# **The Scriptures**

## 2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and profitable for instruction for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage], 17 so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### Peter 1:20-21

<sup>20</sup> For He was <sup>[a]</sup>foreordained (foreknown) before the foundation of the world, but has appeared [publicly] in these last times for your sake <sup>21</sup> and through Him you believe [confidently] in God [the heavenly Father], who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are [centered and rest] in God.

# <u>God</u>

#### Gen 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God (*Elohim*) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void *or* a waste and emptiness, and darkness was upon the face of the deep [primeval ocean that covered the unformed earth]. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

#### Matthew 3:16-17

16 After Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John) saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him (Jesus), 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased *and* delighted!"

#### Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

# John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).

# John 10:30

30 and the Father are One [in essence and nature].

# John 14:26

26 But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

# John 15:26

26 "But when the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father, He will testify *and* bear witness about Me.

# Jesus Christ

# Luke 1:26-33

26 Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin <sup>[a]</sup>betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming to her, the angel said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly perplexed at what he said, and kept carefully considering what kind of greeting this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Listen carefully: you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great *and* eminent and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

# Luke 22:20

20 And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is the new covenant [ratified] in My blood.

#### Luke 24:46

46 and said, "And so it is written, that the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

# Holy Spirit

### Matthew 3:11

11 "As for me, I baptize you with water because of [your] repentance [that is, because you are willing to change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret your sin and live a changed life], but He (the Messiah) who is coming after me is mightier [more powerful, more noble] than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to remove [even as His slave]; He will baptize you [who truly repent] with the Holy Spirit and [you who remain unrepentant] with fire (judgment).

## John 16:1-13

"I have told you these things so that you will not stumble or be caught off guard and fall away.<sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues and make you outcasts. And a time is coming when whoever kills you will think that he is offering service to God.<sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father or Me.<sup>4</sup> I have told you these things [now], so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you at the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts [and taken complete possession of them]. <sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the <sup>a</sup>Helper (Comforter, Advocate. Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]. <sup>8</sup> And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin[and the true nature of it], because they do not believe in Me [and My message]; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness [personal integrity and godly character], because I am going to My Father and you will no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> about judgment [the certainty of it], because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged and condemned.

<sup>12</sup> "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [to hear] them now.<sup>13</sup> But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future].

# Acts 5:3-4

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and [secretly] keep back for yourself some of the proceeds [from the sale] of the land? <sup>4</sup> As long as it remained [unsold], did it not remain your own [to do with as you pleased]? And after it was sold, was the money not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this act [of hypocrisy and deceit] in your heart? You have not [simply] lied to people, but to God." <sup>5</sup> And hearing these words, Ananias fell down suddenly and died; and great fear *and* awe gripped those who heard of it.

# Ephesians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and [as a result] believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [the One promised by Christ] as owned *and* protected [by God]. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is the <sup>[b]</sup>guarantee [the first installment, the pledge, a foretaste] of our inheritance until the redemption of *God's own* [purchased] possession [His believers], to the praise of His glory.

# Titus 3:5

<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion *and* mercy, by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

# 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now about the spiritual *gifts* [the special endowments given by the Holy Spirit], brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led off after speechless idols; however you were led off [whether by impulse or habit]. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one speaking by the [power and influence of the] Spirit of God can say, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is [my] Lord," except by [the power and influence of] the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are [distinctive] varieties of *spiritual* gifts [special abilities given by the grace and extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit operating in believers], but it is the same Spirit [who grants them and empowers believers]. <sup>5</sup> And there are [distinctive] varieties of ministries and service, but it is the same Lord [who is served]. <sup>6</sup> And there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is the same God who produces all things in all believers [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them]. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [the spiritual illumination and the enabling of the Holy Spirit] for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge and understanding according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit; <sup>10</sup> and to another the working of <sup>[a]</sup>miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.

# <u>Man</u>

# Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps *and* crawls on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image *and* likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.

# Romans 3:10

<sup>10</sup> As it is written *and* forever remains written,

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS [none that meets God's standard], NOT EVEN ONE.

# Romans 5:12

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all people [no one being able to stop it or escape its power], because they all sinned.

# Romans 8:18-23

<sup>18</sup> For I consider [from the standpoint of faith] that the sufferings of the present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us *and* in us! <sup>19</sup> For [even the whole] creation [all nature] waits eagerly for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration *and* futility, not willingly [because of some intentional fault on its part], but by the will of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will also be freed from its bondage to decay [and gain entrance] into the glorious freedom of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been moaning together as in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but we too, who have the first fruits of the Spirit [a joyful indication of the blessings to come], even we groan inwardly, as we wait eagerly for [the sign of] our adoption as sons—the redemption *and* transformation of our body [at the resurrection].

# **Salvation**

# John 17:16-22

<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth.<sup>18</sup> Just as You commissioned *and* sent Me into the world, I also have commissioned *and* sent them (believers) into the world. <sup>19</sup> For their sake <sup>[a]</sup>I sanctify Myself [to do Your will], so that they also may be sanctified [set apart, dedicated, made holy] in [Your] truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I do not pray for these alone [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for [all] those who [will ever] believe *and* trust in Me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that they all may be

one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe [without any doubt] that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> I have given to them the glory *and* honor which You have given Me, that they may be one, just as We are one;

# Romans 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup> because if you acknowledge *and* confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart a person believes [in Christ as Savior] resulting in his justification [that is, being made righteous—being freed of the guilt of sin and made acceptable to God]; and with the mouth he acknowledges *and* confesses [his faith openly], resulting in *and* confirming [his] salvation.

# 1 Corinthians 6:19

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]?

# 2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

# Colossians 1:13-14; 21-22

<sup>13</sup> For He has rescued us *and* has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty]. <sup>21</sup> And although you were at one time estranged *and* alienated and hostile-minded [toward Him], *participating* in evil things, <sup>22</sup> yet Christ has now reconciled you [to God] in His <sup>[g]</sup>physical body through death, in order to present you before the Father holy and blameless and beyond reproach

# **Eternal Security**

# John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> "For God so [greatly] loved *and* dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His[One and] <sup>[a]</sup>only begotten Son, so that whoever believes *and* trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

# John 10:27-29

<sup>27</sup> The sheep that are My own hear My voice *and* listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> And I give them eternal life, and they will never, ever [by any means] perish; and no one will ever snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> <sup>[a]</sup>My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater *and* mightier than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

# John 14:16-17, 26

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another <sup>[a]</sup>Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you *continually* and will be in you. <sup>26</sup> But the <sup>[b]</sup>Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

# Ephesians 1:13

<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and [as a result] believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [the One promised by Christ] as owned *and* protected [by God].

# Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast *or* take credit in any way [for his salvation].

# Philippians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> I am convinced *and* confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect *and* complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].

# 1 Peter 1:5

<sup>5</sup> who are being protected *and* shielded by the power of God through *your* faith for salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.

# Jude 1:24-25

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling *or* falling into sin, and to present you unblemished [blameless and faultless] in the presence of His glory with triumphant joy *and* 

unspeakable delight, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

# **Build**

## Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He caused me to pass all around them, and behold, *there were* very many [human bones] in the open valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. <sup>3</sup> And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GoD, You know." <sup>4</sup> Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GoD to these bones, 'Behold, I will make <sup>[a]</sup>breath enter you so that you may come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin, and I will put breath in you so that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'"

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on the bones, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord Gop, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."" <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood up on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost. We are completely cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Gop, "Behold, I will open your graves and make you come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you [back home] to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you will know [with confidence] that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and made you come up out of your graves, My people. <sup>14</sup> I will put My <sup>[D]</sup>Spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and fulfilled it," says the LORD."

# Psalms 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

#### Romans 3:23

<sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and *continually* fall short of the glory of God,

### Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But God clearly shows *and* proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

# **Develop**

### Ephesians 2:10

<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

# **Expectations of Members**

# Ephesians 4:1

So I, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to you to live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called [that is, to live a life that exhibits godly character, moral courage, personal integrity, and mature behavior—a life that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation],

#### 1 Cor. 1:10

<sup>10</sup> But I urge you, believers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in full agreement in what you say, and that there be no divisions *or* factions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your way of thinking and in your judgment [about matters of the faith].

#### Phil 1:27

<sup>27</sup> Only [be sure to] lead your lives in a manner [that will be] worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I do come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit [and one purpose], with one <sup>[a]</sup>mind striving side by side [as if in combat] for the faith of the gospel.

#### Hebrews 10:25

<sup>25</sup> not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

## Romans 14:19

<sup>19</sup> So then, let us pursue [with enthusiasm] the things which make for peace and the building up of one another [things which lead to spiritual growth].

# 1 Thess 5:17

<sup>17</sup> be unceasing *and* persistent in prayer;

# 2 Tim 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; <sup>17</sup> so that the <sup>[a]</sup>man of God may be complete *and* proficient, outfitted *and* thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### 1 Peter 4:10

<sup>10</sup> Just as each one of you has received a *special* gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God's multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor].

#### Heb 13:17

<sup>17</sup> Obey your [spiritual] leaders and submit to them [recognizing their authority over you], for they are keeping watch over your souls *and* continually guarding your spiritual welfare as those who will give an account [of their stewardship of you]. Let them do this with joy and not with grief *and* groans, for this would be of no benefit to you.

#### Matt 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age."

# **Benefits of Members**

## Ephesians 2:19

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are [members] of God's household,

# Romans 12:5

<sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are [nevertheless just] one body in Christ, and individually [we are] parts one of another [mutually dependent on each other].

# Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. <sup>2</sup> Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the requirements of the law of Christ [that is, the law of Christian love].

### Hebrews 10:24-25

<sup>24</sup> and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

# 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

<sup>4</sup> Now there are [distinctive] varieties of *spiritual* gifts [special abilities given by the grace and extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit operating in believers], but it is the same Spirit [who grants them and empowers believers]. <sup>5</sup> And there are [distinctive] varieties of ministries *and* service, but it is the same Lord [who is served]. <sup>6</sup> And there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is the same God who produces all things in all *believers* [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them]. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [the spiritual illumination and the enabling of the Holy Spirit] for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary]

gifts of healings by the one Spirit; <sup>10</sup> and to another the working of <sup>[a]</sup>miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another *various* kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these things [the **gifts**, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so <sup>(b)</sup> it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one [Holy] Spirit we were all baptized into one body, [spiritually transformed—united together] whether Jews or Greeks (Gentiles), slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit [since the same Holy Spirit fills each life].

<sup>14</sup> For the [human] body does not consist of one part, but of many [limbs and organs]. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," is it not on the contrary still a part of the body? <sup>16</sup> If the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," is it not on the contrary still a part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole [body] were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now [as things really are], God has placed and arranged the parts in the body, each one of them, just as He willed and saw fit [with the best balance of function]. <sup>19</sup> If they all were a single organ, where would [the rest of] the body be? <sup>20</sup> But now [as things really are] there are many parts [different limbs and organs], but a single body.<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> But guite the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are [absolutely] necessary; <sup>23</sup> and as for those *parts* of the body which we consider less honorable, these we treat with greater honor; and our less presentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our more presentable parts do not require it. But God has combined the [whole] body, giving greater honor to that part which lacks it, <sup>25</sup> so that there would be no division or discord in the body [that is, lack of adaptation of the parts to each other], but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the parts share the suffering; if one member is honored, all rejoice with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you [collectively] are Christ's body, and individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function].

# Acts 20:28-29

<sup>28</sup> Take care *and* be on guard for yourselves and for the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd (tend, feed, guide) the church of God which He bought with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I am gone, [false teachers like] ferocious wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

# Ephesians 5:21

<sup>21</sup> being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

# **Commitment To Grow**

# 2 Tim 3:16

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];