Ephesus—New Identity New Life

#3315 26 1122A 1316wds

Identity in Christ

Ephesians doesn't begin with the need to correct our wrong ways and old habits—that will happen after we give our heart and life totally to God for Him to work with us to perfect our faith in Him.

The apostle begins the transformation of our life—saying **Ephesians 4:1** *"I urge you to live a life **worthy of the calling** you have received."*

Because, he says, God *"has blessed us with **every** spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"* **Ephesians 1:3.**

Not *some* blessings or maybe *later*, but ***every*** spiritual blessing in Christ already *available;* already *promised;* already *real* when *we* truly *believe* and *trust* God.

The rebuilding plan for our new life began before we were born—*"As He chose us in Him **before** the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame** before Him in love"* **Ephesians 1:4.**

And that is possible *only* by accepting Jesus into our life to cleanse our heart through His Holy Spirit.

Before our worst mistake had a *date*, and before an oppression had a *name*—God had a *plan* to give us a *new identity* and a *new life*.

God *chose* us on purpose and He *adopted* us through His Son—He *wanted* us in his family *"according to the good pleasure of His will"* **1:5.**

Adoption in that day meant belonging to a *new family*; given a *new name*; and having a *new future*.

If we ever felt unworthy, unwanted, and unloved—Ephesians tells us a different story—*You **are** wanted; You **are** chosen; and You **are** adopted* by faith in Jesus.

The Cross of Christ makes all this possible—"*In [Jesus] we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, according to the riches of **His** grace*" **1:7.**

Redemption means *purchased* from slavery to sin and self. The price was *paid*; the chains *removed*—we are free!

The seal of the Holy Spirit means God wants us to *stay* in His family by our choice.

He *knew* we would *accept* His plan and He *knew* we would *live by* that plan through the power of His Spirit.

*"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to **completion** until the day of Christ Jesus"* **Philippians 1:6.**

We can *hear* the right words and still *live* like we didn't—so the apostle prays for those who *heard* the Truth.

Information alone does not always *transform* the heart. He prays *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** of Him"* **Ephesians 1:17.**

Information itself may not *save* a person—it is what they do ***with*** the information.

We need to have a true revelation of the atoning work of Jesus—***that*** can *transform* us and *save* us by our being faithful to the end.

The apostle's prayer included asking God to give believers a spirit of wisdom and revelation so they would truly ***know*** him.

That **Ephesians 1:18** *"the eyes of your understanding being **enlightened**; that you may **know** what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."*

When the heart can *see*—everything *changes*. When we *know* God, we will also *know* the living hope He gives us.

We are promised a *future*, and God already *knows* what that is—that by faith in His Son a rich inheritance is awaiting us.

God gives us *gifts* and calls us His *treasure*. The apostle prays that we will understand the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward believers in Christ.

It is knowing *"the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe"* **Ephesians 1:19.**

This is *not* ordinary power—it is *resurrection*-power that raised Jesus to life and placed Him at His right side in a position of authority.

It means that through faith in God and trust on His Son, we have access to the same power that enabled Jesus to walk out of the tomb.

We were all dead in trespasses, because we all have sinned. We were not just having a *tough* time of life—we were *dead—spiritually* dead.

"Without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" **Ephesians 2:12** That is a seriously dangerous situation to be in.

Satan can have someone who is spiritually *dead* feel like it is perfectly normal—*I'm getting along okay; I'm living each day and going about my work—enjoying many things*.

All the while, something inside is *missing* due to *"following the pattern of this world"* and being carried along by the world's system **Romans 2:12**.

It is so easy to be *influenced* and *driven* and *led* by forces we can't see—*"against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"* **Ephesians 6:12.**

If that happens, our *wants* and *likes* and *dislikes* are not according to God's plan. We can live ***like*** the world and want things ***of*** the world but not be aware of how dangerous *that is*—until *the eyes of our understanding are enlightened* **Ephesians 1:18**.

Sin does more than *wound* us—it ***condemns*** us—that is the *bad* news, but the *good* news is what Jesus did for us and all sinners on the Cross.

Through His Atonement, we can be protected, forgiven, healed, delivered, and victorious over Satan, because our sins ***of the past*** are put ***in the past*** *"As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us"* **Psalm 103:12.**

When all seems lost, we have two words that give us hope and changes everything *"**But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us"* **Ephesians 2:4.**

We *were* dead but now *alive* vs **5** *"with Christ"*—through faith in th Jesus' atoning sacrifice.

Every day, we should think about our ***New Identity***; Consider our ***New Life*** since now the sins ***of*** the past are ***in*** the past.

God's *mercy* steps in and His *grace* reaches further than our worst mistake.

God knew that by the road we were on, our future did not *look bright* and would not *end well*.

We were going in the wrong *direction* to the wrong *destination*, ***But God*** has a vast amount of mercy to lavish on us.

We need to ***know*** *that* and we must ***choose*** *that* through repentance and faith and trust in the Lord Jesus.

Salvation isn't a paycheck we *earn*; it is a gift we *receive*. No one is saved by being ***good enough***—but we can by trusting ***God enough***.

Anyone ***can*** be saved by the *one way*—which is to ***trust and obey*** for there is no other way—except by faith in Jesus—*"Salvation is found in no one else"* **Acts 4:12.**

God's grace does *more* than rescue us—it *restores* us and *rebuilds* our life—we just *believe* and *accept* our ***new identity***—then live this ***new life*** God has given.

We are His workmanship and created in Christ Jesus *for* good works—works that gives evidence we trust in Christ by faith in what He did for us on the Cross by taking our place when He sacrificed Himself.

God *changes* our heart and life so we become a *living billboard* of his mercy, love, and grace that others can *see* and *know* and *desire* a ***New Identity*** and a ***New Life*** of faith and trust on the *only One* who can save them from the flames.

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www.fcgchurch.org

***Receive free Tracts** email:*
fcgchurch1@gmail.com
Or write to: PO Box 143
Cheltenham, PA 19012
#3315 26 1122A