
-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #8

This time we take up a study of the expression "The Lord Jesus Christ." It is found 7 times in the epistle.

Last month in the study of the word FATHER, which occurs in the epistle 8 times, you will notice that the two central references are to ACCESS and to PRAYER. Likewise in this study of the phrase THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, the central member has to do with prayer.

Our Lord spent much time in prayer. The apostle Paul also spent much time in prayer, especially for the saints. We should note this and question whether we are spending the time in prayer that we ought, especially for the saints.

The title, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, appears in;

- 1:2. Grace and peace, to saints.
- 1:3. Sonship, spiritual blessings.
- 1:17. Gift of wisdom & revelation.
- 3:14. Sonship, bow knees to Father.
- 5:20. Giving thanks in the name.
- 6:23. Sonship, peace and love.
- 6:24. Grace, with all that love.

The term LORD (kurios) means a ruler and owner. The rest of the expression, Jesus Christ, refers to the one who humbled Himself and was then exalted. He is the owner of every believer, not because He is the Creator, but because He is the Redeemer. We do well to call Him LORD (John 13:13).

As each of the above references is studied in its context, we discover that all spiritual blessings have their origin in God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the channel by which they can come to us. We do not attempt to describe or define Spiritual Blessings.

In the context of 1:17 we discover that it is God who gives the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. A full knowledge of Christ is necessary for a comprehension of the mystery of Christ. This had not been known fully in other ages and generations as it is now. This knowledge is inseparably linked with the knowledge of the dispensation of the mystery. Many may have a head knowledge of the fact that there was a dispensational boundary at Acts 28:28, but that does not guarantee that they have a knowledge of The Mystery. Against the giving of knowledge in 1:17 is the giving of thanks in 5:20. For not being thankful, see Rom. 1:21.

-COMFORT-

Some folks at the church of Thessalonica needed some comfort. They had been looking for the coming of the Lord to set up His kingdom here on the earth. But the coming was delayed and in the meantime several of the believers had died. Friends and relatives were very concerned about this condition. What is to happen to those who will not be here when the Lord comes?

So in 4:13 Paul says that he does not want them to be ignorant of the facts. He describes the dead believers as asleep. They have not perished as have all the unbelievers. Death for the believer is as a sleep. See Psa. 17:15.

So Paul gives three reasons why they should not worry. 1. God will bring them from the dead. 2. Those who are alive will not in any way precede them. 3. The both shall be caught up together.

They are to comfort each other with these words. In the light of modern theology, this seems rather foolish. Today these folks would be told by the most enlightened (?) theologians that they need not worry, their friends and relatives who have fallen asleep are with the Lord in heaven. But the Word does not say such a thing anywhere. The truth is that they are dead and their only hope is in resurrection. That is fundamental.

As a rule, another word in this passage does not get a very full explanation. It is MEET. In the Greek it occurs in Matt. 25:1, 6; Acts 28:15 and here. In each of the other instances it means to go out to meet somebody and come back with that person or party. That is also what it means here. Christ is coming to the earth to set up His kingdom. As He comes, all who have the hope of the kingdom, both the dead and the living, will be caught up to meet Him in the air and come back with Him. From that time they will always be with Him.

This resurrection and rapture is not for the church of the dispensation of the mystery. Its members are not destined to be with the Lord on the earth, but in the heavenlies. However, this is a subject for another paper.

Our main point we would like for you to see is the fact that the only hope of the dead is resurrection, and that is only for those who are said to be asleep in Christ. That is for believers only.

TRUTH FOR YOUTH

- STUDIES IN JOHN - #38

1. Who was the disciple that the Lord loved? 21:20
2. What had been his position with relation to the Lord at a supper?
3. What question had Peter wanted him to ask of the Lord?
4. What had the answer been and whom did that indicate was the betrayer?
5. Now what does Peter want to know about John? 21:21
6. What was the Lord's answer? 22
7. If you look at Dan. 9:24 you will find 70 weeks of years determined upon the people and the city. So taking the date of the dedication of the temple, 405 B.C. as the start of these weeks, when would they run out?
8. If it had not been for the present dispensation of the mystery being a sort of parenthesis, could the Lord's reply have been true of John?
9. But what was Peter to do instead of asking such questions? 22
10. What bit of gossip went the rounds as a result of this conversation?
11. How had the Lord's saying been twisted?
12. Do people ever get things twisted that way in this age in which we live?
13. Who wrote this gospel? 24
14. Do we have a complete record of the life of Christ?
15. Why not?
16. Why did John write his record? 20:31
17. Does this gospel still call Israel to repentance, or was the day of repentance for them past? 1:11
18. Then to whom must this gospel be written since it cannot be to Israel?
19. What is the requirement for salvation for us Gentiles today? 3:16
20. Can you find the word "repent" in this gospel anywhere?
21. Did John record the observance of the last supper or Passover?
22. Why should he not tell us Gentiles about that? Exodus 12:43-48
23. What must a person have in order to be resurrected? 6:40, 54
24. Does John give any hope of resurrection or life to those who will not believe? 3:36
25. Did John believe in the deity of Christ. Give references.
26. Please write a few words of testimony as to what John's gospel means to you.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: This is the end of the studies in the gospel of John. So glad that some of you have kept up the lessons to the very end. Also am happy to have some new ones come into the group, even at the last. They are; Lloyd H. Schellenberg of New Lenox, Ill., Gloria Ann Tunks of Oshkosh, Wis., and Mrs. Belva K. Mallory of Hollidaysburg, Pa. I have been delayed in the checking of the lessons, but finally have them all out. Have mailed membership pins to the new ones, too. If any others would like to take up these studies, I can furnish back copies of TFT for most of the lessons. A few numbers are no longer available now.

I am wondering what we should use in the opposite column from now on. Do you have any suggestions? I have that of having some character studies of persons in the Bible, or maybe a little story concerning them. I find that many do not know the characters of the Bible like they ought to, especially the stories of the OT. By the time I was 12 years old all these were quite familiar to me. I had read them over and over. But I guess all do not read as much as I have.

In your contacts with others you will find two main classes of people. Those who have life and those who do not (2 Jn 5:12). Each of these is also divided into classes or divisions.

- I. Those who do not have life.
 1. Those who are ignorant and do not know about this life.
 2. Those who may have heard, but do not care.
 3. Those who think they are all right because they follow their own way. They may even take part in church activities, never have believed God and His Word.
- II. Those who have life.
 1. Those who want to live their lives as they please and interpret the Word to suit themselves. They are sowing to the flesh.
 2. Those who desire to know the will of God and walk in it. They are sowing to the Spirit.

In which of these classes are you?
 Only those who seek His will and to walk in it have the joy of salvation. There is no excuse for a Christian having a long face. Get all the joy you can from your Christian life. Feed on the Word.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

TRUTH FOR TODAY is sent free to anybody anywhere upon request. You can have it sent to your friends. Just send us the names and addresses. The aim is to be searching constantly for truth and make people think and study. We reserve the right to change our minds and about face on what we have said if we find new truth. So you are not expected to agree with all you find written in these pages. But we do wish that you would join God's nobility (Acts 17:11) and ransack the Scriptures.

VISITORS: Bill and Barbara Ransom of Joliet Ill. spent a week end with us and helped with the work. They had the two little girls with them. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith of Joliet drove down for one of the Tuesday night Bible Classes.

XTRA COPIES of TFT #70 which carried the picture of Mr. Welch are still available if you want them. Also back copies of several other issues will be sent free upon request as long as they last. Nothing older than #39 now.

MR. C.H. WELCH expects to be with us next May and June for a tour of the U.S. and Canada. If your group has not made arrangements for having him, write to me now. Mr. Welch is the editor of the Berean Expositor (since 1909) and has written many books and pamphlets. He is Principal of the Chapel of the Opened Book in London, England.

LATCHSTRING is out for visitors at most any time this summer except the week end of Aug. 1st. It is better that you let us know when you are coming at any time. We might be out for the time.

OOPS! Our spelling is atrocious! Left a cylinder out of a word in this page last time. Forgive us this once.

KEEP THE CHANGE. When you order books and overpay and want us to keep the change, be sure to say so. We hope that we have not slipped up on this and offended someone by failing to return change. Any extra that comes in that way is used to give out free materials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: At Lowell, Ark., there are meetings at the old bank Bldg. every Sunday. At 10 there is a class at the Childrens Center. Each first and third Thur. of the month there is a special service by A. V. Canady. Get in touch with Wm. C. Poulson of Lowell for more information.

Those who live in the Neenah and the Oshkosh Wis. territory will find a meeting place at the Edwin Tunks home,

which is 1/4 mile north of Oshkosh on the Vinland Rd. Sunday School at 10:30 A.M. followed by service conducted by Mr. Warren Waite at 11:30. Robert A. Roberts conducts evening service at 7:30. Young People each Mon. nite at 7:30.

BOOK PRICES are still rising, so get the books you want now. Sold out our first shipment of The Witness of the Stars by Bullinger, but have ordered more of them. Price \$4.25 postpaid. Companion Bibles; Buckram \$12, quarter leather \$16, and full leather \$24.

STUDY. If you really like to have tools for study we have Bagster Englishman's Greek Concordance at \$8.50 and the Heb. and Chaldee Concordance at \$17.50. In the English we have Young's Exhaustive Concordance at \$13. You might like the Greek Interlinear N. T., Bagster, at \$4.25 or the Analytical Greek Lexicon at \$4.25.

FEW LEFT. One copy Expository Dict. of N. T. Words by Vine at \$9.50. Two copies of Vol. 1 Thy Testimonies at \$2 each. Two copies of LXX with Eng. Translation at \$6.30 each. Used books are about all cleaned out except a few odd volumes of Things to Come by E. W. Bullinger. Ask for list.

C.H. Welch; Some latest books are The Burden of Prophecy 60¢, Job or the Enigma of the Ages 45¢, Ecclesiastes 60¢, and The Dispensational Frontier 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢ or 50 for \$1.50. All Books postpaid.

KEEP WRITING; We received just about 400 letters the first half of this year which is about double that of the same time last year. We finally get all answered. Be patient with us.

TRUTH FOR TODAY
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