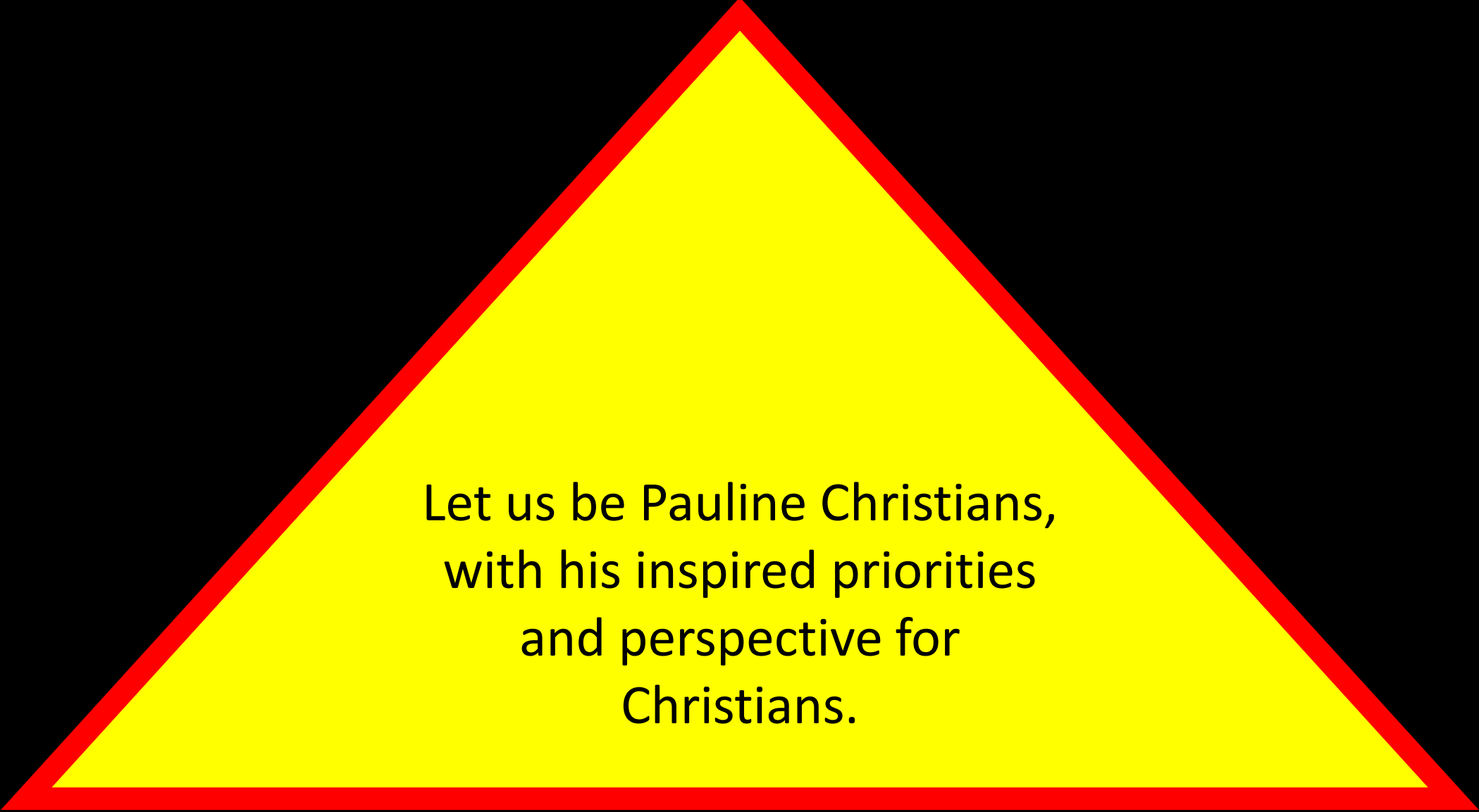


Pauline Priority in Ephesians



Let us be Pauline Christians,
with his inspired priorities
and perspective for
Christians.

Converted Arminians are tempted to love
Ephesians mostly for these doctrines:

Election / Predestination in 1:3-12
Regeneration taught in 2:1-3

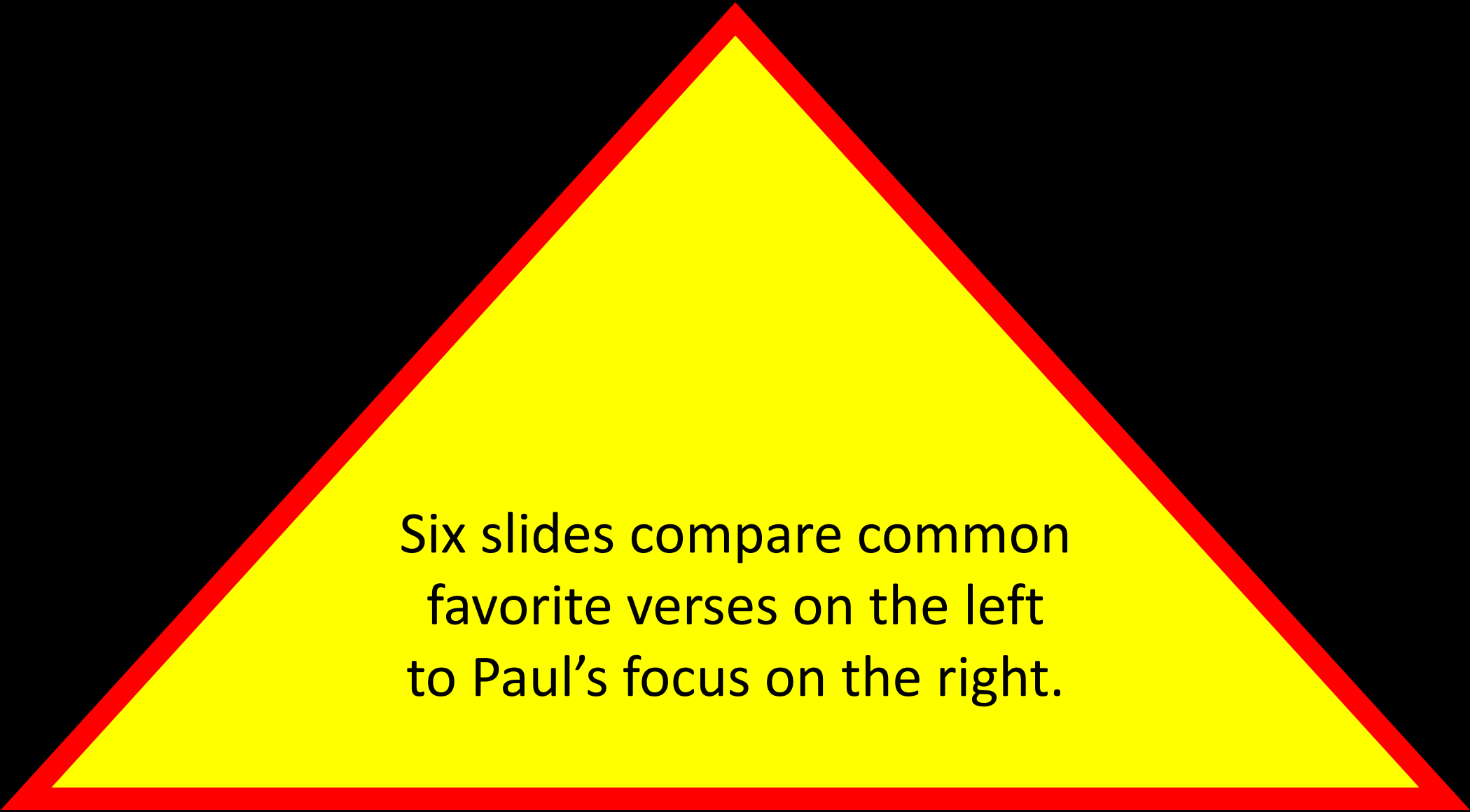
However, Paul taught much more in this epistle than those eternal, legal, and vital aspects of our salvation.

Measured by proportion of the content,
and stressing desired results over means,
and emphasizing his prayer requests and
commands over finished divine deeds ...

*there are goals and duties that are far
greater than mere doctrinal facts.*

We are foolish fatalists and heretics if we settle for repetition of verses for election and regeneration and never reach the love of Christ and holy lives Paul stressed.

The church at Ephesus failed to grasp Paul's emphasis and priority in this epistle, and they destroyed their church by losing their first love for Jesus Christ their Savior, though they knew how to expose heretics.



Six slides compare common
favorite verses on the left
to Paul's focus on the right.

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 1

1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1:16-17

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Paul was not content with the Ephesians knowing about predestination (1:3-12).

He prayed constantly for them to know more by a further ministry of the Holy Spirit, though he had been their pastor.

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 2

2:5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

2:18,22

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Being quickened by the Holy Spirit to life from death in trespasses and sins is great.

But living in the Holy Spirit personally and collectively was and is far more important.

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 3

3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

3:17-19

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Most use 3:19 as a candy dispenser: if they pray for a Honda, God will give an Acura.

The text has nothing to do with carnal junk like cars or jobs, but with being filled with all the fulness of God. Glory! Hallelujah!

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 4

4:14

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

4:3,30

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

It is true pastors are given to save from false doctrine, but there is much more.

Members must work hard to maintain the unity of the Spirit as a church and to avoiding grieving Him individually.

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 5

5:24-25

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

5:14,18

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Submission by wives and love by husbands
will indeed enhance a Christian marriage.

But above and beyond marriage is light
from Christ and being filled with the Spirit,
and only those truly realize God's best.

Pauline Priority in Ephesians 6

6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

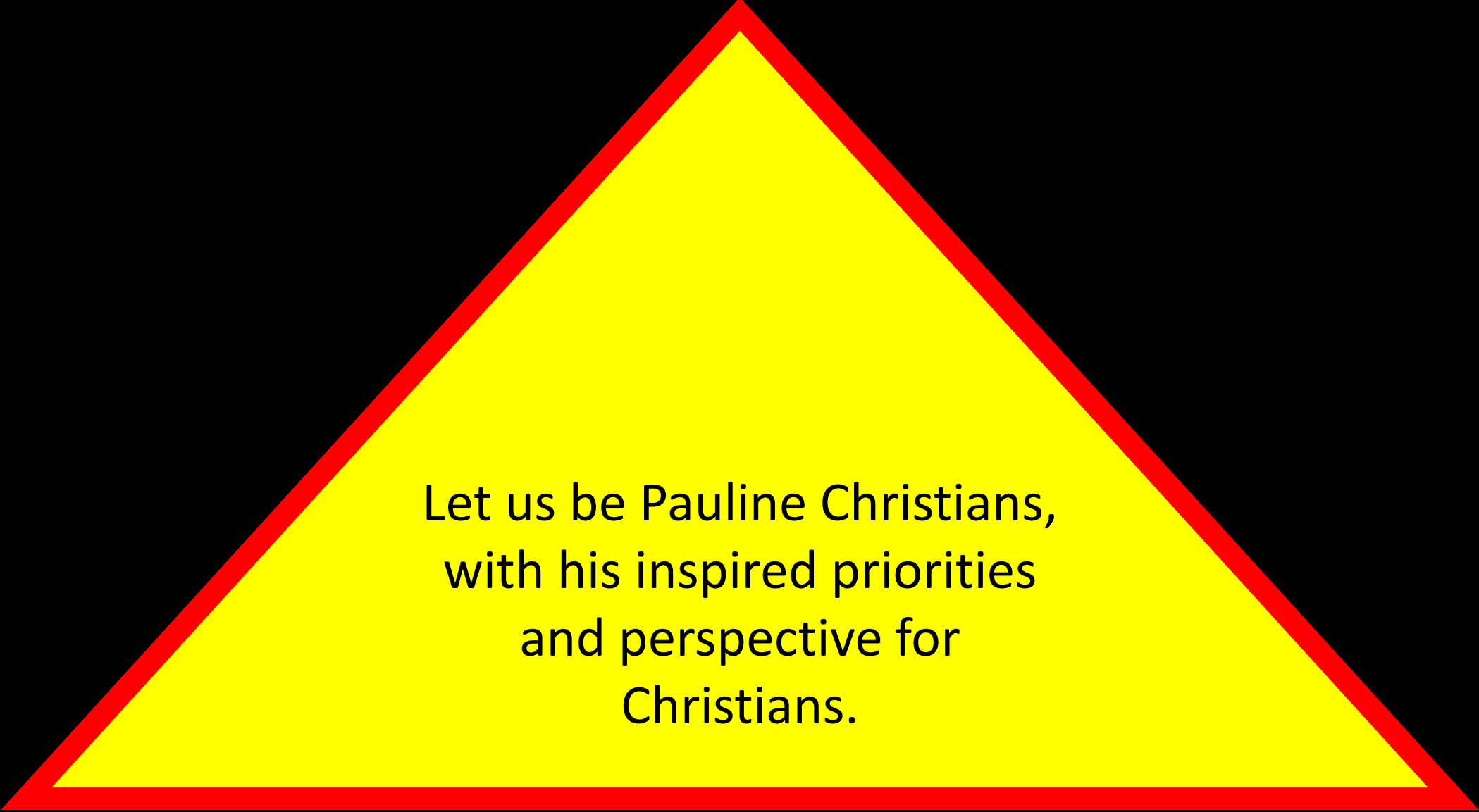
6:11,18

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.


18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The relationships of children and parents and employees to employers are valuable.

But living a victorious Christian life against the devil by using the provided armor and activity – prayer – is far, far better.



Let us be Pauline Christians,
with his inspired priorities
and perspective for
Christians.



Let us hate the corruption of
Paul by stressing sound-bite
favorites over spiritual duties.

The church at Ephesus failed to grasp Paul's emphasis and priority in this epistle, and they destroyed their church by losing their first love for Jesus Christ their Savior.

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:


3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:1-3

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4-5



Most churches have failed
this Pauline emphasis and are
carcasses without the Spirit.

For Further Study

- **Holy Spirit in Ephesians (slides) ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/holy-spirit-in-ephesians.pdf>.
- **Praying for the Holy Ghost ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/praying-for-holy-ghost.pdf>.
- **Fellowship with Christ ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/fellowship-with-christ.pdf>.
- **Filled With God ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/filled-with-god.pdf>.
- **Drawing Nigh to God ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/drawing-nigh-to-god.pdf>.
- **Higher Ground ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/higher-ground.pdf>.
- **What Is a Great Church? ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/what-is-a-great-church.pdf>.
- **Inspired Prayer Requests ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/inspired-prayer-requests.pdf>.
- **John 7 Exposition ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/john-seven.pdf>.
- **The Holy Spirit ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/holy-spirit.pdf>.
- **I Thessalonians 5:19 Exposition ...** http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/5_19.pdf.
- **Fruit of the Spirit ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/fruit-of-the-spirit.pdf>.
- **Day of Pentecost ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/day-of-pentecost-2.pdf>.