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**-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #10**

In Eph. 1:3-14, we find 5 things which God has done for us and each of them is followed by the word ACCORDING. All are the purpose of God for the saints and faithful and in each instance the measure is given. See Companion Bible, p. 1760.

i. Blessed with all spiritual blessings. What these may be is beyond our comprehension. We cannot know these spiritual things in the heavenlies. They are far different from the blessings of Israel which were of earthly materials and easily understood, even to the New Jerusalem which is to be on the earth. ACCORDING to a prior choosing, and a purpose, verse 4. No purposes have been revealed earlier than the foundation of the world before the end of Acts.

ii. Adoption and sonship. Contrary to popular opinion, not all are the sons of God, but only those who have believed and been adopted into His family. One is accepted for this high position only in the Beloved. It is not a question of the worth of an individual, but whether or not he is in Christ.

iii. Redemption. The price of this great redemption was the blood of Christ. Today many think that redemption was primarily from sins. That is because the LIE is made part and parcel of creeds and the truth overlooked. Redemption is from death and the grave. Redemption from sins is included in this great transaction. It is according to the riches of His grace. This is abounding grace. It is toward us. It is in all wisdom and prudence.

iv. Mystery of His will made known. He has made it known to us because it pleased Him to do so. It is His will that some time in the far off future all things shall be made one and put under Christ. This great unity will include both the heavens and the earth. They will be one. The emphasis is laid upon the fact that all this unity will be in Christ.

v. Inheritance obtained. This inheritance is obtained only in Christ. Further on we learn that we are joint-heirs with Him of all the wealth of the Father. It is according to His purpose that this is so. We may not be able to comprehend how, but somehow we are to be to the praise of His glory in being made heirs. All these things are made possible to those who trust in Christ, (verse 13).

**-GRAFFING AND BAPTISM-**

It may be that many have never seen the connection there might be between these two. But there does seem to be a relationship.

In Rom. 11 is found the truth concerning the grafting in of the Gentiles. It was not a mystery or secret. Moses had foretold it. Contrary to nature, but according to the practice of the times, a branch from a wild olive would be grafted into an old olive tree that was getting to be unfruitful. The result was that the tree would again bear fruit.

Romans was written before Acts 28:28 and therefore Israel had not been set aside. The tree had not yet been cut down. But every effort was being made to make it fruitful. The Gentiles grafted in were not grafted in for their own sakes, but that Israel might be blessed. This we must ever keep in mind.

Israel as a nation was not realizing their hope when Romans was written. But the faithful remnant had realized it. As late as Acts 28:20 Paul was preaching and partaking of the hope of Israel.

Israel was to be a priestly nation, i. e. to have the office of a mediator. So it was only thru the promise made to Abraham thru the ministry of Israel that a Gentile could be blest. Eph. 2:12 describes the condition of the Gentile believer during Acts. He was without Christ, for the Messiah was promised to Israel. He was an alien from the commonwealth of Israel because of his uncircumcision. He was a stranger from the covenants of promise for they were to Abraham's seed. He had no hope, for the hope was the hope of Israel and the Gentiles had been given up. He was without God in the world. God had promised to be the God of Israel and that they were to be His people. So the grafted in olive branch had nothing of himself, but received everything from Israel. He had to borrow blessings, so to speak.

But the faithful remnant of Israel only had obtained the blessing and hope. They were baptized in water as a public acknowledgment of faith. When Gentiles began to be grafted in (at the house of Cornelius) they were baptized in water. This identified them with the repentant remnant of Israel. It was the symbol of the grafting. But at Acts 28:28 both the grafting and baptism were set aside. The tree no longer stands.

-POTPOURRI- #2

In 1 John we read that Cain was of that wicked one. At first that one would think that this meant that Satan was his father, that is, that he was begotten of Satan. One might get the same idea of the Pharisees whom the Lord said were of their father, the devil. Gen. 4:1 plainly tells us that Cain was born as a natural child of Adam and Eve. Cain was of Adam as a natural born son. Back to the first reference; we find that it is a matter of works, not birth, in question.

It is worthy of note that a grafted-in wild olive branch never bore fruit. This is in keeping with Rom. 9:4 and shows plainly that as long as Gentiles had the position of being grafted in, they could not bring forth fruit, i. e. minister the Word and have part in the services. If it were possible that this is the Gentile position today, then many ministers and priests are entirely out of place.

If you will begin reading Prov. 8 at verse 23, you might be inclined to think that the subject is Christ. Start there and read the rest of the chapter. Then after you have done that, go back to the beginning of the chapter and you will be surprised to find that the subject is not Christ, but WISDOM. Too often this has been quoted to refer to Christ. Let us be careful to note the context.

It is well that we be very careful in giving alms. Nowhere do we find it advocated in the Word to give to the unbelieving poor. Such might defeat the purpose of God. If some generous person had come to the prodigal son when he was in the pigsty and given him a new suit and a pocketful of change to spend, he might not have ever gone back to his father's house. So let us be sure that all such giving is the will of the Lord before we act. We might be found working against Him and His purposes.

The rapture, so-called, of 1 Cor. 15, and 1 Thess. 4, cannot be for the church of the dispensation of the mystery. The members of this church are seated far above principality and power, which includes angels. So when we read of the voice of the archangel (1 Thess. 4:16) and the last trump (1 Cor. 15:52, cf. Rev. 11:15) we know that the events concern Israel, those who are heirs of salvation, (Heb. 1:14). Acts and the epistles written during Acts speak of angels.

-HIS PROMISE-

I. In Eph. 3:6 we have this phrase in connection with the mystery of Christ. It has to do with Gentiles, so it must not have any part in the promise made to Abraham. Whatever this promise may be, it is plain that the Gentiles are partakers in it. It has to do with a gospel which was given to Paul to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. This is about all we can find in Eph. about the promise.

II. In 2 Tim. 1:1 we find the word promise again. There it is the promise of life. The promise of life is in Christ Jesus. This might lead us to ask the question; When did death first appear? Certainly there was no promise of life till death was at least in view. Rom. 5:12 gives us a little clue. It indicates that death existed before man was created and put in the garden. John 8:44 speaks of Satan being a murderer from the beginning. That beginning must not have been the murder of Adam. It must have been when hate entered Satan.

III. In Titus 1:2 we find something of the time element. There we have the promise. It is concerning eternal life. It was made before the world began. The margin says before the ages began. That is a little nearer the meaning. This promise is made by ONE Who cannot lie. This is in contrast to the one who abode not in the truth and was a liar from the beginning. It is evident that he was in the truth at one time, but he did not choose to abide in it. So he became the father of THE LIE. The same has the power of death and he seemed to have the victory at Calvary, but that victory was turned to defeat by the resurrection of Christ.

The decease of a human being is not all that is included in the word DEATH. Death is anything that nullifies God's plans and purposes. It is the opposite of the life that He would have His creatures enjoy. But that death is some day going to be destroyed. Then will come in the fulness of the promise of life. It cannot be life to the full till there is no more death of any kind.

Death and all that follows it came by a fallen angel. Life comes thru the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in Whom all the fulness of the Godhead dwells bodily. Of Him we can say, as did Thomas, "My Lord, and my God." John 20:28

-JOHN 3:16-

Many times you will hear this verse spoken of as the Golden Text of the Bible. No doubt that is a good name for it. It is the first mention in the Bible of God loving the world. It also tells how He loved the world. The little word SO means "in what manner."

It might be well to compare the ways in which this verse has been translated.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." A. V.

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life." R. V.

"For God so loved the world

That His only begotten Son He gave, -

That whosoever believeth on Him  
Might not perish

But have life age-abiding."

Rotherham

An interesting acrostic may also be made up. Our lines here are a little cramped, but you can get the idea.

GOD - G od so loved the world, that He  
gave His

O nly begotten

S on, that whosoever believeth in  
Him should not

US - P erish, but have

E verlasting

L ife.

You will notice that the acrostic spells the word GOSPEL. The first half is what God has done, it is God's part. The 2nd half is our destiny which all depends on what attitude we take toward what God has done.

Let us consider another popular translation, that of Weymouth: "For so greatly did God love the world that He gave His only Son, that every one who trusts in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

It is well to compare the various translations as we may get fresh light on the meaning. Others than those set forth do not add much to what is already given.

Of course there are many things that we cannot understand. One of them is how that God could love the world as He does. Our comprehension of love does not reach that far. We do not understand all about the great sacrifice made that we might live, but we can believe the record.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Some of the answers to the questions in John are still coming in. If you have not finished, you still may have time to do it.

Recently got a letter from a young man in Korea and he says that he is so glad that he learned to know the Lord before entering the service as there are many pitfalls there. Let us pray for him as he has several more months to stay.

Have a fine letter from a young man in Bagdad, Iraq. Pray that he will come to know the Lord personally.

Another letter comes from a boy in the service in Germany. Have several from boys in the various camps here in this country. Some of these are going to go into the ministry of the Word as soon as they can prepare for it. They all need our prayers that they may be able to do the will of God in their lives.

Lately I have had the privilege of meeting several who are coming into a knowledge of the mystery and hope to be able to proclaim it. Am much interested in all these and pray that they may be fruitful for the Lord.

There is one thing you should keep in mind as you go on in the knowledge of the Word. You are going to find many different kinds of people, even among those who have come to know about the dispensation of the mystery. All of us are still in the flesh, and will be so till our vile bodies are changed. So we must learn to meet and accept the facts. We may meet with some who seem rather unlovely. At times some will not fellowship with you unless you believe just as they do.

Never become bitter if that should happen to you. You do not know all the circumstances and the background that make them that way. They may need love and understanding on your part.

Some of the members of the body may be very unlovely. You should read Paul's letter to Titus and notice all the kinds of folks Titus is to straighten out. It is still possible that we may have some today just as bad as the Cretians. But keep this one thing in mind; as far as standing before God is concerned, they are perfect. But their state may have a great deal to be desired yet. There is no excuse for this imperfection in state, but we must recognize the fact that it does exist and that we must put up with it.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

**- THE EDITOR'S DESK -**

TRUTH FOR TODAY is sent free to anyone anywhere upon request. Send in names of friends that might be interested. Sets of back copies that are left are sent free to those who can use them. Also a few study outlines.

VISITORS; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Schellenberg of New Lenox, Ill. Mrs. Louis Roman of Muskegon, Mich. Mr. & Mrs. Harry Miller of Phila., Pa. Mr. & Mrs. Carl Elleby of Kalamazoo, Mich. Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Smith of Joliet, Ill.

TRIPS; Called on friends in Joliet and Rockford, Ill. and Oshkosh, Wis. Aug. 13 and 14. On Aug 15 had a radio program and taught classes of TRUTH FOR TODAY at Neenah, Wis. Made further calls at Joliet, Ill. Aug. 16. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith came Aug. 22 and stayed overnight with us. On Aug. 23 they started out with your editor for a conference at Mifflin, Pa., getting back on Friday the 27th.

YOUR MONEY you wish to give for Mr. Welch's trip should be sent to Mr. Elroy Robinson, 711 Woodland Ave., Knollwood, Lake Bluff, Ill. You will be receipted and copies given to Mr. Welch.

TFT CLASS meets at my home each Tue. nite at 7:30. We still are in the studies in Revelation. All are welcome to come to the class.

If any more are thinking of having Mr. Welch meet with their group, let me know immediately. We have only a couple of months to finish the itinerary. Remember that these meetings will be between May 8 and June 26 next.

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