
-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #17

Twice in Eph. do we find the word SALVATION and twice the word SAVED. They make the following pattern;

- A. 1:13. The gospel of your S.
- B. 2:5. By Whose grace ye are S.
- B. 2:8. By grace are ye S.
- A. 6:17. The helmet of S.

Let us take up these four in order.

I. The gospel of your salvation. It does not take very much comparing to find that this does not mean when they first came into a knowledge of Christ as Savior, but when they came into a knowledge of the dispensation of the mystery and learned Christ as Head of the body. In verse 12, the word TRUSTED is HOPED in the margin. It is a little easier to see then the real meaning of the passage. It was their salvation to the church which is the body of Christ in the dispensation of the mystery.

II. By Whose grace ye are saved. We are using the marginal rendering here. In looking at verse 1 we find that it should read "dead to trespasses and sins." The quickening came to them after they had believed unto life. Not only are they quickened, but raised and seated. There are thousands of Christian people today who need this quickening. Then the spostle reminds them that they are saved by Christ's grace. All these things are mighty works that are out of the will of the flesh and the works of man. This salvation, too, is entrance into the mystery.

III. By grace are ye saved. This is in contrast with works. Entrance into the body is by faith, not works. But each one who esnters is a new creation, created unto the good works which he was foreordained to walk in. As during the Pentecostal period salvation ofttimes meant an entrance into the kingdom, here it is an entrance into the dispensation of the mystery. No man can boast of his belonging to the dispensation of the mystery. He did nothing to earn that position. It is by the grace of God and that alone that he is what he is.

IV. The helmet of salvation. This is to be put on. This is not the same word as in 1:13. Here it is SOTERION, but in 1:13 it is SOTERIA. Salvation in 6:17 is the same word as used in Luke 2:30 where Simeon said "Mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation." So it means the Lord Jesus Christ. Then putting on the helmet of salvation is the same as putting on Christ (Rom. 13:14). In Isa. 62:11 Salvation also refers to a person, the coming Messiah.

-UNIVERSAL RESTORATION-

There are some who hold the theory that eventually all fallen creatures, including Satan, will be restored to their former glory and positions. If this be so, then man is in for a bad time of it.

Let us reason together a little on this problem. In Isa. 45:18 we read that the earth was not created empty (vain), but that it was to be inhabited. From that we can readily see that the earth had been inhabited long before man came on the scene. But ruin came in for some cause or other and so we have the chaotic condition mentioned in Gen. 1:2. In fact it says there that the earth became empty and without form. So something happened that emptied the earth of its former inhabitants.

In Gen. 1:28 we have the command to the first man and woman to be fruitful and multiply and REPLENISH the earth. Now it makes little difference as to whether the word replenish means to refill or just to fill. The same command is given to Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives in Gen. 9:1. We know that in that instance the earth had become empty because of the great flood. They were to be fruitful and replenish it. That will give us some key to the meaning of the same command in Gen. 1:28 above.

Ezek. 28 tells us about the fall of Satan who had been a cherub. In the Rev. we find that a third of the angels had become his followers. But there was no way for the angels to multiply and be fruitful for they do not marry or are they given in marriage. See Mt. 22:30. Mk. 12:25. Lk. 20:35.

So far as we know then, man is the only creature endowed with the power of procreation, and this with the object of refilling the earth. Could we then conclude that those beings who were first here will have no chance of being restored? What else can we think?

But there must have been angels in the heavens that fell as well as those on the earth, for there is a chosen group of men who are to inhabit the heavens according to the special gospel given to Paul for us Gentiles. Therefore those who formerly had their place in the heavenlies will not be restored, but men will take their place.

God's glory will some day be restored. It will be by all creation being perfected. But that will not include that which is to be destroyed. The reason for the creation of man was first of all to fill up the rent in the heavens and then that on the earth.

-RIGHT DIVISION AND LIFE-

In our studies concerning life and resurrection in past issues, we have quoted rather freely from the gospel of John. Some time ago a lady was objecting to the dispensational divisions of the Word and went on to say that what was good enough for the Jew was good enough for her.

With that in mind, let us start right in with the first of the gospels and search and see. We start in Matt. and with the concordance we locate the first reference to life everlasting or eternal. It is Matt. 19:16. Somebody asked, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And the Lord comes back with the answer, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Now that is strange! Not many preach that as the gospel today. But I must not be dispensational. So according to the gospel in Matt. I must preach to the unsaved that if they would have life they must keep the commandments.

Let us look a little farther. In the same chapter, verse 29 we find that if we give up everything for the Lord, that is, houses, brethren, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or lands for His name's sake we shall receive great earthly blessings and "shall inherit everlasting life." So here is another gospel concerning eternal life. Can we substitute it for the former, or must the two be kept?

Looking at the concordance again, we find just one more reference in Matt. to eternal life. It is in 25:46. It says there that the righteous shall go into life eternal. As we look at the foregoing verses to find who the righteous are, we find that they are those who have fed hungry Jews, who have given drink to thirsty Jews, who have taken wandering Jews into their homes, who furnished clothing for Jews in want, who visited sick Jews, and who went to the prisons to visit Jewish prisoners. And all this without knowing Christ! That is not the gospel that I have been used to hearing preached in evangelistic meetings.

So there you have just three references to the obtaining of everlasting life in Matt. Either keep the commandments, give up everything for Christ, or give alms to the poor Jews. How many of us can qualify on these terms?

But this I noticed also. In chap. 10, as the 12 were sent forth, they were not to go into the way of the Gentiles or into any city of the Samaritans. So that would leave me out. In chap. 15 the Lord said that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the Jews.

-THIS 'N THAT-

How can we reconcile Rom. 10:9, 10 with John 3:16? This has puzzled many at times. The answer is not too difficult if one will be careful to watch the subject matter and the context. In Rom. 9:3 we find that the main subject matter is the Israelite. Also in 10:1 we find the same thing. All this leads right up to the verses in question. What Paul means is just this; that Israel as a nation must confess Jesus as Lord, and confess Him before men, if they are to fulfil the calling with which they were called. That is their salvation. These verses are not about us Gentiles today, but to Israel during the Acts period when the kingdom was still being offered to them. On the other hand, John 3:16 is to Gentiles today after the rejection of Israel at Acts 28:28. Israel's salvation was not a matter of everlasting life for an individual as it is in John 3:16.

In Rev. 11:1, 2 we have the measuring of the temple in Jerusalem and those that worship therein. But the court is not to be measured for it and the holy city will be trod underfoot by the Gentiles 3 1/2 years. Remember that this is the temple at the beginning of the GREAT TRIBULATION. The abomination of desolation has already appeared in the holy place (not the holy of holies). Then those that are worshipping in the holy place are apostate Jews. They cannot be Gentiles for they are not allowed in that place. They are not believing Jews for they will have fled to the wilderness. The temple worship for those 42 months will be the grossest of idolatry which will be judged by the Coming One.

In running down the word remnant in the concordance, we have come to the conclusion that it is not what is left, but is rather a part chosen or set apart. God does not have to take what is left. Sometimes we may think of the faithful remnant of Israel as being a few that is left. Remnant may not even mean a few. It may mean the larger portion as well. We have too much of cheap remnants from bargain basements in mind.

At one time we accounted for the silence of God in the present age by saying that this was a dispensation of the grace of God upon all mankind. But we have learned that dispensation has to do with a family or household. Today God dispenses grace to those that are His. But the reason that He does not judge the wicked is because they have been reconciled. Christ died for the ungodly. They are forgiven. But forgiveness does not give to them eternal life. See John 3:16.

I was interested in your recent column to young folks about "The nature of the triune God." It is a subject most of us need to be clarified on. We are so in bondage to orthodoxy, creeds, and sermons, and so unused to searching for ourselves that our ideas are often awry. The nature of God is not a matter for controversy and argument, but rather humble meditation and prayerful searching of the Word. None by Searching can find out God, but "In Thy light we shall see light." Deut. 6:4 says "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" and the Savior says in Jn. 10:30 "I and My Father are one" (not two, or two out of three). Recent prayerful meditation on Isa. 40:18, 25 produced the following conclusions. The verse reads "To whom will YE liken ME?" Man is prone to portray or imagine God in his own terms and limitations. He can do no other unless he is prepared to heed revelation in the Word. On the other hand God's difficulty is to convey to man somewhat of His glorious nature. How can man's sin-dimmed depravity be enlightened as to the glory, righteousness, eternity and love of God? He puts us to school and illustration as in kindergarten we count by our digits and in primary school learn by fractions, etc. Later in secondary, terms of algebra and trigonometry or commercial phrases are used while specialists use specialist words which are meaningless to the average person.

This is where the grace of God shines out. He comes to us using terms we can understand -- Like as a father pitieth... God so loved... gave... only begotten... sent Son to be Savior... in Christ reconciling... The bondage (slavery) of sin.

TRINITY is not a Scriptural term. God would have revealed somewhat of His nature in two or four or more ways, But He has graciously chosen 3 ways or revelations upon which men have built trinitarian creeds or statements.

1. Man knows somewhat of a father (earthly) in power to create or protect in provision for every material need.
2. He knows somewhat of Son-ship in relationship or redemption or reflecting character.
3. He knows somewhat of Spirit versus flesh.

So God has chosen these mediums to give us glimpses of His nature, By His Spirit we cry Abba, Father. By the cross with its agonies and shame and death we appreciate "No man cometh to the Father but by Me" and "He that hath seen Me hath

seen the Father.

We appreciate the fatherly love and care of God in His use of terms we can understand. "Leading by hand... guide with eye... carry in bosom... as father chastens... Husband-wife... Christ Head of body." Oh how slow of heart and perception we are (I am) and how patient is our God!!!

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: The foregoing is part of a letter from a man who has been reading your page too. He is a farmer. I have never seen him. Other than that, I am not going to tell you who or where he is from. He gives an example of the kind of thinking folks ought to do. He has been a student of the Word and so he has come to know something of God, as well as himself. I was glad for this response and would like to have more write to me about their studies in the Word.

How many of you have wondered just why God made man? Have you wondered why man is here on this earth? If you will read all this paper you may find something about all that.

Then when you look into the starry sky and see stars that are so far away that they could have been gone a million years ago and still we can see their light, you just wonder if the God who could make all that cares for you and me. Who has not? Then we find that He has made provision for us to reassure us He has given us His Word in which He tells us that not even a sparrow falls that He does not notice it. How comforting that is!

We look into the starry heavens and we wonder if there are other folks way out there like us or of some other order. Then we read of the principalities and powers of the heavenlies and that the members of the church which is His body will some day help Him to rule over those if they suffer with Him. Such a high position is just about as incomprehensible as the great distances we see in the heavens.

But if we really want to know whether the God who has laid out the great expanse can really think of us, we go to the microscope and there we find that the smallest particules are verily little universes in themselves. God does look at the little things and He has provided for them all. He has created living things that cannot be seen by the ordinary microscope.

Yes, God knows all about us. Above all, He cares. Our troubles and problems are never too small to take to Him. By doing so we honor Him.

Sincerely in HIM, *Prca M. Baker*

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

BIBLE CLASS at the home of the editor each Tue. nite (if we don't have a big blizzard or something like that) at 7:30. You will find the place four miles south of Atwood; or from Warsaw go to second cross road on #25 and go west 4 miles; or from Mentone go north 3 miles on #19 and east 4 1/2 miles. You will find a welcome and a chance to ask those questions you have been wondering about so long. Also we like for visitors to drop in any time, but if you come from some distance, it is wise to let us know, for we do slip out at times and you might get here while we were shopping or maybe sawing wood.

VISITOR; H. E. McMEEN of Deer Creek, Ill. dropped in for a short while.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is published monthly and is sent to anyone anywhere upon request. We still want to enlarge our list of friends who receive it. Last month we mailed out 1700 copies. We can easily take care of double that with present setup. So all of you can be of great help if you will send in names and addresses of those who might be interested.

CORRECTIONS: In the Welch itinerary published last month, make the following corrections; The evening meeting at Lowell, Ark. will be at 8 instead of 7:30. There will be 3 meetings Sunday May 29th in Los Angeles, 10:30 A.M., 2:30 and 7:30 P.M. At Fresno, contact Frank M. Smith for information and not E. L. Julien. Meetings in the San Francisco Area in the Cypress Lawn Cemetary Chapel. Mr. Eggert lives on Linda St., not Linden as we printed. We have some additional sheets like those inserted in TFT last month with the picture and itinerary of Mr. Welch. Ask for them if you need extras. In just a little over 4 weeks from this writing, Mr. Welch will be landing in New York. Pray for him.

-TAPE RECORDINGS-

You may borrow these to use.

- #1. Introduction. Resurrection. 30 Min.
- #2. Lessons 1 & 2 in Eph. 30 Min.
- #3. The Christian's Greatest Need. A reading from E. W. Bullinger. 36 Min.
- #4. Truth for Today. A Radio address by your editor. 30 Min.
- #W1. Right Division. Mr. Welch's 1st recording which we have duplicated. All who expect to hear him should hear this recording first in order to get used to his voice and accent.

State whether 3.75 or 7.5 ips speed.

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COMPANION BIBLE: Almost ran out of these but some new ones have come in. In buckram \$12. In quarter leather \$16. In full leather \$24. Every minister, missionary, Sunday School teacher, and Bible Student should have one of these. You will be amazed at the information and help it contains. It is a best seller.

WOULD YOU be interested in complete set of 13 volumes of the Pitman edition of the works of John Lightfoot printed in 1825 and in good condition? Yours postpaid for \$65. Have about a 6 ft. shelf of used books. Ask for a list. All subject to prior sale.

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Berean Expositor, Vol. 34 1947-48	\$1.13
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Life Through His Name (John)	2.25
Just and the Justifier (Romans)	1.88
Testimony of the Lord's Prisoner	1.28
Parable, Miracle and Sign	1.28
Dispensational Truth	1.13
This Prophecy (Revelation)	1.13
The Prize of the High Calling (Phil.)	1.13
The Form of Sound Words	.75
Ecclesiastes	.60
The Burden of Prophecy	.60
Studies in the Book of Job	.45

REMINDER: On May 1st (Sunday) Mr. Welch will speak in Warsaw in the basement of the Lake City Bank in the afternoon at 2:30 and in the evening at 7:30. Be sure to stay for both these meetings. If coming from a distance, let us know and we will try to help in getting accomodations for you.

THANK A LOT for the generous contributions for the Welch itinerary; also for your interest in this undertaking.

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