

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

SUNDAY 4-12-2023

EPHESIANS 0290-061

GRACE, 36.

DOCTRINE OF GRACE 1.

(Y) Point 1. Introduction.

In EPH 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.

EPH 1:5 In love having predesigned us with the result of the appointment of adult sons for himself through Jesus Christ, according to the benevolent purpose from his will,

EPH 1:6 Resulting in recognition of glory from the source of his grace, from which he has pursued us with grace in the one having been loved.

1. The second missionary journey.
2. The third missionary journey.
3. The first Roman imprisonment.
4. After the first Roman imprisonment. During the second missionary journey.

Paul wrote from Corinth in 52 AD. He wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth in 53 AD.

Then during the third missionary journey he wrote four epistles: Galatians, written from Ephesus in 55 AD; 1 Corinthians, written from Ephesus in 55 AD; and then second Corinthians, written from Philippi in 57 AD.

He also wrote the book of Romans, written from Corinth just before Paul left for Jerusalem in 58 AD. And then from 58 AD we have a silence from Paul for four years.

Because Paul went into reversionism by going to Jerusalem, when Paul wrote Romans, he should have carried the epistle himself to Rome, he should have gone to Rome from Corinth.

After his recovery he wrote the four most important things he ever wrote: Ephesians from Rome in 62 AD, Philippians from Rome in 63 AD, Colossians from Rome in 62 AD, Philemon from Rome in 62 AD.

During the fourth missionary journey he wrote 1 Timothy from Macedonia in 65 AD. Titus from Macedonia in 66 AD. 2 Timothy from Rome in 67 AD. Paul began writing in 52 AD and he died in 67 AD.

The true destination of Ephesians. The stated destination in Ephesians 1:1, "at Ephesus," is not found in the original text.

EPH 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are *at Ephesus*, and {who are} faithful in Christ Jesus:

Here is the perfection of the divine plan compatible with God's character. He provided us the benefits and then He provided us.

The plan would not be perfect if anything depended upon man, and we can thank God that nothing does.

Grace blessing preexisted all believers before they were born.

EPH 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

PSA 22:9 Yet Thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb; Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother's breasts.

PSA 22:10 Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb.

The blessing came first; therefore, you had nothing to do with the blessing, you were just there; it preexisted you.

Just like the blessing by God in the womb and out of the womb PSA 22:9 *Yet Thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb; Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother's breasts.*

PSA 22:10 Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb.

Since the blessing of the believer existed before the believer it is impossible for such blessing to be based on human merit or human ability.

Even though we are conceived in PSA 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Even though we go astray in PSA 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb and they speak lies go astray from birth.

Even though in PSA 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb and these who speak lies go astray from birth.

Always remember PSA 139:14 I will give thanks to Thee, for *I am fearfully and wonderfully made*; Wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well.

ROM 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Under the word used in the Greek word *eulogetos*, which means God blesses or provides benefits that are based on who and what He is, never who and what we are.

While people can be a blessing to us in time only God can be a blessing to us before time existed in eternity past.

This is the perfection and the superiority of the divine plan which is compatible with the superiority and perfection of His person.

God is perfect, His plan is perfect.

God is superior, His plan is superior.

If man could do anything to earn or deserve in God's plan then the plan is no stronger than man.

Grace blessing preexisted all grace recipients, all believers. The blessing of grace was provided before the beneficiary of grace.

Since the blessing of the believer existed before the believer, it is impossible for such blessing to be based on human merit or human ability.

Eulogetos means that God provides benefits for you based on who and what He is and who and what He was in eternity past, and He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Because He never changes; HEB 13:8 Jesus Christ {is} the same yesterday and today, {yes} and forever.

The phrase "with all spiritual blessings" means that materialistic things and things that produce happiness in life, which are known as secondary assets in your portfolio of invisible assets, many types of blessings to all believers.

Eulogia also is the adjective for blessing, benevolence. and it indicates a category of blessing.

This is a long prepositional phrase, and it should be translated "by means of every spiritual benefit."

It might be a right man or a right woman who is flesh and blood but the fact that you have right man or right woman is a spiritual blessing because of the source.

The Greek word used here refers to anything that is respectable, religious, or legalistic; Jam 1:27.

(Y) Point 2. Definition and Description of Grace.

There is the principle coming up that is used for the spiritual gifts that God the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows on every believer.

A materialistic thing can be spiritual or not spiritual, it all depends on the source because if the source is God, then it is spiritual, if the source is man, then it is of the flesh.

“In heavenly places” means that spiritual benefits include Bible doctrine, your salvation, your blessings, and benefits, but remember that everything that you have which is materialistic is also from God; 1CO 4:7.

The Greek words used for “upon the heavens” is best translated “in the heavenlies because that is the place where God dwells forever.

1. The first heaven is in the atmosphere.
2. The second heaven is in the Stella universe.
3. The third heaven is where God dwells.

In effect, “in the heavenlies” is going to relate all blessings that you have to your position in Christ.

is **The doctrine of Positional Truth.**

Point 1. Introduction. (*You are really going to like this doctrine.*)

We begin with the principle of the Law verses life. not the Mosaic Law, but grace or not I, but Christ.

The principle of the Law applied to the believer dooms him to Romans 7, while the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free in Rom 8:1-4.

In positional truth, it is identification with Christ which includes the position of death for the old nature, and the position of life for the new nature.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to block the self-life and its sinful works, and to foster the new life and its fruit.

Spiritual growth does not involve effort on the part of the Christian, for the indwelling Spirit transmits the life of the Lord Jesus from source to servant.

Neither are struggles connected with the daily deliverance from the tyranny of self, for the Spirit transmits the finished work of the Cross to the individual.

1CO 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the *power* of sin is the law.

If you ever want to see how bad things can get, just put a anyone under the Law who denies positional truth.

More believers have fallen into this trap of being placed under rules and laws and you will see them fall away.

It may have some prohibitions for living in the self-life, but the Scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit, “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,” ministers Christ to the Christian.

JOH 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Most of the depressing law-burden individuals are upon believers who emanate from Hyper-Calvanism and its Covenant theology which deny the free will of man and the Doctrine of Dispensations.

Many are unaware of the legalistic aspect of this teaching since its doctrines are well known for providing the Christian with the solid scriptural foundation of justification and eternal security.

There is Justification, where nothing needs be said further, regarding the faithful stand in teaching the Word of God, such as the foundational truths as the inspiration of the Word.

Humanly speaking, the doctrinal basis upon which we rest today is due to the scholarship and integrity of such Reformed theologians as Berkhof, Hodge, Arthur Pink, and Dr, Charles Ryle, who is from Dallas Theological seminary.

We can be thankful for this regarding justification by faith, but when it comes to sanctification through Christ Who is our Life because it is a substitution which is proclaimed by our Lord and the apostle Paul in the Doctrine of Positional Truth.

Positional truth is identification of our death to the Law and our life in Christ, and it needs to be recognized.

It is anti-dispensational, and primarily restricted to two covenants, works and grace as prophetic scriptures and they are spiritualized, resulting in not understanding dispensational truth.

The church is considered to include the saints of all ages, the distinctive Body of Christ, thus merging with born-again believers, the law is brought right on past Calvary or the Cross and fastened upon the Christian.

This theology prevents the Christian from seeing and freely taking his stand as having died unto the Law and being now alive unto God in the Lord Jesus Christ where ye also were made dead to the Law.

Through the body of Christ; where you should be joined together with another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, so that we might bring forth fruit unto God, as Rom 7:4 says.

We have died to the old life and are now alive in the new, and that to bring forth “fruit,” the fruit of the Spirit in contrast to the “works” of the law; Gal 5:16:17.

Is the disciple to be above his Master, or the servant superior to his Lord, but Christ was ‘made under the Law and lived in perfect submission to it beginning in Gal 4:4.

He also left us an example that we should ‘follow His steps; 1Pe 2:21.