From Who We Are to How We Live

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Review of Ephesians 6 (chapters1, 2, 3)

First half of Ephesians *Who we **are in Christ***; and the second *How we **live in Him***.

God's plan of salvation through faith is not to ***pay** for salvation* but to show we have ***accepted*** it by faith in Jesus.

Good works is not the ***root*** of salvation but the ***fruit*** of faith in Christ.

The *evidence* that we are *in Christ* is that our relationships are *different*; our attitudes are *improved*; and our words are *encouraging*.

Ephesians 1:1 To the *faithful in Christ Jesus*; that **1:4** *God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*; so we *should be holy and without blame before Him in love*.

1:5 God *adopted* us *by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will*.

1:7 "*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*

This is the promise of eternal salvation to all who remain faithful to the end.

God reveals **1:9** "*the mystery of his will;*" He shows how to obey His Word and be *holy and without blame before Him*.

1:11 We have "*obtained an inheritance*"—because God wants to give it to us.

He "*works all things according to His will*" for all **1:12** "*who first trusted in Christ—to the praise of His glory*." Faith in Jesus **1:14** *guarantees an inheritance.*

We are responsible to remain faithful in trusting God for life issues—and to *keep* our faith in Him for spiritual *fruit* to result.

The evidence of our faith and trust in Jesus is ***the life we live each day*.**

The apostle's prayer **Ephesians 1:17** "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ…may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*."

That **1:18** *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened…so you may **know** what is the hope of His calling."*

We will see **1:19 "***the exceeding greatness of His power—*if we *believe.*

It is the power that raised Jesus to life and He is now **1:20-21** *"above all principality and power* since He is **1:22** "*head over all things."*

Ephesians 2:1 "*You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins"*—due to *following* the world in *attitudes* and *activities*.

We *were* **2:2** *"sons of disobedience."* The culture today can drive us *away from* the Lord and *into* the world.

We must be careful not to accept what God *condemns* or do things God *forbids*.

The world calls ***dark, light*** and ***evil, good*** **Isaiah 5:20.** We have to be *on-guard* or we can find ourselves drifting *downstream* in the *current of compromise*.

Ephesians 2:4 "*God, who is **rich** in mercy, because of His **great** love with which He loved **us***"—*left* Heaven; *endured* the cross; *paid* for our sins, and *loves us* whether we return that love or not.

His love is proven "*by grace you have been saved.*"

Ephesians 2:7 Every day God shows us "*the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*."

Since we enjoy His *grace* every day, our life should be a witness of *God's mercy, love, and grace* every day.

2:8 "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God,* **9** *not of works, lest anyone should boast*."

Grace is a *gift* but works is the *evidence* we have received God's grace.

10 "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should **walk** in them*."

Good works is not the *price of admission* but the *evidence of acceptance*.

Ephesians 2:12 We "*were without Christ; strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*"

But ***in Christ*** we *have* hope—remembering *what we **were***—so we don't forget *what we **are!***

2:13 "***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 **both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.*" Faith in Him makes it possible.

2:17 "*He came and preached peace to you who were afar off,"* and now **18** *"Through Him we have access by one Spirit to the Father*."

Yesterday's grace made us ***alive*** in Christ; today's grace makes us ***different*** in how we *act and react*.

Our new life has been paid for—**Ephesians 2:20** "*For you were **bought** at a price; therefore glorify **God** in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*."

The grace of God changes where we *stand in **Him*** and how *we treat **others.***

We are at peace *with* them and are concerned *for* them—so we include them in our prayers. We want them to *know* and *live* the Truth that will save their soul.

Ephesians 3:6 *The Gentiles are fellow heirs…and partakers of His promise in Christ.*

No one has to feel unworthy of being part of God's family. There are no second-class citizens in Heaven—all are *fellow heirs, members of the same body, partakers of the promise* through *faith* in Christ.

The apostle was privileged to proclaim the Gospel **3:7** "*according to the gift of the grace of God given to me."*

He humbly admitted that he was **8** "***less** than the **least** of all the saints"* since he had persecuted the church.

God's mercy *called* the apostle into the ministry—and *appointed* him to tell everyone they *are loved* and they *have a choice*—

To repent, be forgiven, and *become part of God's family.* Anyone who makes that decision will be accepted—Jesus saying **John 6:37** "*I will in no wise cast out*."

This is the eternal plan God has **3:11** "*accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord*."

We can be *bold* in proclaiming this because we have "*access with confidence through faith in Him.*"

The apostle prayed that God **3:16** "*would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit…within,*

17 *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—being rooted and grounded in love."*

God will enable us **3:18** *to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height"*—of God's love for us—

It is beyond fully comprehending. The apostle prayed **19** "*that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*."

Ephesians 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."*

God's plan is to bring both Jews and Gentiles together as one. Israel began with twelve *tribes* but they are now *one* in Christ.

When God's grace removes the wall of hostility, we are *one* with all true believers everywhere;

We have a shared *inheritance* and a common *purpose*—*Trust* God; *Keep* the faith; *Don't* look back; and *Never go* back to rebellious attitudes.

Ephesians 3:21 "*To **Him** be **glory** in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen*."

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