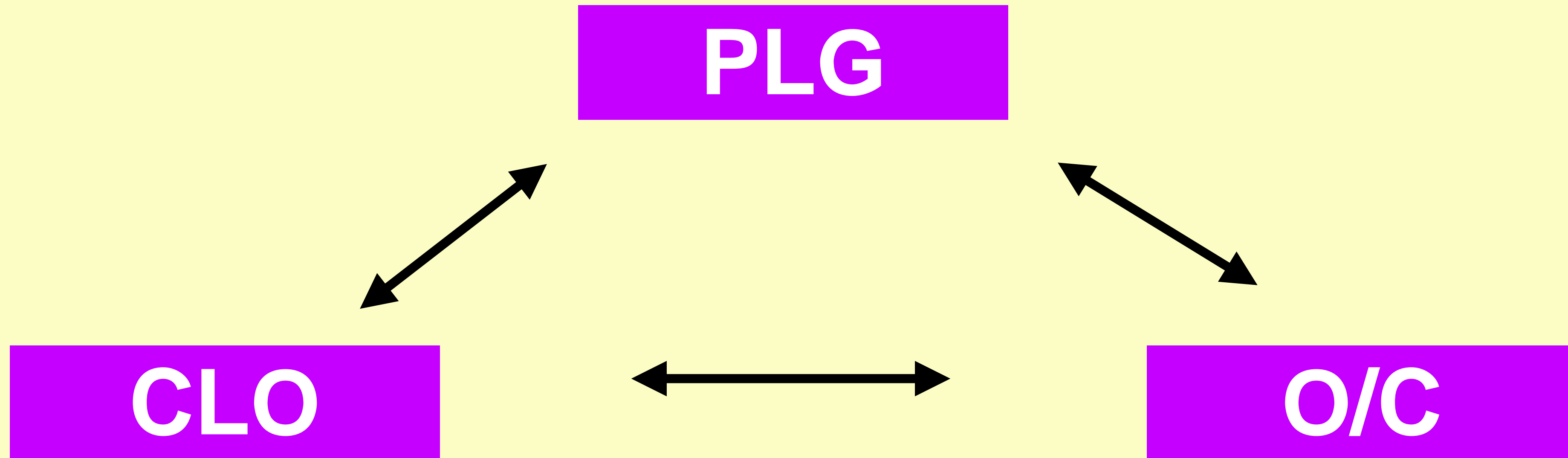
Josh. 23:11, “Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.”

#7 Personal Love for God

John 14:23, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 14:24, “ ‘He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’ ”

#7 Personal Love for God



#7 Personal Love for God

Matt. 22:34, “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

Matt. 22:35, “Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ ”

#7 Personal Love for God

Matt. 22:37, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD’ your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Matt. 22:38, “ ‘This is the first and great commandment.

Matt. 22:39, “ ‘And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ’ ”

Matt. 22:35, “Then one of them, a lawyer [*nomikos*—*expert in the Torah*], asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ ”

Mark 12:28, “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ ”

The scribes declared that there were 248 affirmative precepts as many as the members of the human body; and 365 negative precepts, as many as the days in the year; the total being 613, the number of letters in the Decalogue.

Mark 12:29, “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: “*Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*”

Mark 12:30, “ ‘ “*And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*” This is the first commandment.

Mark 12:31, “ ‘ And the second, like it, is this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ ”

Mark 12:30, “ ‘ “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment.’ ”

ἀγαπάω *agapaō* pres act infin to love

**καρδία *kardia* gen fem sing heart, fig,
for the mind, or inner most thoughts**

**ψυχή *psuchē* fem
sing gen soul,
self, life**

**σύνεσις *sunesis* gen fem sing
understanding, intelligence**

ἰσχύς *ischus* gen fem sing strength, might

Mark 12:30, “ ‘ “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment.’ ”

Matt. 22:37, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ”

**καρδία *kardia* gen fem sing heart, fig,
for the mind, or inner most thoughts**

**ψυχή *psuchē* fem
sing gen soul,
self, life**

**σύνεσις *sunesis* gen fem sing
understanding, intelligence**

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

הַיְהוָה אֱהַב

**qal perf 2
masc sing
consec
to love**

#7 Personal Love for God

“What is the love of God that is appropriate? It is to love God with an exceedingly strong love until one’s soul is tied to the love of God. One should be ... *like a person who is ‘lovesick,’* whose thoughts cannot turn from his love for a particular woman. He is *preoccupied* with her at all times, whether he is sitting or standing, whether he is eating or drinking. Even more intense should the love of God be in the hearts of those who love him, possessing them always as we are commanded ‘with all your heart and with all your soul.’ ” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

~Maimonides, *Laws of Repentance*, 10:3

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

לֵבָב *levav*

**heart, mind,
understanding**

נֶפֶשׁ

nefesh
soul

מְאֹד *me'od*

**very,
exceedingly,
much, force,
abundance**

#7 Personal Love for God

Deut. 6:6, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deut. 6:7, “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deut. 6:8, “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deut. 6:9, “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”