



Scott Turansky, Senior Pastor  
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## EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Ephesians: Recognizing Who You Are in Christ

Open your Bibles with me to Ephesians 5. Just look at verse 10. We're going to look at Ephesians 5:1-14, but verse 10 is the key verse in this passage so I want to draw your attention to it first before we go back to verse 1 and look at the rest.

Do you see where it says in Ephesians 5:10 *find out what please the Lord*. That tells me several things. One thing it tells me is that there are certain things that please God and certain things that don't. It also tells me that we need to find out what those are. They may not be intuitive. There are some people who think they know what is pleasing to the Lord who may even be doing some things that are pleasing to the Lord, but they aren't. So what we need to do is take some action. We need to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Today we're going to see a contrast between godliness and ungodliness. We're going to learn a little bit more in this passage about that. So keep these words in mind. Find out what pleases the Lord as we go through this whole passage from Ephesians 5:1-14. Let's pray together.

[PRAYER] Lord, I appreciate Tim and his enthusiasm for you. It is true, Lord, that we come to your word expecting a message for our own hearts. We know that you've placed these words in the Bible just for us and that as we dig into them and as we read into them and meditate on them that we find the words that you have for us, that we change the way we live, that we focus on who you are, and it guides us through the course of the challenges that we face during the week. I would ask that this morning this passage would touch each one of us in a way that you've designed. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Verse 1: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

You see the first words there where it says *follow God's example*, imitate is the word. Mimic is the Greek word there. To imitate God. What that means is we want to have godliness. That term godliness that we use is a term that refers to the way we want to embrace life. We want to be godly in the way that we think, in the way that we joke around. We want to be godly in the way that we live. We want to be doing all of these things that are honoring to God and so godliness is something we want in our own hearts.

Because of the word 'god' in godliness, it may seem very difficult to obtain because God is perfect. But God uses that idea. He doesn't say imitate your fellow believers here, which isn't

necessarily a bad idea, but he's saying imitate God. How do you imitate God? It means taking on godliness in our own lives. What does that look like in very practical terms?

Do you see there it says in verse 2 *and walk in the way of love*. That word *walk* is a word that characterizes the last half of the book of Ephesians. If you were to look at the last half of Ephesians you would see the word *walk* used, but it's really talking about how to live your life in the last half of Ephesians. In our passage today we're going to see the word *walk* mentioned three times: in verse 2, in verse 8, and verse 15. The emphasis is on living it out.

If you were to look at the first half of Ephesians 1-3, a word that might characterize that is the word 'stand' or 'standing.' Look around and see who you are. Recognize who you are. Because once you recognize who you are in chapters 1-3, you're standing, then you live it out in chapters 4-6.

So we're in chapter 5 and we're talking about living out our faith and this word 'godliness' becomes very important. How can we be godly? What does it mean to be godly? How do we be godly in a world that there are a lot of challenges? When the Bible describes godliness or describes His people He calls us saints.

People who come from a Catholic background sometimes have a hard time with this idea of saints because the idea of saints means holy, set apart ones, although that's really the term in how we should view ourselves, that God has set us apart as holy and He wants us to live in a holy way. He wants us to practice that kind of holiness in our lives. What is that going to look like? How are we going to do that? It's sometimes hard to take on that name, that word 'saints' for ourselves when we know what's required of that term. Are we living like the saints God has called us?

But that idea of saints is really the first part of Ephesians 1-3 where we're learning about who we are in Christ, that Christ died for us so that we could be saints. And then we lived out that life in the way that God has designed for us.

A man died and the local pastor was called to do the funeral for him. The brother came to the pastor and said, "I want to give a million dollar check to the funds of this church with one stipulation: that you will say that my brother was a saint." The pastor said, "Say he was a saint? He was a terrible guy, a lousy father, mean to his kids. He wasn't anything like it. He wasn't righteous at all." But because it was a million dollars for the building project the pastor said, "Okay. We'll do that."

A few days later when the funeral came the pastor said, "Here lies Joe Smith. He was a rotten man, a gangster, a thief, a crook, all around awful guy. But compared to his brother, he was a saint."

The idea of being a saint is this idea of living the life that God has called us to live. We want as Christians to be able to embrace that in our lives. How could we live the life that God has called us to in Ephesians 1-3 and now we are practicing it in Ephesians 4-6.

There are two words in our passage that we're going to use to describe godliness. One is love and one is light. The first one we're going to see is love. Notice in verse 2 it says, *walk in the way of love*. When Paul was writing to them (let's go back to the first part of Ephesians) he describes to them and talks about who you are in Christ's love. I want you to understand if you understand the love of Christ then you'll be able to walk in it. Here he's saying, *walk in the way of love*. But let's go back to Ephesians 2 where it says this: *And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*. So he's talked about it already.

Here's what it is and I'd just pray that you have the depth in your own lives that you'd recognize who you are in Christ, recognize what God has done for you, recognize this love that God has. When you recognize this love that God has and when you recognize how deep and powerful that love is, it transforms you so now in Ephesians 5 it says *walk in the way of love*.

Unfortunately our world has a lot of counterfeits to love and we end up missing out on some of the benefits that God provides for us. Starting in verse 3 we're going to launch into some counterfeits, but before we do I want you to see that first of all we've talked about this way to walk it's this godliness, mimicking God, *walk in love*.

Verse 3 says this: *But among you there must not be even a hint of...* Let's just stop right there. *There must not be a hint of* this list. We're going to come to a list of things in a minute and he's saying there should not be even a hint of these things, not even a sliver. You shouldn't say to yourself, "A little bit is okay," because the things we're about to read there is not even room for a little bit in your relationship with the Lord. Not even as saints, as Christians, as being the people that godliness that God wants to have in us, not even a hint of these things is acceptable or appropriate.

Look at verse 4 before we come to the list. Notice it says these words in verse 4: *which are out of place*.

I don't know if you remember, maybe you did this or not, when you were in preschool they had this game where you have three things. Two of them match and one of them is out of place and your job is to pick the one that is out of place. Well the same thing's true here. What is out of place? These things that we are going to look at are out of place for the Christian. They are things that do not belong.

Let's go back and look at the list. Verse 3 says, *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving*.

The first word there, *not even a hint of sexual immorality*, the Greek word is *porneia*. It's where we get the word 'pornography' from, but it's really a word that describes all kinds of sexual impurity, anything that's impure about sexuality.

Today I'm going to talk about sexual immorality. I don't want you to think the church is against sex, that God's against sex, that I'm against sex because that's not the case. We need to understand that God designed sex for a very delightful purpose and that is to bring a husband and wife close together in physical, emotional, and spiritual intimacy. That's His design. It's a beautiful thing. It's a powerful thing because it helps a couple stay close together. If there's conflict in a relationship it's a motivation to deal with that conflict to bring the couple back together, to motivate them to come to a close relationship so that they can enjoy that relationship together.

The unfortunate thing is that the world perverts this good thing that God created and so we have sexual immorality, something that's wrong and it's perverted into something that it shouldn't be. The world doesn't fully understand this idea of love between two people and they put a counterfeit out there thinking that sex somehow is going to bring that love into a relationship. In fact the world even uses the words 'make love' as if intercourse could somehow create the intimacy or the closeness in a relationship. It doesn't. That is not the design.

God designed that relationship to the intimacy of sexuality to exist in the intimacy of a marriage relationship. God designed it that way. And when we start going the wrong direction with that, when we start going down a path of sexual immorality it damages us and anybody that gets sucked into the process.

I'm going to read to you a passage of scripture from Proverbs 7. I'm going to read a whole chapter to you because in Proverbs 7 we have a warning and I want you to see what sexual immorality does. As I read this it's going to talk about the prostitute, but I want you to think about sexual immorality as anybody who's attracting you to sexual immorality. It could be pornography, it could be anything. Let me read this to you.

*My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and to insight, "You are my relative." They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words.*

*At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.*

*Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: "Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."*

*With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.*

*Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.*

The world tends to paint adultery as a very attractive kind of thing. In the story there's this attraction to it that just sucks this young man right into a danger zone. Sex outside of marriage is damaging. In Proverbs 7 it describes it as an *arrow that pierces the liver*. That is does damage to the person themselves.

There are several dangers to pornography and I just want to talk about them for just a moment. One of the dangers about pornography is it changes a person's perception of sex and gives them this perception that sex without intimacy is some valid thing, but the reality is that sex without intimacy is hollow and futile. Yet it's within the framework of intimacy that God designed a positive good sexual relationship to take place. But outside of that, when pornography comes in, it changes the way a person thinks about sex and damages their perception of God's design.

Repeated exposure to pornography not only results in diminished sexual arousal causing many men to be unable to be aroused in certain situations then, but it also decreases the satisfaction with one's mate. Always comparing them to some other thing that's out there in a wrong way. God designed the intimate relationship so that a husband and wife would find that attraction inside the relationship that they would find it intoxicating.

Listen to the same book of the Bible, Proverbs 5. Lest you think that Proverbs is down on sex, it isn't. Proverbs 5 says this: *may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.*

The idea is there is a design for this special gift that God has given. Many men involve themselves in pornography to try to relieve themselves of some kind of a need, sometimes curiosity, but then developing into a habit which turns into something destructive inside of their own hearts. Pornography leaves the impression that sex is unrelated to love, that it's some biological function.

If you weren't a Christian and you were just a humanist and you believed the people are a higher form of animals then you might look at it naturally and you might say it's just a natural thing. But God created each person with a heart, a spiritual heart. If you're a Christian you understand that God created a person different than an animal and that sex has an impact on the person's heart, not just on their body. It does something significant inside of them. It's a powerful thing.

One of the interesting things for me is to see how pornography robs a man of his masculinity. God designed man to be leaders, to initiate, to solve problems, to go out and challenge the world. It's interesting the studies are showing now that people who are addicted, men who are addicted

to pornography tend to pull back. They aren't those guys out there doing the masculine job that God has designed them to do. So it's very interesting that here they think they're involved in something masculine by watching pornography, yet it is robbing them of their very masculinity and their ability to initiate and solve problems and do what God has designed in life.

Notice now in the passage what it's saying. He doesn't say there don't commit adultery. That's not what he's saying because that's assumed in the Christian community. We don't commit adultery. What he's saying is don't let there be a hint of sexual immorality. Not even a hint of it.

A guy comes in to work and he starts teasing and making some sexual jokes and starts laughing about it. The line between appropriate and inappropriate starts to become fuzzy and pretty soon the line disappears and we're on that slippery slope down the path where the arrow pierces the liver of the person. Heart damage takes place. It's dangerous.

That's why God is saying (let's read it again starting in verse 3), *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

Now look at verse 4. *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

Obscenity is filthy talk. I call it toilet language. It's inappropriate. Foolish talk, coarse joking, that's using wit to make a joke out of something. There are some people who seem to be able to turn almost anything in life into some kind of sexual joke. He's saying these are inappropriate. They're not fitting for God's people. Notice he says *which are out of place*. They don't belong. When they're in the heart then they create interference inside the heart. When you start thinking along these sexually inappropriate jokes and humor it starts putting interference inside your heart. It's harder then to listen to the Lord. It's harder then to function in a way that's pure and godly and mimicking God and having this godliness inside of your life.

I read this week about space junk. Listen to this. "Since our technological advancement began to orbit satellites around the Earth in 1957, we've managed to leave behind 7,300 pieces of trash large enough to be tracked routinely by radar. These large pieces of trash include discarded launch rockets, defunct satellites, ejected covers, and even an occasional screwdriver or wrench. When you count smaller pieces there are somewhere between 30,000 and 70,000 objects orbiting the Earth the size of golf balls. A piece of space garbage just the size of a pea travelling 11,000 miles per hour can shatter a 100 million dollar satellite. Major collisions with solid waste destroyed several satellites already. Today when NASA is going to set up a satellite or rocket they have to not only take into account the weather, the time of day, and its trajectory, but they also have to consider the space junk so that when it goes up they can miss it."

There are ways to get rid of this space junk. What they could do is reroute the space junk so that it reenters our atmosphere and burns up, but they found that the cost of cleaning up outer space is too great to pay the price.

Your mind and your heart can be like that. When you have that kind of coarse joking or obscenity running around inside of you then it's very easy to get distracted spiritually. It's very easy to have interference in your own relationship with God and even a cleanliness inside your own heart.

Ephesians 5 here along with Romans 12 and other places talk about how we can clean the space junk that tends to run around in our hearts. How are we going to do that? One, don't even have a hint of these things. They are out of place is what he's talking about.

See, Paul says that God is interested in our emotions, He's interested in our humor, He's interested in our hearts, He's interested in the way we walk, talk, think, and He's interested in purity in all those things. Because He knows what's going to help us to be successful in life. When I say successful I mean how we're going to have that peace, how we're going to have those close relationships with other people. God knows the answers. Our job is to listen to them.

Let's go on to verse 5. *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.*

Isn't that an interesting thing. So now we've already said don't even have a hint of sexual immorality or these other things. Number two, don't joke about them. Number three, don't even have partners that do so. Fascinating. He's saying stay far away from these things.

An interesting thing happens with the Christian. The more we hang out with Christ, the more time we spend time in the word the more godly we become. It's harder for us to remain and stay in that godliness if we're pelted continually by evil things. We need to be careful of those.

Verse 8: *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.*

We've moved from this idea of love and how important that is. Now we're going to talk about light. The idea here is that God has given us, He doesn't say you are reflecting light. Do you see what he says there? He says, *but now you are light in the Lord*. There's something about you now that lights up others. There's something about you that's very significant because you represent light. You are light because of what God has done for you.

So he says then *live* – this is our word *walk* again – *live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*. So we're comparing two things, light and dark. Light represents all these true things, valuable things, honoring things, good things that God has for us.

And then verse 10 says, *and find out what pleases the Lord*. It may not be intuitive to know exactly what that is. There are a lot of people who are Christians who just think that they kind of do what feels good as a Christian. In other words, they're trying to be righteous, but sometimes they do the wrong thing because they aren't grounded in God's word.

We must go find out what pleases the Lord. We need to be doing our homework. We need to be studying God's word, allowing it to impact us, allowing it to change our hearts, to be the lamp. We have this word *light* here, that we are lights, but in the Bible it's called in the Psalms a lamp under our feet. It guides us so we know where to go.

The New Testament talks about the washing of the water with the word, that there's just something about this cleansing that takes place inside of our lives with God's word. So if you find yourself today saying, "Wow. I've got a lot of space junk running around in my heart," then you want to embrace God's solutions of taking God's word and allowing it to start to wash you and to clean you, to stay away from any hint of this, to avoid partnering with people, and allow God to do that cleaning that needs to take place inside of your own heart. That's what he's talking about here. It's a valuable thing.

Let's go on. Verse 10: *and find out what please the Lord.* Verse 11: *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

Wow. That's really interesting. Because these are true things. Sometimes we say, "Well, if it's true then I can report it." Just because something is true doesn't mean that we can report it. There may be some true things going on over here that are evil and he's saying it's not even appropriate for a Christian to repeat those things or to tell anyone about them. We don't even talk about those things because it's not edifying. It's not that they're not true. There are some things that are true that even Christians don't talk about and spread and describe because they're inappropriate for us. We're not even talking about them. Fascinating. *It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

Verse 13: *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.* I'm sure you've heard this statement that the difference is day and night. The difference is day and night. That's what he's talking about here. There's a significant difference between believers and nonbelievers and the way that they contrast light and darkness.

I've said it before, but I'm going to say it again. God is not in the business of making nice people nicer. God is in the business of making sinners saved. God takes a significant difference between the darkness of this world and providing us with this light inside of our hearts. Powerful stuff.

We're windows that allow people to look into our hearts. We're windows that allow people to see the light of Christ inside of us. We are lights and so we are designed to shine those lights around. What kind of a window are we?

A teacher explained to her class that the next day a substitute would be coming in her place. She was trying to explain to the kids what a substitute teacher is. She looked over at the window of a classroom that had been broken. The maintenance man had put a piece of solid plastic in the window. The teacher said, "See that window over there? The pane of glass isn't there. The plastic piece is the substitute until the real pane of glass comes in."



The next day the substitute came in and did a great job. She was a fantastic teacher and the kids loved her. At the end of the day one of the kids wanted to thank the teacher, so she lovingly said, "Thank you for coming to teach us today. You aren't really a substitute, you're a real pane." Obviously misunderstood in the process, but the question is, are we a window that people can see into our lives?

A little boy was sitting at church one day and looked up and saw these beautiful stained glass windows. He asked his daddy, "What are all those colored windows up there? Who are all those people?" His dad said, "Son, that's Saint Matthew and that's Saint Mark, that's Saint John, and over there is Saint Peter." "Oh," the boy said.

About three weeks later he was in Sunday school class and the teacher said, "Can anyone in class tell me what a saint is?" He raised his hand and he said, "It's somebody that lights shines through." That's really a good illustration of what a saint is. It's someone who lets the light shine through.

God has given us that privilege to be those lights because we provide direction, we provide sight. There's an uncomfortable feeling that people have with us because the light is in there and they feel that there's a sense of darkness that exists there. *Find out what pleases the Lord*, he says in verse 10. We shouldn't even be talking about some of the things that are going on. People see that light and they feel uncomfortable when they know that you're a Christian, or should, I think, feel uncomfortable.

I had a fascinating story happen to me sometime back years ago. I was playing racquetball with my friend Chris. Chris is in the army. He may come by sometime and visit us. He now lives in Ohio, but he drives a truck so I heard he was going to be in Princeton soon, so maybe he'll stop by and see us. Great friend.

He and I were playing racquetball at the local army base and he invited one of his comrades to come and play with us because if you play racquetball with three people it's a much more fast-paced game. It's a lot of fun and you're always playing as one guy is playing against the other two and you're trying to play a really fast game of racquetball.

So we were playing a game and I was beating these two guys. I was having a lot of fun and the other guy had just a foul mouth. His way of handling his misses or any mistakes that he made or he couldn't reach a ball was to let out a bunch of stuff come out of his mouth. We just continued to play until that game was over.

When that game was over we went outside to get a drink and we were talking and he says to me, "What platoon are you in?" I said, "I'm not in the army. I'm Chris' pastor." He went white as a sheet, turned to Chris and goes, "Oh no. I just cursed in front of a priest."

I wish that every time I was with other people they would be able to say something like that. Not because I'm a pastor, but because I'm a Christian. They would feel uncomfortable cursing in front of a priest. That would be what happens when someone says, "I'm going to tell these two people a dirty joke," and then they come and they say, "Well let's tell it to you (or me)," and

then they say, “Oh no. Let’s not tell him. He’s a born again Christian. He doesn’t want to hear that. He doesn’t have a sense of humor.” That’s what we wish would happen.

We stand out different. We’re lights. We’re windows that Christ shines through so people are able to see the light that God wants us to have.

We live in an age of tolerance today. There’s tolerance for all kinds of things and it’s a problem. The world uses words like ‘freedom of speech,’ ‘works of art,’ ‘freedom of expression,’ to justify all kinds of evil things and that it’s okay. It’s just a freedom of expression that we have. If a person doesn’t have Christ in their life then they just view life as purely natural. We’re talking about a spiritual life. God has given you and me a spiritual heart.

Let’s talk about homosexuality for a minute. When people look at homosexuality what they’ll say is, “The people were born with those desires. There are studies today that show that people are born with these desires.” The implication is if they were born with that how could it be wrong.

The reality is the Bible agrees with that. The Bible agrees that all of us were born with a propensity to do the wrong thing, the desire is to do the wrong thing. The Bible agrees with that. The Bible calls it a sin nature. We’re all born with a tendency to sin. Some people have a desire to lie. It just seems to be bred in them. From the time they can start talking, they start lying. Some others have a problem with anger. As soon as they came out of the womb they’re angry. Some people have a problem with addictions and it seems to be innate. And there are some people who have attractions and desires that are wrong. That’s very consistent with our understanding of theology.

The solution isn’t just saying, “Well if they came out of the womb that way then it’s okay.” The solution is to recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross so we could be freed from our desires that would lead us in the wrong place, that we could have salvation in Jesus Christ and He would change our hearts and provide us with the spiritual strength to withstand the magnetic pull towards sin. That’s God’s design. That’s His desire.

That’s why verse 14 becomes so important. Verse 14 says, *This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

Rise up. *Wake up*, he’s saying. When I think of the words *wake up* I think of six and seven year old boys playing baseball. If you ever go to watch six or seven year old boys play baseball, it is torture. Pure torture. Ed Miller is a coach of six and seven year old boys. He doesn’t even have six or seven year old boys. That guy’s got a heart of gold to go out there and try to coach kids, six and seven year old boys, to play baseball.

Here’s what happens. The ball gets hit and they throw the ball to first base and the guy can’t catch it, so it goes past him so he starts running for the ball, and the guy runs to second base, he gets the ball, finally throws it to second base, and he’s running around the bases, and everybody from the crowds and the coaches is yelling, “Run! Run!” to the runner and, “Don’t throw the ball, throw it to the pitcher to stop the play!” and it’s just chaos, total chaos. A very frustrating

thing for me to watch because some of these kids are waiting for the ball to be hit and they're out there looking around and the coach is saying, "Wake up! Wake up, oh sleeper."

That's what I see the picture of here. That God is saying to us, "Wake up!" Don't be so distracted by what's going on. Wake up. Think about this.

This is so important for our lives. God has designed us to be holy, to imitate Him. That we need to search out, look for what pleases the Lord. Find out what pleases Him. That God has made us to be lights. He's made us to be love. See, when you're a Christian then you let Christ shine through in your life. That's what God has called us to. That's who we are.

As a fellowship today we just think about these words that God has placed in our lives here and it's an opportunity for us to say, "Wow. I want to choose God today in my life. I want to choose Him."

If you look at your Christian life, what areas have you grown the most in? Have you grown in your speech? Have you grown in letting go of some of the attractions that were there in the past? How is God working? Because that's just demonstrating what God is doing because He's making us into the people that He wants us to be.

Some of you I know live in very dark, difficult places at work or even at home where there's a lot of trash going on. All the more important for you to be able to have Christ doing what this last verse says. Verse 14: *This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."* Christ will shine on you. You can't say, "I could be fine if things in my world..." No. Christ will shine in you. And God wants to do that inside of your heart, wherever you are, to help you to live among the difficult things that you experience now. It's a privilege we have.

I love this passage. I think it's a great one. Let's continue to worship the Lord and focus on His grace in our lives. We're going to sing a song that just talks about how beautiful God is and just use this opportunity to reflect on the goodness of God and what He would have for you in your life. Let's continue to worship the Lord together.