



Mid-Year Review & Prayers in Ephesians



Abram Michael Vos – Today You become a Man

For the development of your mind for the rest of your life based on Proverbs 1:1-7.

Our effort when developing you from 0-6 years old:

- You began to learn who you were as an individual
- You are unique and loved and have great value to God, to us and to the world
- You are fallen which is why you need authority and discipline

Our effort when developing you from 6-12 years old:

- Our emphasis is on teaching you about being a family
- The family is the most basic and core structure of God's plan. Family is to love each other and help everyone understand the core values of life, and basic stories of the faith.

Our effort when developing you from 13-18 years old:

- Our emphasis is now on understanding the community of faith
- You need to learn to be part of our church in a more real way, using your gifts and talents to help others and to grow your mind
- The things you now need to learn at this age are more complex, less black and white. The world is full of people and is complex, yet we can understand it.
- You need to develop critical thinking skills.
- You are now in the stage of life where you are practicing being an adult. Mistakes will be made and we will protect you from some while others you will need to understand the consequences. We will support and love you throughout them all.

Three areas of development

1. Character development

- a. Lifelong learning attitude
- b. Working hard, being honest, handling money well
- c. Understanding home, wife and children
- d. Working with people, words and conflicts
- e. Working with the community, law authorities
- f. Developing skill in life choices
- g. Understanding skill in romantic love and marriage

2. Faith Development

- a. Knowing the main Story of the Bible
- b. Knowing the first principles of the faith
- c. Knowing how to work in the world, maintaining your faith and helping other solve problems of this world
- d. Keeping track of your author's intention work

3. Education and Life Work

- a. Speaking, listening, writing, reading skills
- b. Classical Conversations work
- c. Begin to understand your place and role in this world

“Becoming a Man Trip”

Family Updates and Reports

- No Sunday Morning Meetings - next three Sundays
- August 12 - Monday 7-9 - **All Leaders - Cluster Reporting** - Updated Template
- August 12 - Monday 9-10 - A-team meeting - Planning based on Reports
- BILD Conference - Oct 30-Nov 8 - Let's begin our commitment (was 91k)

BILD Conference

Conference Focus: “**Our Global Family: Our Journey to Become Master Craftsmen.**”

1. Rollout of the full **Implementation Pathway** System with every step of envisioning, establishing, and scaling.
2. Use and receive a **complete set of tools** for implementation of Competency Cohorts.
3. Uploading competencies in BILD Cloud (and **earning green checkmarks**).
4. Equipping your **Associate Faculty** to do validation reviews in BILD Cloud.
5. **We will Celebrate and Recognize** individuals and cohorts for achievements in BILD Cloud since the last conference, progress during this year’s conference, and graduation for those who have earned the Master of Ministry or the *new* Graduate-level Certificate of Ministry in 2019.

What have we been studying?

- Planning our Lives - Life N - Michael, Nathan, Sam
- Paul's Letters, Ephesians - Jeff
- ReBuild, First Principles Assessment - Steve, Randy
- Colossians, Philemon - Jeff
- Bible Translations - Bill
- Trip Reports - China, India - Jeff, Michael
- Ephesians, Colossians - Caleb, Todd
- Envision Life, Central Iowa Antioch Initiative - Nathan, James
- Ephesians - Jeff

Purpose of Sunday Mornings

- Our Sunday evenings are times for meeting as churches, as families. We believe in this setting, there is a connection between sharing a meal, sharing our lives and the expansion of the churches, as people can more naturally participate, as they see us celebrate and mourn, struggle and succeed, get married and get buried, all together experiencing the hope of our lives in Christ.
- Sunday mornings are for the equipping our churches. Equipping means:
 - rooting the principles deeper
 - preparing you, making you adequate for your individual, church, community and global work
 - a-team for the creation of biblical tools, a-team global/national reports, letting “our progress be made evident”

Rhetorical Discussion Questions

1. What has impacted you so far this year from the Sunday morning teaching time?
2. For what did it further equip you?
3. Why is it important that we continue to make progress in understanding the faith?

My own thoughts to these questions

1. What has impacted you so far this year from the Sunday morning teaching time?
 - The prayers that bookend the first literary section have captured my attention.
2. For what did it further equip you?
 - My prayer is that these “prayers” will penetrate my own heart, our church’s heart, and our global network’s heart.
3. Why is it important that we continue to make progress in understanding the faith?
 - We believe the biblical text says that establishment is critical to living a wise life
 - We believe the gospel and the teachings are an integrated whole, we accept the good news and become established in the teachings.
 - We are told to

My Work from Ephesians

Introduction

1st literary section

- First Prayer - Eph 1:15-23
- Our Calling, the mystery of the “global church administration revealed - the details
- 2nd Prayer - Eph 3:14-21 (end of chapter 3)
- Summarizes and emphasizes for reader “I beg you to to led a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called”

2nd literary section

- Eph 4:1-ff

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— **12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. **6** This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. **8** To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9**

and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, **10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. **13** So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. **8** Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,

and he gave gifts to men.”

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? **10** He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) **11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20** But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. **26** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and give no opportunity to the devil. **28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not become partners with them; **8** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern

My Work from Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15–23 (NRSV) – 15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **17** I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, **18** so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. **20** God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. **22** And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

My Work from Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NRSV) – 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. **16** I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, **17** and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. **18** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20** Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

My Work from Ephesians

Summarizing in our own words, the first prayer.

My next step (after literary identification) is to identify the key phrases:

- spirit of wisdom
- revelation of the knowledge of Him
- eyes of our hearts enlightened
- to know the hope to which he has called you
- immeasurable greatness of his power to us
- Christ is head of all, including the church
- the church is His full body

My next step is to put into my own words:

- That the eyes of our hearts would be fully enlightened, knowing Christ and the hope to which He has called us, knowing the Spirit's power he has given us, as Christ is head of the church

My Work from Ephesians

Summarizing in our own words, the second prayer.

My next step (after literary identification) is to identify the key phrases:

- every family has the Father's name
- grant you strength with power from the Spirit
- Christ may dwell in your hearts
- Rooted in love
- Strength to comprehend the love of Christ
- Fill with the fullness of God
- Glory to Him who can do more than we can ask

My next step is to put into my own words:

- God the Father is father of all, while the Spirit dwells in us, that we will be rooted in love and comprehend the fullness of God's plan, and thus giving Him glory

My Work from Ephesians

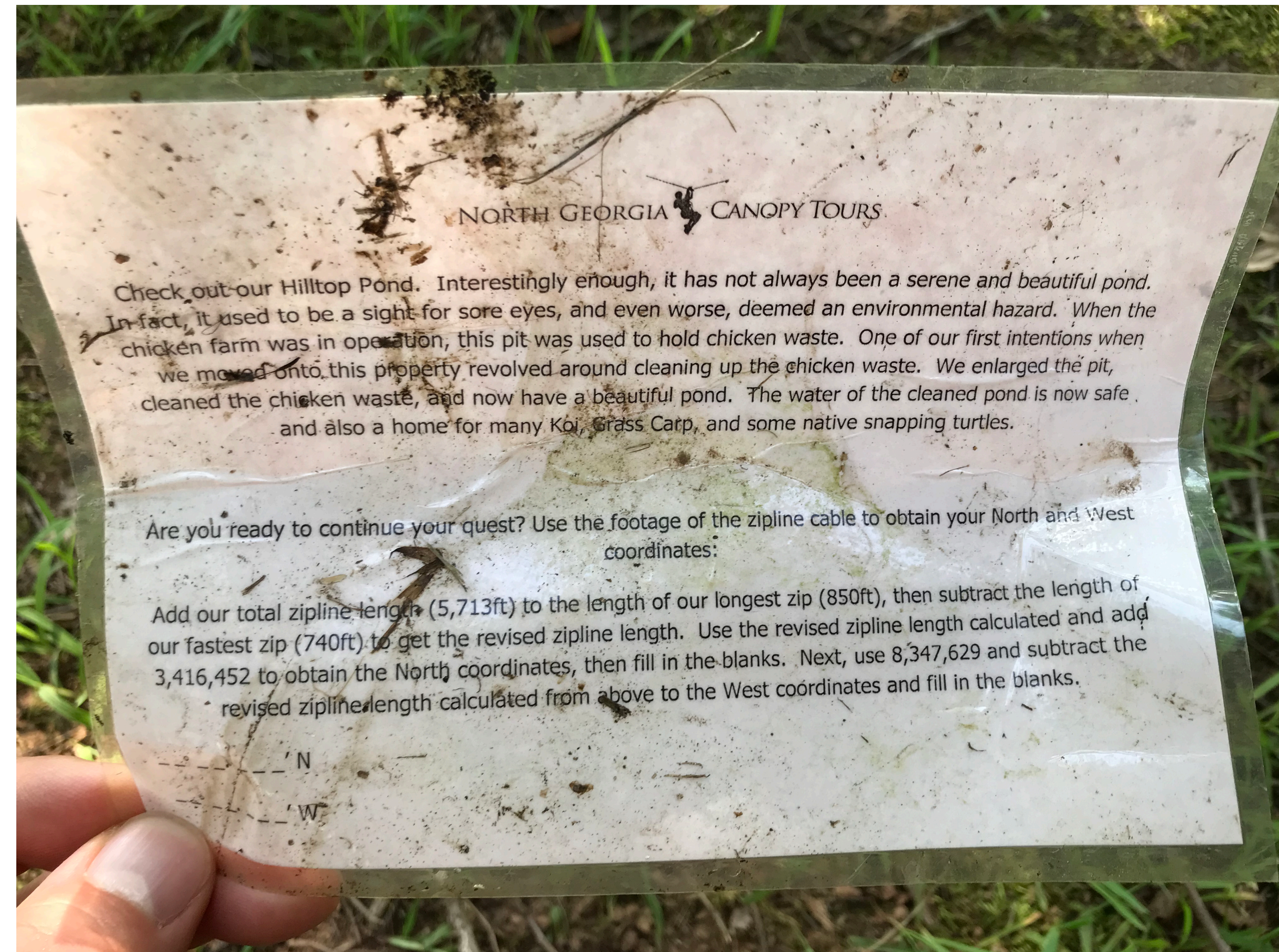
1. We want our local church to fully understand and embrace these prayers, I want us to “be” these prayers.
2. We want these prayers to be “our prayers” for remainder of the year, some ideas:
 - read and pray them with your family
 - read and pray them with your church
 - memorize them
 - say them to yourself during the day, while you are working
3. I want the global network to memorize Eph 3:14-21 over the course of the BILD Conference

Our Work from Ephesians

1. Read these prayers at your discussion tables
2. Write out the key words, phrases
3. Write out a summary in your own words (or collectively the words at your table)
4. Be ready to share with everyone, text or airdrop to me for sharing via screen

My Recent Reflections

While on the trip with Abram, we talked about how when entering into manhood, the world becomes less black/white and instead he becomes aware of the complexities of the world, and will “swim” in these complexities the remainder of his life.



My Recent Reflections

This caused me to reflect on how I often speak about my early years (0-18) with fond memories and nostalgia. I share memories that shaped my lifework:

1. my grandmother Cornelia who worked with me on the farm, in the fields, talking and teaching me things about life and the bible, spending quality time
2. my father; his stability, his desire to work hard, his thorough enjoyment of farm activities, his faithfulness and love for my mother
3. how I enjoyed working hard; baling hay in the hot sun all day, stacking it high in the barn and then being able to go to the lake the last hour of daylight, skiing with my sisters and sharing watermelon as we cooled down

...these memories are precious, they linger in my mind, they shaped me and I day-dream, can a person ever return to these days?

My Recent Reflections

Yet, in fact, I am growing up before your very eyes, the past couples years have been exponential. Here is what I am synthesizing when we look at “all of our” youthful days:

1. I don't often speak or think about how my grandmother suffered from chronic depression, sometimes destabilizing her, mental breakdowns, she struggled to take care of my handicapped grandfather, while also doing farm work
2. I don't often speak or think about how my mother was deathly sick from my 4-6 grade years. How my father looked for nursing homes at age 41 for my mother...then the memorable hand squeeze.
3. I didn't always like working hard, sometimes I would go to desperate measures to get out of working. I once jumped out of the top of the truck onto a “bean hook”, piercing my foot, so that I would not have to “walk more beans”

My Recent Reflections

You see, the world was not simpler then, instead my view of the world was simpler then, it was simpler to me because the complexities of life was overseen by my parents, my local church, and local community. They looked after all of my needs:

- my church and community supplied food, cleaning, money, farm labor for over 2 years
- I didn't worry about food, my own health, money, relationships, or leading other people

All the people in my life took care of the “stresses and complexities” in our lives.

My Recent Reflections

When I was a child, I spoke and thought like a child, I even reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put these ways behind me. Yet even now (today) we see dimly and only know in part, but when we see Him face to face, we will see in full!

It is good to reflect, it is good to have fond memories. Yet, we must press on towards the goal. Now is the time we are to step up and be an impact for good on those around us, rooted in love, rooted in the Spirit. Those in our families, our church families and communities.

This love is based out of our individual and collective establishment in the gospel/didache.