

-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #3

In verse 3 we meet an expression that may not take our attention because of the translation. It is, "in heavenly places." The Greek for this is EN TOIS EPOUR-ANIOIS. The only place we find this expression in all the Word is in Eph., and it occurs there 5 times.

1. In verse 3 it gives us the location of the place where all spiritual blessings will be experienced and enjoyed. This is the first time in all the Bible that man is given a hope of going to heaven. Before this he has had the hope of the kingdom or Millennium or the new earth. It may seem rather unbelievable that man should ever be able to rise to the place where Christ is at the right hand of the Father.

2. In verse 20 we have mention of the fact that Christ was raised and seated in this place. He is to be seated there until His enemies are made His footstool. But a day is coming when He will arise and take over the kingdoms of the earth and rule them and also will rule over all the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

3. In 2:6 we find the central mention of this expression and the one that is of great interest to us. For there in that place are seated all those who trust in Him as Head of the church which is His Body, the mystery which was hid in God from ages and generations. That is the place of citizenship of those who will accept this gospel by faith.

4. In 3:10 we find the expression. It is there we learn that the church is a display sample so that the principalities and powers of those areas might know the manifold wisdom of God. It is hard for us to comprehend how that taking us poor miserable sinners and seating us in the highest heavens would show wisdom on the part of God. But so it is.

5. In 6:12 we find the 5th and last mention of the expression. It is indeed a surprise to us when we read that in those same places dwell powers of darkness and wickedness. But it is true. It is not till these are cast out with Satan that men can pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We make no attempt to locate these places in space. It is needless to say that it is not so much a location as it is a sphere of authority of God and of blessing for the church.

-LIFE AND RESURRECTION-

You may wonder why the title is in the above order, but it is the correct one in this case. If you will carefully read Jno. 6:40, 54, you will notice that everlasting life is first given and then comes the assurance of resurrection.

It is the same with the seed which we plant in the ground. If it does not have life in it when planted, it will never, no never, grow. It will perish.

But the illustration of the seed is not a very good one if taken to its end. The seed usually has life to begin with, and the germ may die from some cause or other. With man the opposite is true. He is born with the inheritance of death from Adam already in him. Life must be acquired in some way if he is to have a resurrection. That life is a new creation which God implants within. It is the guarantee of resurrection.

This is very strongly brot out in 1st John 5:12 where we read, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." So one that does not have life is as the seed in which the germ is dead.

This is further brot out in 1st Cor. 15:22 where we are told that all in Christ shall be made alive. It gives no hope for those who are not in Christ.

But the sad part is that so many on every hand are not in Christ. So the resurrection crop will be small. This is and should be a matter of great concern to us. We should realize that the masses are returning to the dust with no hope of a return. They perish.

Parents should be much concerned about their children. The little ones can and should be taught the way of life at an early age. Too many parents are careless and unconcerned about this matter.

We must ever remember that in our parent, Adam, all die. It makes no difference who or what they are or what age they may be. There is only one way to escape from the power or hold of this death. That is by resurrection.

I do pray that all my readers will come to the place Job did when he in faith could say, "Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee." Or be as David when he said, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake with Thy likeness."

It is a matter about which one can be sure. But are you sure?

-DO YOU KNOW?-

1. When did the gifts of the Spirit cease?
2. When did Paul cease to be bound for the hope of Israel and become a prisoner of the Lord for us Gentiles?
3. When was the Mystery, which had been hid in God from ages and generations, first known to Paul?
4. When did Paul cease to speak "none other things" and begin giving a message which Moses and the prophets knew nothing about?
5. When did Paul cease to look for the "rapture" and become resigned to die?
6. When did Paul cease to preach the New Covenant?
7. When did Israel cease to be first in the preaching of the gospel?
8. When did the Gentiles cease to be a grafted-in wild olive branch and become joint-partakers of heavenly blessings with the saints?
9. When did the preaching of the kingdom of heaven cease and that of the church of the mystery begin?
10. When did both Jew and Gentile cease to be blest thru faithful Abraham and begin to be blest thru Christ only?
11. When did the distinction between Jewish and Gentile believers cease and the both become one?
12. When were members of a church first called "saints and faithful"?
13. When did the preaching of the Word cease to be the sole right and prerogative of the Jew?
14. When did tongues, signs, and visions cease and faith, and faith alone, become God's order?
15. What is the boundry line between when Paul advised widows not to marry, and when he advised the younger widows to marry?
16. When did the events of history cease to be the fulfillment of prophecy?
17. When did water baptism cease to be (along with faith) essential for salvation?
18. When did "signs following" cease to accompany water baptism?
19. When did missionaries begin to have to go to school to learn the languages (tongues) of those whom they were to evangelize?
20. When did believing Israel cease to be a chosen nation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation?
21. When did men cease to have the power to bind things on the earth and in heaven?
22. When did Paul lose his power of healing?
23. When was the olive tree, along with the grafted-in wild olive branches, cut down?
24. When did men cease to have unequal gifts and powers and all the saints and faithful come into a perfect equality of standing before God?
25. When did churches on the earth cease to be the church of God?
26. When did covenant relationship of believers with God cease?
27. When did the great tribulation, the second coming, and the kingdom cease to be at hand?
28. When did more than one baptism cease to be required and "the one baptism" become God's order?
29. When did believers cease to look for the parousia or apocalypse and begin looking for the ephipaneia?
30. When did believers cease to know perfectly their hope and Paul begin to pray that they might know "the hope of His calling"?
31. When did certain believers begin to be quickened, raised and seated in the heavenlies in Christ?
32. When did believers cease to look for an earthly kingdom and begin to have a hope of going to heaven at resurrection?
33. When did the calling "from the foundation of the world" cease and the calling "from before the foundation of the world" begin?
34. When did Gentiles cease to be partakers of the Word which was sent to Israel and receive a gospel of their own?
35. When were the Jewish Christians, who were zealous of the law, released from the obligations of the law?
36. When was the middle wall of partition broken down between Jew and Gentile?
37. When did all the things which Paul had wherein to boast under the law cease to be of any value to him?
38. When was the Jew released from his obligation of observing the Sabbath and keeping the Lord's supper?
39. When was the last time Israel became LO-AMMI (not My people)?
- *40. When was salvation taken from the Jews and sent to the Gentiles?
- *This is the key question to the rest.

TRUTH FOR YOUTH

-STUDIES IN JOHN- #33

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; If you will read chapters 22, 23, and 24 of Numbers, you will get a little lesson about state and standing.

1. In what company do we find Peter? 18:18
2. What was he doing there?
3. Who first questioned the Lord?
4. What did he ask?
5. What was the answer?
6. What happened to the Lord then?
7. What did He have to say for Himself then? 23
8. Who had sent the Lord to the high priest?
9. What did they say to Peter as he stood warning himself? 25
10. What was his reply?
11. How did the servant remember him?
12. What did he ask Peter?
13. How did Peter answer him?
14. Then what happened? 27
15. Where did they next lead the Lord?
16. Why did not the Jews enter?
17. Was the Lord tried in the judgment hall before Pilate?
18. What did Pilate ask them? 29
19. Did they have a straight answer?
20. What did Pilate advise them to do?
21. Why does all this happen as it does? 32
22. Now where is the Lord questioned, in the hall, or outside?
23. Are the Jews present at this questioning?
24. What question does Pilate ask the Lord then? 33
25. How did the Lord counter the question?
26. How did Pilate defend himself?
27. If WORLD here means AGE, what has happened to the kingdom which the Lord and His apostles had preached as being "at hand"? 36
28. What question does Pilate ask the second time?
29. What does the Lord say now?
30. What great question then did Pilate ask? What would be your answer to it?
31. What was Pilate's verdict?
32. What does he suggest should be done?
33. What was their reply?
34. Who was this Barabbas?
35. At what time of the day did these things take place?
36. Were these proceedings lawful?
37. Where were the other disciples?

You will notice that God would not allow Baalam to curse Israel. He would not allow any accusation brot against Israel. They were the children of God. They were of His family. So He was very jealous and would not let anybody speak evil of them.

Is not this the same with parents today? They will immediately defend their own children if anybody will make any accusation against them.

But there is another side of the picture. Altho their standing as children is perfect and cannot be assailed, there is much that needs correction in the family. Parents will chastize these same children whom they will defend from any accusations from strangers.

It is the same with God. He chastizes those whom He loves. If you will read on in Numbers from this place, you will find that this is true.

We have a similar example in Job. At the first God spoke well of Job when Satan tried to accuse him. Job was spoken of as being perfect. Yet he had much to learn and God had to speak to him at the last. When Job learned his lesson, he did not think much of himself, but he did think a great deal more of God. That is the lesson all of us must learn sooner or later. So if God chastizes you, you will know that it is because He loves you and you are His child.

Satan is an accuser. He will try to "get something on" you if he can. But we have an advocate (lawyer for defense) in the person of Christ before the Father. He only has to remind the Father of the shed blood. That is all the defense we need when we have Him for counsel.

It is a great comfort to know these things in times of need. We can be assured that there is help and that God understands. Also we can have the knowledge that what is done is for our good if we love Him. There is no need for fear and uncertainty in the believer.

I just hope that these remarks may be timely with some of you and that you may receive courage and strength to stand for Him every day. I pray for all of you that you may be more than conquerors in Him.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

ERRATUM! In the excitement and rush of getting and operating the new (I mean second-hand) #1250 Multilith, your editor marked the last paper wrong (but has now been corrected with the reprint).

VISITORS; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ransom and Cheryl Ann, all of Joliet, Ill., drove thru the fog and rain and came to class Tue. Jan. 19th. Bill and Barbara plan to come back and help us get caught up with the work here the week end of Jan. 30 and 31. We certainly will appreciate that!

THE REVELATION; Some of the folks coming to the classes have expressed a desire to know more about the last book of the Bible. So we may take it up in the near future. Many who live in this area ought to get in on this study.

WELCOME to the class held at the home of the editor each Tue. nite at 7:30. His home is 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center road, or 4 miles south of Atwood, or 3 1/2 miles north of Palestine.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is published each month and sent to anybody anywhere free. You can help by sending in names and addresses of all who are interested in the study of the Word rightly divided.

INFORMATION BUREAU; We would like to know the time and place of various classes and groups, no matter how small. We have a continuous stream of enquiries about such from new readers. They usually want to know where the nearest class is.

BACK COPIES; Have been going fast, but still have a few of most of them back to No. 39. You are welcome to them as long as they last. New readers should have a set.

CROWDED; The barn is about full these winter nites. We have 13 cows and heifers in stanchions and 9 more heifers and calves in pens. It is a bank barn, 30' X 50', and we keep all these below. Since we are finding it impossible to keep up the farm work and the TFT ministry too, most of these may be for sale this spring. There are 8 registered Brown Swiss in the lot. We are trying to follow the leading of the Lord in this.

LETTERS; We are so glad to hear from so many of you. We will miss the cheery letters from two of our friends in Australia who have passed on. Just keep on writing. Will reply, slowly! We do the best we can to keep up.

-ABOUT BOOKS-

If you are interested in the significance of numbers in the Bible, I would suggest NUMBER IN SCRIPTURE by E. W. Bullinger. There are over 300 pages taking up the numbers from 1 to 666. The book is a veritable Bible study in itself and am sure that you will enjoy it. We have a good supply at \$5 each, postpaid.

If you are in the neighborhood of some who do not believe that Christ was God, the booklet THE DEITY OF CHRIST by C.H. Welch is a good answer. It is 19¢.

Two of the latest books by Welch are Job and Ecclesiastes. Job is interesting reading. It is 45¢. Ecclesiastes has been a hard book for most folks, and of course is condemned and put in the discard from most pulpits. You should read this study by Welch on it. It is 60¢.

Many have been sending in their subscriptions or renewals for the Berean Expositor. Some have neglected it and have not paid up for last year yet. Why not send in a \$ for each year's subscription so they can meet the rising cost of putting it out? The regular rate is 87¢ per year.

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