**The “*Power”* Points is a teaching summary**

**from the classes of Grace Bible Church of PA**

**Taught by Pastor/Teacher Ed Rish**

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**Put on Therefore as the Elect of God**

As we begin to receive the Word of GOD today recall Paul’s words in ***Eph. 1 Worthy of praise and glorification be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.*** Why is GOD worthy of praise and glorification? It is because church age believers are the most blessed creatures in the universe. Doing what we are doing right now is among the many blessings we’ve been blessed with. Gathering together with like-minded believers to receive GOD’s word and be filled with all the blessings that result is an honor and privilege all believers have, but few have the capacity to understand. Those who do understand and take advantage of it are being filled with power. Before He was resurrected, The LORD JESUS CHRIST said to the disciples, *you will receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT comes upon you.* That power is the power that creates disciples. Church age believers have the privilege to possess it. Those who understand and take advantage of their blessings can know the love of CHRIST. The love of CHRIST and the grace of GOD is the power that separates believers from a world filled with evil.

Our current series in Colossians deals with reversionism. All forms of reversionism are evil and fall under the category, *the lie.* Living the lie is walking in darkness. Church age believers were made to walk in the light. Walking in the light has to do with the truth. The LORD JESUS CHRIST said in ***John 3:21 But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.*** The word *practice* implies application, doing what the Word of GOD says to do. Knowing the truth sets believers free and practicing the truth results in blessings. The LORD JESUS CHRIST said in ***John 13:17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.***

On the other hand, reversionism brings on misery and discipline. Reversionism is getting off the path toward the objective of the grace-filled life and going in a different direction. We’ve noted in the past that the grace-filled life is analogous to a straight path that leads to GOD. But along that path there are many crossroads. These crossroads are symbolic of obstacles, distractions, various forms of adversity, and various forms of prosperity as well. Any one of these things can bring on reversionism and change a believer’s priorities, attitudes, and his love for GOD. When a believer’s attitude toward GOD changes, his attitude toward people changes as well. Along with that, his method of operation changes. The church, the royal family, the Word of GOD, and The LORD JESUS CHRIST slowly lose their place of importance. This believer is on the verge of total cosmic involvement and cosmic involvement results in a complete change of thinking. These believers arrived at one of those crossroads and turned left or right instead of staying straight on the path.

Mental attitude reversionism is why mental attitude sins need to be dealt with through confession of known sins and getting back to right priorities. When left unchecked, mental attitude sins can result in another kind of reversionism called verbal reversionism. This involves sins of the tongue. In our main passage Paul touched on this when he commanded believers to put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech. Gossip, judging, and maligning fall under verbal reversionism as well. These are sins that are closely connected to anger, wrath, and malice.

There is also monetary reversionism. This has to do with believers who try to find happiness in wealth. Their objective is to accumulate wealth. These individuals however, are eventually consumed by wealth. James talked about this in ***James 5:2-6 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth*** (This speaks of withholding wages that are due). ***You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter*** (This speaks of self-indulgence)***. You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.*** As we’ve said in the past, there is nothing wrong with acquiring wealth. The problem lies in the motivation. Without spiritual capacity, believers can be ruled by their wealth. This is a case where reversionistic believers place emphasisis on acquiring monetary riches and reject Bible doctrine. His desire for wealth turns into greed and he ends up destroying himself. Another reversionism has to do with rejection of authority. In the church age Bible doctrine is the ultimate authority. Reversionism begins with negative volition toward Bible doctrine and ends in self-induced misery and divine discipline.

In our main passage in Colossians***,*** the words, *put on,* refer to the work of GOD the HOLY SPIRIT in the human spirits of believers. When Paul writes *put on the new,* he is talking about the road back from reversionism. Believers can put on the truth or they can put on the lie. Putting on the new self refers to the sanctification process that occurs after salvation. ***Col. 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*** This verse illustrates the new material that makes up the thinking of mature believers. So we have, *put on therefore, as those who have been chosen of God holy and beloved* means the elect of GOD. Election refers to church age believers elected in eternity past. Just as The LORD JESUS CHRIST was elected in eternity past to execute the salvation plan of GOD, church age believers are elected to execute the pre-designed plan of GOD. Since believers are in union with JESUS CHRIST, they share in everything that belongs to Him. So as believers who have been elected, set apart, and loved by GOD just as much as JESUS CHRIST is loved, the command is to get rid of the old clothes and put on the new material or qualities that is representative of the new position and everything that goes with it.