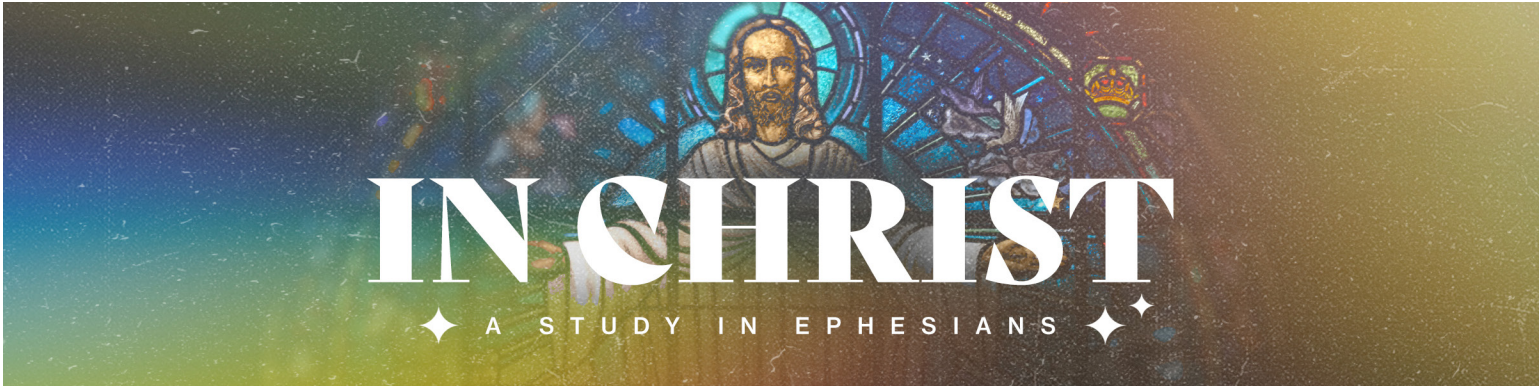




IN CHRIST

✦ A STUDY IN EPHESIANS ✦

DAY 1: THE FOOTPRINTS WE LEAVE BEHIND

DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever thought about the invisible trail you leave everywhere you go? Not just physical footprints, but spiritual ones that impact every person you encounter. Like a detective examining evidence at a scene, people around us are constantly observing the traces of our faith - or lack thereof. Every conversation, every reaction to stress, every decision we make leaves an imprint on someone's heart. The question isn't whether we're leaving traces - we always are. The question is: what story do those traces tell about the God we serve? When someone examines the evidence of your life, what do they discover? Do they find traces of patience when things don't go your way? Evidence of kindness when others are difficult? Fingerprints of grace when you've been wronged? Your life is a living testimony, and every interaction is an opportunity to point someone toward Christ. The beautiful truth is that God doesn't expect perfection from us - He simply asks us to be authentic followers who are being transformed by His love. When we stumble, even our response to failure can leave traces of humility and dependence on God's grace. Today, as you go about your routine, remember that you're not just living your life - you're creating evidence of God's work in you. Your coworkers, family members, and even strangers are watching. What will they conclude about the God you serve based on the spiritual footprints you leave behind?

BIBLE VERSE:

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." - Ephesians 5:1

REFLECTION QUESTION:

If someone were to examine the 'evidence' of your life over the past week, what conclusions would they draw about your relationship with God?

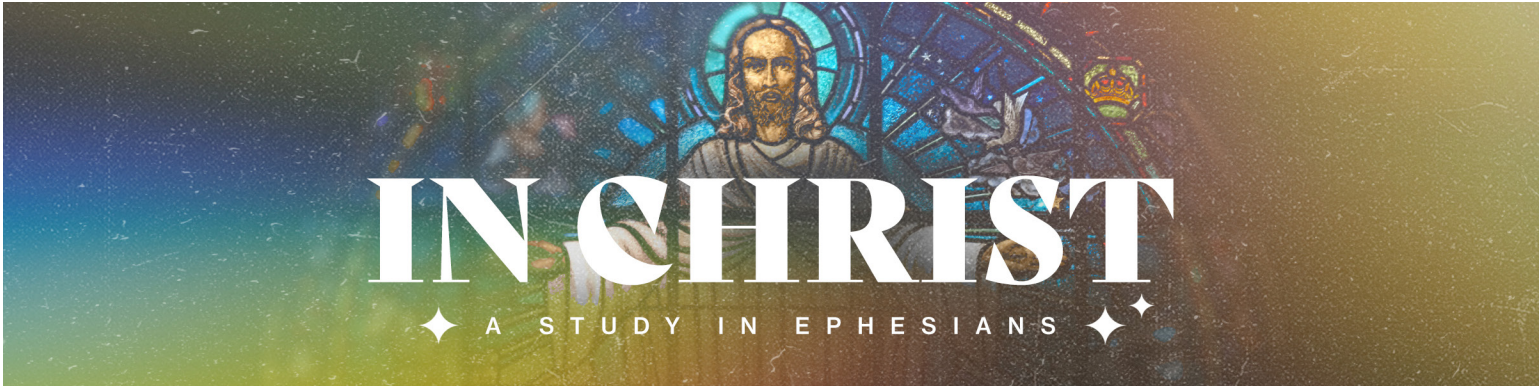
SERMON QUOTE:

"Every step you and I take spiritually leaves behind a trace. You're leaving a mark. You're leaving footprints at every step that you take. The question is, what kind of imprint are you leaving behind?"

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to be mindful that every step I take leaves a trace of Your presence in my life. May the evidence I leave behind always point others toward Your love and grace. Make me conscious of the spiritual footprints I'm creating today.

NOTES:



IN CHRIST

✦ A STUDY IN EPHESIANS ✦

DAY 2: THE ART OF HOLY IMITATION

DEVOTIONAL:

In a world that constantly tells us to “be yourself” and “don’t copy anyone,” God calls us to something radically different: imitate Him. This isn’t about losing our unique personality or becoming a robot. It’s about allowing God’s character to shine through our individual gifts and circumstances. Think about how children naturally imitate their parents. They copy mannerisms, repeat phrases, and mirror behaviors - often without even realizing it. As God’s children, we’re called to this same kind of natural imitation, but it requires intentionality. When we imitate God, we’re not putting on a performance or trying to earn His approval. We’re simply allowing His nature to flow through us because we’ve spent time with Him. Just as spending time with a friend influences how you speak and think, spending time with God transforms how you love, forgive, and respond to life’s challenges. The beautiful thing about imitating God is that He’s the perfect role model. Unlike human heroes who eventually disappoint us, God’s character never fails. His love never runs out, His patience never expires, and His wisdom never leads us astray. Today, instead of trying to be like the world around you, set your sights higher. Look to God as your example. When faced with a difficult situation, ask yourself: “How would God respond to this?” The more you practice this holy imitation, the more natural it becomes.

BIBLE VERSE:

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” - Matthew 5:48

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In what specific area of your life do you most need to imitate God’s character, and what would that look like practically?

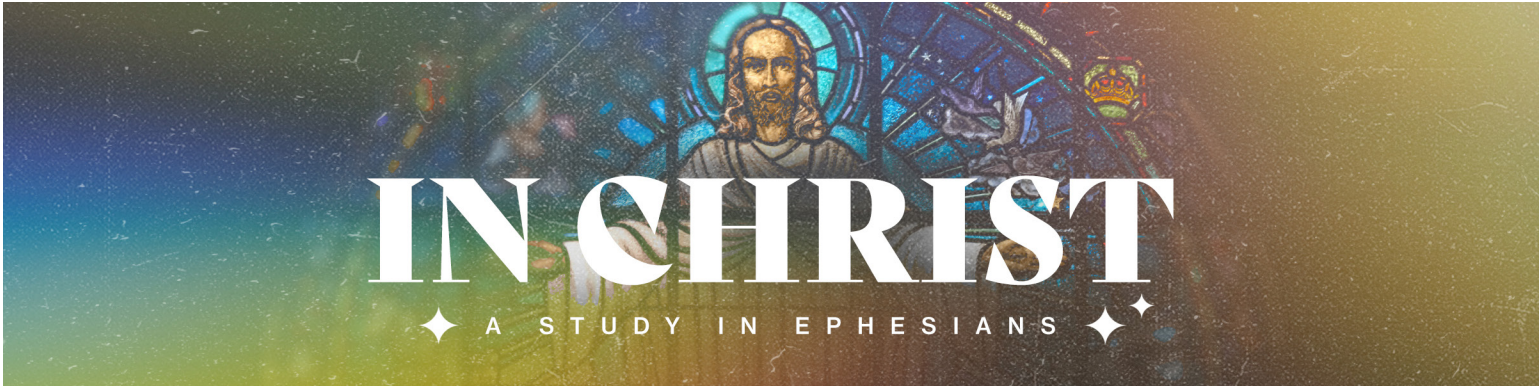
SERMON QUOTE:

“You and I are to be imitators of God.”

PRAYER:

Father, help me to imitate You in all I do. Transform my heart so that Your love, patience, and wisdom flow naturally through my words and actions. Show me how to reflect Your character in my unique circumstances today.

NOTES:



IN CHRIST

✦ A STUDY IN EPHESIANS ✦

DAY 3: WALKING IN LOVE'S LIGHT

DEVOTIONAL:

Love isn't just a feeling - it's a way of walking through life. When Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for us, He demonstrated what true love looks like in action. Now we're called to walk in that same kind of sacrificial, others-focused love. This kind of love shows up in both what we avoid and what we embrace. It means steering clear of conversations and behaviors that tear others down, and instead choosing words and actions that build people up. It's about creating an atmosphere of grace wherever we go. Walking in love also means we've moved from darkness into light. You're no longer the person you used to be - you've been fundamentally changed. This isn't about trying harder to be good; it's about living from your new identity as a child of light. When you walk in the light, something beautiful happens: you naturally produce fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth. You don't have to manufacture these qualities - they flow from who you've become in Christ. And as you walk in this light, it naturally exposes darkness around you, not in a judgmental way, but in a way that offers hope and transformation to others. The key is remembering that you are light. Not that you're trying to become light, but that you already are light in the Lord. When you live from this truth, your very presence brings illumination to dark situations and hope to discouraged hearts.

BIBLE VERSE:

"He loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." - Ephesians 5:2

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How can you practically "walk in love" today by both avoiding what tears down and embracing what builds up those around you?

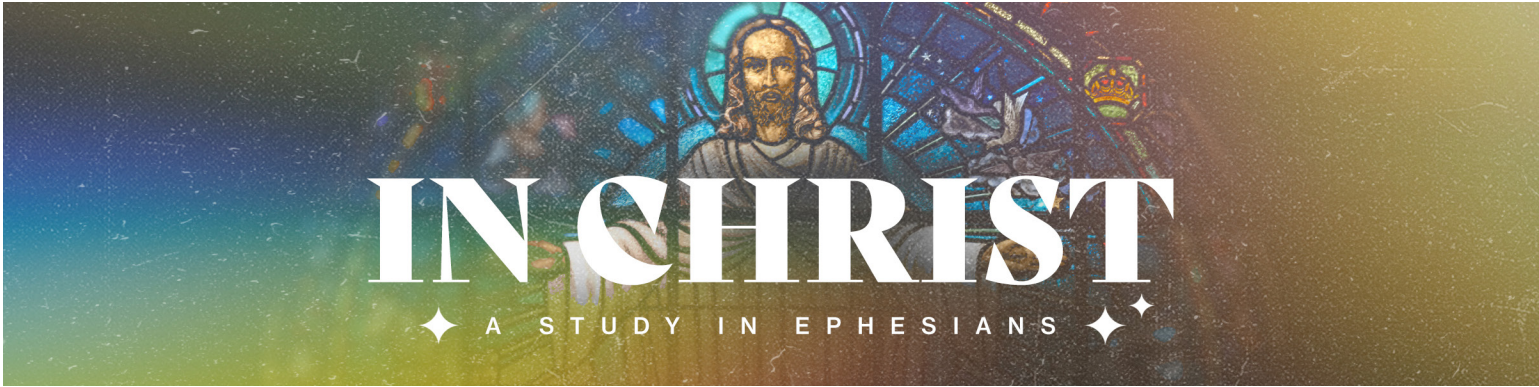
SERMON QUOTE:

"You used to be dark, but now in Christ you are light, so walk in light."

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for showing me what sacrificial love looks like. Help me to walk in that same love today, bringing light to dark situations and hope to discouraged hearts. Let my words and actions reflect the transformation You've worked in me.

NOTES:



IN CHRIST

✦ A STUDY IN EPHESIANS ✦

DAY 4: THE GIFT OF TIME

DEVOTIONAL:

Every morning, God gives you an incredible gift: 24 hours, 1,440 minutes, 86,400 seconds. This gift comes with only one rule - once you use them, they're gone forever. Unlike money, which can be earned back, time is the one resource you can never recover. This reality should change how we approach each day. Time isn't just passing by - it's life itself flowing through our hands. When we waste time, we're actually wasting the life God has given us. This isn't meant to create anxiety, but rather to inspire intentionality. Walking in wisdom means being careful with this precious gift. It means making choices that align with God's purposes rather than just drifting through our days. It involves asking God to show us His will and then having the courage to follow it, even when it's different from what everyone else is doing. Wisdom also means understanding what should control our lives. Instead of being controlled by circumstances, emotions, or the opinions of others, we can choose to be filled and led by God's Spirit. This doesn't mean life becomes easy, but it does mean we're not at the mercy of every changing situation. Today, remember that your time is a gift from God. How you spend it is your gift back to Him. Make it count by seeking His will, following His Spirit, and using your moments to leave traces of His love in the world.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." - Psalm 90:12

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Looking at how you spent your time yesterday, what does it reveal about your priorities, and what adjustments might God be calling you to make?

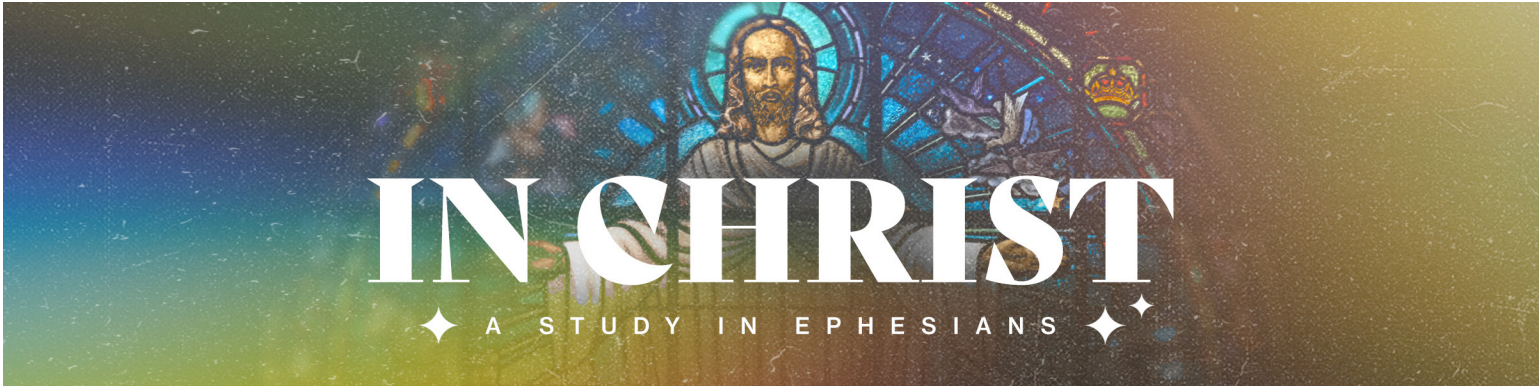
SERMON QUOTE:

"Time is life. If you are wasting time, watch this. You are wasting your life. You can stretch a dollar, but you cannot stretch time."

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to see time as the precious gift it is. Give me wisdom to use each moment purposefully, seeking Your will and following Your Spirit. Don't let me waste the life You've given me, but help me invest it in what matters eternally.

NOTES:



IN CHRIST

✦ A STUDY IN EPHESIANS ✦

DAY 5: TRACES THAT POINT TO CHRIST

DEVOTIONAL:

As we conclude this journey together, let's return to where we started: the traces we leave behind. Every contact, every conversation, every moment of your life creates evidence of who you are and what you believe. The question that should guide us each day is simple: do my traces point people toward Christ? When people examine the evidence of your life, they should find fingerprints of grace, footprints of love, and DNA samples of hope. They should discover traces of someone who has been transformed by the love of God and is now living differently because of it. This doesn't mean you have to be perfect - in fact, some of your most powerful traces might be how you handle failure, disappointment, or difficulty. When others see you respond to challenges with faith instead of fear, with gratitude instead of grumbling, with hope instead of despair, they're seeing evidence of God's work in your life. The beautiful truth is that God wants to use your ordinary, everyday life to leave extraordinary traces of His love. Your workplace becomes a mission field. Your neighborhood becomes a place of ministry. Your family becomes a demonstration of God's grace. As you go forward, remember that you're not just living your life - you're creating a legacy. Every trace you leave is an opportunity to point someone toward the God who loves them, died for them, and wants to transform their life just as He's transforming yours. Make every trace count for eternity.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
-Matthew 5:16

REFLECTION QUESTION:

What specific trace do you want to be known for leaving in people's lives, and what steps will you take this week to make that trace more evident?

SERMON QUOTE:

"Every contact that you and I have leaves a trace. What am I leaving behind? What kind of footprints am I leaving? What kind of traces of God's grace am I leaving behind?"

PRAYER:

Father, as I go forward, help me to be intentional about the traces I leave behind. May every contact I have point people toward You. Use my ordinary life to create extraordinary evidence of Your love and grace. Let every trace I leave bring glory to Your name.

NOTES:
