
-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #18

The expression IN WHOM occurs 6 times in the epistle to the Ephesians. Each time the pronoun refers to Christ. All these are found in the doctrinal section. Anything the believer has, is IN CHRIST.

I. IN WHOM. 1:7. In Him we have redemption. In this redemption is included the forgiveness of sins. The price is the blood of Christ. No one can have redemption or even be in Christ except the blood be recognized.

II. IN WHOM. 1:11. In Him we have obtained an inheritance. This is not just a happen-so, but was something predestinated for those in Christ. Remember, there is no predestination outside of Christ.

III. IN WHOM. 1:13. He is the One in Whom we must trust. We can put our trust in no other. He is the true and living way to the Father. Trusting (hoping) comes as a result of hearing the word of truth. The hearing comes by preaching. The Word must be proclaimed.

IV. IN WHOM. 1:13. Also in Him we are sealed. The sealing indicates possession. With His seal upon us, no one can touch our life. No one can break that seal. In Him we are safe. There is no other safety. The sealing is done by the Holy Spirit of promise. The seal is sure till the day of redemption of the purchased possession, or in other words, the day of resurrection. Beware of those who say that the resurrection is past. They overthrow the faith of some. See 2 Tim. 2:18. The sealing seals to us and makes sure of the resurrection.

V. IN WHOM. 2:21. In Him every (not all) building is fitly framed together. All together grows. Growth is spoken only of living things. So the building must be made of living stones. All becomes a holy temple in the Lord. A temple is a dwelling place for the Lord.

VI. IN WHOM. 2:22. In Him also we are builded together for a purpose, that we might be an habitation of God, that He may dwell in us thru the Spirit. This building, This temple is builded upon one foundation, that of the apostles and prophets; not those of the OT, but those chosen and appointed by the risen Christ (See Eph. 4:11). The chief stone of the corner or arch (the key-stone) is Christ Himself. This was the stone the builders laid aside. No wonder! There is no other place in a building that a key-stone would ever fit.

Now take your Bible and look over these references again and think of all that you have in Him. Is it not wonderful?

-SPHERES OF PURPOSE-

As we approach dispensational study, we soon become aware of the fact that in certain sections of history, the purpose being worked out is in relation to some future time and place. Here is a brief outline that may be used as a basis for further study along this line.

I. From Adam's fall up to the call of Abraham we have some indications that the purpose concerned the new earth. There is no hint of the earth "that now is" being in any way restored, or even any part of it, and being possessed by a resurrected people. Job puts the time of resurrection and hope of those peoples as "till the heavens be no more" (Job 14:12, cf. Rev. 20:11; 21:1).

II. From the call of Abraham till the end of Acts the purpose has to do with a land promised and a kingdom set up in that land, the Millennium. This has to do with the "earth that now is." The people of this great Millennial kingdom have a ministry and a responsibility to the nations of the earth. In them all the nations of the earth are to be blessed. The Old Testament reveals nothing further than this. But when we get to the NT and read Heb., we find that some of these also will have a part in the new earth and its blessings, especially in the New Jerusalem (see Heb. 11). From the words of Peter in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:34, 35) we learn that the program under No. 1 above was continued down to that very time, but in relation to persons, not nations. The nations were given up as such at the call of Abraham (Rom. 1).

III. Three important things happened at the end of Acts. (1) The Jews were given up for the time being and the purpose concerning the present earth suspended till a future time when Israel would repent. (2) The purpose concerning the new earth is carried right on with the ministry of John, but with grace as the rule; sacrifices and rituals being ruled out. (3) For the first time it is revealed that there is a purpose for the heavens and that a people had been fore-ordained to occupy them. This had been kept strictly secret till this time. Upon the revelation of this secret, there began a new conflict, a wrestling in the heavenlies, to prevent the taking of the promised possession (Eph. 6:12). If you will make a rough diagram of this scheme, you will note that the end of Acts is the central pivotal point, the great turning point in the revelation of the purposes of God. When the great broad outline is seen, then the details will fit in without much difficulty.

-TOO DEEP FOR ME!-

How often we hear this expression from people when they have heard a wonderful exposition of the Word. What can be the trouble? Why do they not understand?

Let us look at a passage of the Word which is very near and dear to the hearts of those who are members of the church of the dispensation of the mystery and see if we can find some reason for the trouble.

We are referring to Col. 2:2-4, 9, 10;

"In order that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, even unto all the riches of the full assurance of their understanding unto a personal knowledge of the SACRED SECRET or 'MYSTERY OF GOD - CHRIST:' IN WHOM ARE ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE HIDDEN AWAY. This I say in order that no one may be reasoning you aside with plausible discourse: because IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY, and ye are IN HIM filled full - Who is THE HEAD of all principality and power (or authority)."

There are two ways in which this great truth can be known and these ways are inseparable, one from the other. Also they supplement each other.

1. A patient seeking thru the prayer of Eph. 1:17 for the revelation and initiation into His holy mysteries by the SPIRIT.

2. By rightly dividing the Word of Truth and getting to know all God says in His Word about Christ and His relation to us. It is true that we can hear what GOD SAYS from each other, but only THE HOLY SPIRIT can make us KNOW or impart the PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of "THE MYSTERY- CHRIST."

We must realize that God has been very gracious in opening up to us while we are still in the flesh (but with a NEW NATURE born of God) the inexhaustible TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE HIDDEN IN CHRIST.

God is not putting any premium on education or "smartness." If we will but stop to consider, we will realize that the great epistles of Paul were written to HEATHEN (Gentiles). If these people were not expected to know and understand something of the message, then what could have been the reason for writing them?

It is true that many people are mentally lazy. But the real hindrance to the understanding of CHRIST is spiritual blindness. The god of this world blinds the eyes so that they cannot see. The real need is the enlightening of which we read in Eph. 1:18.

Never admit that anything of the Word is too deep for you, but study to know it.

-STRANGE FIRE-

Back in TFT #71 We began a series on The Passover (called Lord's Supper by the majority today) and showed in this first article how that in the first 3 gospels the account was given of the last Passover the Lord ate with His disciples. There can be no question that this was the Passover, nothing more, nothing less. It was changed in no way at that time. It was just given an added significance. Read Matt. 26 again.

In Exodus 12 and in Lev. 23 we have the directions for the observance of this feast of the Jews. As we read these directions, we immediately see that there is little resemblance to what is being practiced today. Not only have Gentiles taken over and used a strictly Jewish rite, but they have changed it to suit themselves and their fleshly desires.

1. The Passover was to be observed in the home, never in the tabernacle or the temple. Babylon had a similar service, but held it in the temple of Baal (Lord) or the sun god. Strange fire!

2. It was to be observed with unleavened bread, nor was any leaven to be in the house for 7 days. The house was cleaned very thoroly each spring for this occasion. No attention is paid to this among folks today. Strange fire!

3. The time was to be on the 14th of the month Nisan. Few people could even reckon when this would be today. The worshippers in Babylon observed it on SUNDAY, not the once in a year as did the Jews. Most Gentiles make the observance several times a year. Strange fire!

4. The first and last days of the week were to be an holy convocation and no work was to be done. Where do you find people observing such a thing today? Strange fire!

5. The family was to observe it together and the deliverance from Egypt was to be recounted by the head of the house. Do you find that done today? Strange fire!

6. It was a feast with plenty to eat and at the regular meal time in the evening. Babylon had a similar thing at the temple worship, but only a little morsel of bread and a sip of wine was allowed each one. The morsel of bread was always in the shape of a circle (the sun). Now people observe the feast at any time of the day. Strange fire!

Now read Lev. 10 and see what God did to Nadab and Abihu when they sought to make a change in what God had ordered. Is it not lucky for a lot of folks that God is not dealing in judgment today with those that are His? On the other hand, is what people observe Scriptural, or is it something that has been handed down from Babylon?

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-TRACKS THRU ACTS- #1

A well-marked Bible is an easy book to read and study. In a few lessons we would like to take an overall view of the Acts so as to make its reading and study a little easier for both young and old. Do not hesitate to mark and underline passages in the Bible. For this, colored pencils may be used, or India ink and fine point. Do not use ordinary ink or a cheap ball point for this. Marks made with an ordinary pencil have a tendency to smear. Colored leads for the mechanical pencils are good to use for the shading and making of notes.

Acts begins with the mention of a former treatise and it does not take us long to decide what that treatise may be. It is the gospel according to Luke. As we compare the two, we discover that there is an overlapping of the subject matter, so that gives us the first part of our outline;

1:1-14. The former treatise.

1:15 to 28:31. The present treatise.

You will note that the former one is designated by "All that Jesus began to do and to teach." Then it naturally follows that the second part is made up of all that Jesus continued to do and to teach thru the ministries of Peter and Paul.

Acts has been a great puzzle to many in that the fore part is taken up with the 12 and their equipment for a task which has been set before them and for which they have been trained all thru the accounts of the gospels, and then in the midst another apostle, Paul, steps into the picture and dominates it till the end. So roughly, the book is divided into the two parts, the work of Peter and the work of Paul. Paul's place in the Acts of the apostles will have to be taken up at some other time.

The geographic divisions are also very important and set out three great divisions of the book and the ministries contained therein. They can be set out thus;

Jerusalem - Antioch - Rome

In the first, Jerusalem, the gospel is to Jews only. This condition obtained for a period of about 8 years. Then at Antioch began the ministry to both Jew and Gentile. At Rome began the ministry to Gentile only, since the Jew was set aside and was no longer counted as a people. You can mark all these divisions in the margins of your Bible and underline the names of the cities.

It is a good idea to read Acts thru each day for a period of two or more weeks so as to become familiar with every step of the way. Check or underline anything of special interest to you.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; True, too few of us read our Bibles as we ought. So we are tempted to be satisfied if some read them at all. But let us consider how we should read it and study it, too.

Many who read their Bibles, do so from a sense of obligation. We take it for granted that every Christian should read a portion of the Word every day. But is that reading a little getting alone with the Word for a quiet talk with the Lord, as with a beloved friend? Is it a blessed time of fellowship with Him?

How many of us can actually read a chapter thru without the carnal mind injecting some that is not in keeping with the Word of God? How the mind does wander!

A friend, in telling of an experience along this line, tells of reading the words, "Stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance; that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the prophets," and when she had gotten this far something came to mind, some plans for the day or something that had happened the day before, and so she almost missed the words that followed. It could be that Satan had an agent an hand trying to make her miss the very thing the Lord was dealing with her about. Such things are very common.

At any rate, she had to go back and read over again, "What manner of person ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness! Be diligent that you may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." There was a message from the Lord and she almost missed it! Did that ever happen to you?

Now some of you young folks know just what this is, for how many of you have not at some time in the classroom or in church, done the same thing, letting the mind wander and missing something you should have had brot to mind and heeded? Now go back and read the first chapter in 2 Pet. and see if you can read it thru without the mind taking a trip out of the room somewhere.

Keep in mind that Satan does not want you to read and study the Word, much less understand it. So everything is going to be put in your way to hinder this exercise. If you will but recognize this fact and meet it with firm resolve, you will be misled less often. You will find the rich blessing and fellowship which should be yours.

God speaks to us thru His Word and if we listen, then it is easy to talk with Him and get strength for living.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar W. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

CORRECTIONS: Mr. Welch will not be speaking on Sunday morning May the 29th in Los Angeles as we announced last month. On June 7th he will be at the old Woodmen of the World Hall, 2112 Tuolumne St., in Fresno at 7:45. On the preceding night he will speak at the Huntzicker Hall at the same time. Call Frank Smith for further info.

PICTURES: The pictures of the Chapel of the Opened Book are here. These are color prints of an original painting by Mr. Welch. They are \$1 each postpaid.

Mr. Welch is doing fine on his itinerary so far. Today heard from him and some others who were eating chicken at the A.Q. Chicken House, Springdale, Arkansas.

TAPE RECORDINGS

Tapes are being made of Mr. Welch's addresses at the various points and we hope that we may be able to make duplicates of these available to those who would like to either borrow them or buy them.

Just received another tape from England which is lessons in Eph. by Mr. Welch. We hope to be able to get this whole series and the charts that go with them so you can use them.

We have the following tapes now on hand for lending or for sale;

- #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.
- #5. Paraphrase of Gal. Lightfoot.
- #W2. Lessons in Eph. Charles H. Welch. 1 1/2 hrs.

State speed of your recorder. This is very important.

Can supply you with any model of the Webcor recorders now. Send for folder and prices. They can be sent to you from distributor direct by express prepaid. Later will be able to supply the new Tri-Fi combination radio and recorder. Ask about it. It is something new.

FREE! FREE! For those who like to dig into structural outlines and also who would like to know something of how they are made and their history, we have a little pamphlet of 28 pages by Andrew H. Morton which will be sent free to those who ask for it.

REMINDER: If you will send us notice when you change address, it will save us time and money. If your complete address is not given, you may be cut off without notice by the postal authorities and your paper sent back to us collect.

COMPLETE SET of current publications of Mr. Charles H. Welch as listed in the folder given out for the meetings (includes vols. 34,35,36,37 of The Berean Expositor and one each of all books and pamphlets) for only \$22 postpaid. This is your chance to get some good tools for Bible study. For beginning classes, some of the books or pamphlets may be used as a basis of discussion till they are advanced enough to work out lessons of their own.

LUKE 16: Reams and reams of paper have been wasted in the argument about the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Let the Word itself settle the question once and for all for you. Just write in the margin next to the passage these two references; Matt. 13:34 and Luke 8:10. Of course if you do not believe the Word then the question is still unsettled for you.

VISITOR: Mr. James Baillie came over from Steubenville, O., for the Warsaw meeting and stayed with us.

TO AND FRO: Your editor was at Indianapolis for the meetings of May 4 and 5; at Milwaukee the 9th and Rockford the 10th and 11th. Also attended the meetings at Hobart and Bremen.

BIBLE CLASS still meets each Tue. nite at our home. U R welcome.

COMPANION BIBLES: In buckram #12. Quarter leather \$16. Full leather \$24.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is printed monthly here in our home as the Lord permits and sent to anyone anywhere upon request. It is designed to give topics for further study on your part rather than any complete expositions. Conformity with any ideas we may put forth is not expected. Therefore there can be no arguments, and we hope that there can be no offense.

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