

Ephesians 1 – 21 August 2022

“Chosen To Inherit A New Identity”

Introduction

- *Prison letter written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD
- *Written to Church at Ephesus & meant to circulate
- *There is a noticeable absence of addressing contentious people and contentious issues
- *Theme of Book: What is it to be right with God
- *Ephesians Outlined
 - *Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**
 - *Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**
- *Our Position = It not like we’ve just taken a new job, but that we’ve taken on a new identity since being born again – (Michael Knight as example)
- *Read Vs 1-3 – So chap 1-3 are the blessings of seeing who we really are now that we’re believers in Christ
- ***Today, we’ll see 3 blessings of our position as Christians being “in Christ”**

1st blessing of our position: We're chosen – means we're loved & included (Vs 4-8)

Read Vs 4

1. He's blessed us just the way He's always intended to
 - a. God's plan has always been for us to be in a loving relationship with Him
2. What did He choose us for?
 - a. To be clean & different, in the presence of His love
 - b. We seek holiness & He makes us holy by placing us "in Christ"
 - i. God looks at us & sees His Son

Read Vs 5

1. God predetermined that His plan was to adopt us into His family (relationship)
2. His plan has always been to make entrance into this relationship by His own Son Jesus the Christ

Read Vs 6

1. Why did He set this plan into motion?
 - a. “To the praise of the glory of His grace” means so that the weightiness of His gift would be exalted in praise (For God to be center of all)
2. “He made us acceptable” – Our own effort can never be seen as acceptable; they are as filthy rags.
 - a. The cross of Christ made us acceptable
3. “Into the beloved” – our adopted Father God did it b/c He loves us

Read Vs 7

1. We’ve been set apart from the prison of our sins by the offering of Christ’s innocent blood
2. All b/c God willingly gives us of His abundant grace

Read Vs 8

1. In the cross we see the abundance of God’s wisdom & wise action
2. The cross is how we know the love of God

2nd blessing of our position: We've inherited – one body, one Spirit (Vs 9-14)

Read Vs 9-10

1. Mystery: not foggy but simply unknown like pw
2. The 'mystery of His will' is not just to bring Gentiles to eternal life
 - a. That's already revealed in the OT
 - b. It's Jews & Gentiles alike enter ONE body
 - i. Don't view *any* Christian as separate from you
 - c. This mystery will be laid out in chap 2 & 3
 - d. No longer do Gentiles have to become like Jews or vis versa, but *a new creation* is what matters (Read Gal 6:15)
3. "Heaven & Earth", but not under the earth (Phi 2:10, Rev 5:3)
 - a. All believers (Jew & Gentile) have been brought together b/c of Christ in the same way

Read Vs 11

1. God's grand plan hasn't been set in motion just to save us from sin & hell but also to give us a great inheritance – this was always His plan

Read Vs 12

1. Our eternal life w/ God is an eternal memorial to God's greatness in redeeming sinful man back
2. "Who first trusted in Christ"
 - a. It all began w/ Paul & Jews back in Israel
 - b. Those raised w/ the hope of Christ to come

Read Vs 13

1. We 1st believed but then you Ephesians believed
2. Upon believe the Holy Spirit is given to indwell
 - a. Promised by Jesus to come in John 14-16
 - b. Not just given but sealed & kept secure
 - i. Read John 10:28

Read Vs 14

1. We have redemption thru Jesus & yet there is redemption coming
 - a. Payment has been made for redemption (it's real), but yet taking possession of us is to come
2. In the meantime, we have the down payment which is the H.S. showing what eternal life is like
 - a. And it's all to show how good God is

3rd blessing of our position: We're empowered – with knowledge, love & hope (Vs 15-23)

Read Vs 15-16

1. B/c they trusted in Jesus Christ *and* became lovers of Christians; Paul continually praises God
2. Our gratitude for what God's done for *sinful us*, compels us to love the *others that are like us*

Read Vs 17-19

1. Paul's asking the Lord to empower them with:
 - a. Knowledge and insight to understand more of who God is (Vs 17)
 - b. That they would be empowered with the hope of His calling (V 18)
 - c. That they would know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Vs 18)
 - d. Greatness of His power in the Church (vs 19)
2. All of this is *His power in us!*

Read Vs 20

1. Same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now working in us by God's H.S. (Read I Pet 1:3-5)

Read Vs 21

1. Jesus Christ has authority over all rulers & kingdoms now and forever
2. Jesus is seated (rest) in this place of authority
 - a. Only time we see Him stand in to receive one of His own like in Act 7:56 (Stephen)
 - b. Remember, where does it say we are in Eph 1:3? We are “in Christ”

Read Vs 22a

1. We’re progressing toward Jesus taking the place of Lord over all things (Read I Cor 15:20-26)

Read Vs 22b-23

1. Jesus is the leader of the church, He’s the Chief Shepherd (Read Col 1:18)
2. This is why we preach the centrality of Jesus
 - a. He’s the focus of the church (Eph 1)
 - b. He’s the focus of the Godhead (John 16)
 - c. He’s the focus of my life as well

Conclusion

II Cor 5:17: “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, all things have become new.” What does new look like?

1. **We’re Chosen: means we’re loved & included**
 - a. Even if no one else thinks this way of you, you’re special to God
 - b. He’s looking at you & wants good for you
2. **We’ve Inherited: there’s one body & one Spirit**
 - a. There’s equality now being sons & daughters of the King of the Universe
 - b. Not just equal, but blessed w/ God’s very Spirit to guide us & remind us of what we have
3. **We’re Empowered: w/ knowledge, love & hope**
 - a. H.S. gifts us w/ knowledge of God & the security of eternal life to come
 - b. Having this hope, empowers us to love others today – in hope of bringing them w/ us