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## - STUDIES IN EPHESIANS - #20

The section, 1:13-23 Contains the prayer of the apostle for the saints. If at any time we may feel inclined to envy the gifts of the apostle, we might well begin by copying his graces -- by praying continually. Before we take up the study of the prayer itself, it is well that we look over the preparation for the knowledge he asks that they might receive. Verse 15 also indicates that they had already begun to practice the doctrine. This is also good procedure. We cannot expect further knowledge unless we put into practice what we already know. Now for the 3-fold preparation;

1. First there is the gift of the spirit of wisdom. What is wisdom? Somebody has said that it is horse sense. That may be very near the truth. For wisdom is the ability to use what we know. Educators say that it is the ability to exercise foresight. What a great need there is for this among us who try to teach the Word! Some of us would not have said some of the things we have if we had only just a little wisdom. This spirit of wisdom is a gift. We should earnestly covet it. But there is a further step in this wisdom. It is for the acknowledgment of Him. The margin renders this acknowledgment instead of knowledge as in the text. Far too many would like to have all the blessings, but would prefer not to acknowledge Him. Do we do this at every opportunity?

2. Then there is the spirit of revelation. Have you noticed that some can read the Word and get nothing out of it, and another can read the same passage and get a real blessing from it? The Word is not understood except by the revelation of the Spirit. Education is very little help in this matter. It is a gift. All of us can take comfort from this fact. God will explain His Word to those who want to know and who will use it. Now again this spirit of revelation is in connection with the acknowledgment of Him. He cannot be shown forth in our lives or by our words unless we have had Him revealed to us first. That revelation comes thru the reading of the Word and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The spirit of revelation then is another gift.

3. The third thing in this preparation is that the eyes of our understanding must be enlightened. We know too many things which we do not understand. Too often the light cannot come in because the eyes are veiled by traditions. It may be that this should be translated "the eyes of your heart having been enlightened." If so, then there is a growth that must come as a result of it.

## - THE DISPENSATIONAL FRONTIER -

There is quite a diversity of opinion as to where to place this, so we will mention a few which might be considered. In making a list, we found 9 possibilities, all depending on the views taken of Israel and the church. This seems appropriate since 9 is the number of judgment (See Number in Scripture by E. W. Bullinger). The reader should consider each of these very carefully and examine all arguments pro and con.

1. The most common one is the gap between Malachi and Matthew. In fact our Bibles have been divided there, OT and NT.

2. Matt. 13 might be given some thought. It is a point where Israel has rejected their Messiah. The Lord takes the disciples to one side and teaches them the mysteries of the kingdom. Isa. 6:9, 10 is quoted.

3. The death of the Lord on Calvary. Many people think of this as the turning point and that when Israel accomplished the death of their Messiah, they were then set aside in favor of the church.

4. Many denominations claim that they had their beginning at Pentecost -- a feast of the Jews, Acts 2, 3. This position is almost as popular as No. 1 above.

5. Some few claim that there was a change at Acts 13 with the sending forth of Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey. The main argument being that here was the beginning of the gospel of grace. However the argument falls down in that as far as salvation is concerned, men in all ages have been saved by grace, none ever being justified by the law. It was not a dispensation of grace at that time, for devout Christian Jews were still zealous of the law.

6. It is rare that you will find any claiming Acts 19 as a point of division, but we must notice that it is here that Paul takes a body of believers with himself as head and leaves the rulers of the Synagogue for the last time and holds meetings in a school. This was Paul's final break with Jewish authority of any kind.

7. Acts 28:28 is a division that is gaining favor every day. You should read "The Dispensational Frontier" by C. H. Welch in connection with this one. Again Isa. 6:9, 10 is quoted, for the last time and with a finality that takes the attention. The mere quote from Isa. would indicate that at least up to that point Israel was in the ascendancy.

8. Acts 28:31 must not be overlooked as a possibility. Gordon K. Edgar of Phoenix, Ariz has written some good material on this one.

9. Also consider A.D. 70 and Titus.

### -THE COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM-

Just as David's kingdom was a type of the Millennial kingdom, just so was Saul's kingdom a type of the pre-millennial kingdom. We must not forget that there was a kingdom that followed David's in which there was peace and in which the temple of God was established. So too, there must be a post-millennial kingdom. But that is a subject we must look into another time.

Saul broke the back of the Amalekite rule which had been fastened upon Egypt and surrounding country for about 6 centuries. He gained such renown that none dared to make war with him. Surely all would think that he was God's man and that his rule was of God. He, however, had an evil spirit come upon him. He set himself against God's anointed. Finally he sought the aid of the powers of darkness. He even killed priests of the tabernacle and set himself over all so that he might have his own way. He regarded not the God of his fathers!

Like Saul, the beast will have an evil spirit upon him, will not regard the God of his fathers (will be a Jew), will not have respect for the temple, and will have a rule peaceful in the main because none will dare to war with him. His kingdom will be a kingdom of or from the heavens. It is a time when the heavens will rule, except for the last 3 1/2 years of it, and then the power behind it will be cast into the earth.

There is no doubt about the reception of such a kingdom by Christendom. It will be proclaimed by false prophets before it appears openly. Even now the way is being prepared. Much stress is being put on a coming kingdom which will right the wrongs so patent on every hand. There will be great miracles, not only healing and other false travesties of the gifts of the Spirit, but also fire from heaven and other phenomena to blind, even the very elect, if it were possible.

This pre-millennial kingdom will very naturally rise out of the present age because there are so many professing Christians who do not set their affections on the things above, but on things on the earth. Their belly being their god, they will blindly follow anything which will give promise of filling their belly. If they mind the things of the flesh, then things of the flesh will have the greater appeal to them. So when a false John the Baptist will proclaim this counterfeit kingdom of the heavens, they will flock to him en masse. A strong delusion will come upon them that they should believe the lie. The end is destruction. This is a day in which we should walk in the light.

### -PRACTICING THE PREACHING-

The world has every right to demand that we practice what we preach. God also has the same right, and He does ask it. That is made very plain in both Eph. and Col. The epistle to the Philippians concerns the working out of our salvation with fear and trembling with a prize in view.

The man who is long on doctrine, but short on practice, is like the man with the one pound or the man with one talent. Both were very talkative. Both buried their responsibility and lived as they pleased. But surely a day of reckoning comes and some are not prepared for it.

There is also a chance that there may be some who will teach in the name of Christ and will even do mighty works in His name and still not know Him or be known of Him. True doctrine is a matter of the heart and not only of the head. True practice must come from the new nature created within, not just from the flesh to make a show.

The practice of good works adorns true doctrine just as good fruit adorns a tree. It is a natural outcome, not something put on. Wax fruit tied on a tree might deceive the eye from a distance, but there is no life in it, no scent, and the color will fade. It certainly would be a poor substitute for food. So also are good works that do not come from a heart instructed in true doctrine. Doctrine without the practice is just as dead as faith without works.

If we teach that God is light, then we can prove it by walking as children of light. If we teach that there is one body and that we are all members on an equality, then we can prove it by not seeking the pre-eminence. These are just samples. Why not open up your Bible to Eph. 1, 2, 3 where doctrine is set forth and then see how it is balanced by the practical teaching of 4, 5, 6? See how many statements you can pair off.

Whenever we speak of so-and-so living a consistent Christian life, we mean that he practices what he preaches. Too many of our preachers, when they preach, mean in effect, "don't do as I do, but do as I say." Paul was able to say, "be ye followers of me." Would that more of us could speak in that manner!

Man's ideas of social problems and government always fail because of the human element involved. We find the ideals, all we need, in the Word of God. Man cannot come up to these in his own strength, but when Christ lives in one, then it can be done. That is the secret of it all. Not the life we live but the Christ living in us is what counts.



- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

A REPORT has been received from England that Mr. Welch has arrived safe and sound. Many will thankfully remember for a long time to come his ministry among us during May and June.

MISTAKES will happen, and the more so while we have been busy with the Welch trip and the great increase in book orders during that time. So if we have missed you in any way or your order is not right, let us know. We think we have sent out all the Chapel pictures that were ordered. If you have not gotten yours, write us.

SUBSTITUTION is the gospel for the sinner; IDENTIFICATION is the gospel for the saint.

BACK COPIES of TFT available back to #62 except #65 is all gone. Sets of these are free to those who ask for them.

COMPANION BIBLES: In buckram \$12. In quarter leather \$16. Full leather \$24. Teachers, pastors, and Bible students find this valuable in the study of the Word.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is sent free to anyone anywhere. Just ask for it. If you know of any that would be interested in it, let us have their names and addresses.

FREE FOR THE ASKING: The Principle of Structure in Scripture, a pamphlet by Andrew H. Morton. This is really good.

NEW: The Key of Knowledge or Dispensational Truth by C. H. Welch. This is a reprint of the May number of the Berean Expositor. 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, 50 for \$1.50. Get a number for distribution among your friends.

DISCONTINUED: The offer for sets of writings by Mr. Welch. Stocks of the bound volumes of the Berean Expositor have been depleted and now all we have to offer are a few of the last one, Vol. 37. These, too, will soon be gone.

JUST RECEIVED: A few of the Alphabetical Analyses which many of you have been hearing about from Mr. Robinson and Mr. Welch. This is Vol. 1 of a series of 4 which will be a digest of topics which have been taken up in the Berean Expositor since 1909 when Vol. 1 came out. Vol. 1 of this series is priced at \$1.88 and we are filling orders already taken just as fast as they come in from England. If you have not yet ordered yours, do it now. This volume covers topics from A to E and is fully indexed.

PICTURES: We still have some of the color pictures of the Chapel of the Opened Book which are a print made from an original water color by Mr. Welch. They are \$1 each while they last. They are fine for framing. Many of you have seen a copy.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE to have a set of long playing records for your phonograph of six outstanding messages given by Mr. Welch in this country? These to be on red vinylite pressings, made to last for years and properly labeled? If so, send your order (no money now) to CUSTOM RECORDINGS, 6381 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28, Calif. If enough orders are received, they will be made up and sent to you with bill for \$12.50 plus postage.

BARGAIN TAPE RECORDER; We have 2 brand new ones (cannot mention the name) which were made to sell for \$99.50. They are light in weight and use up to 5" reels instead of 7" which most use, providing one hour of playing on one reel. Will sell these express paid for only \$75 each.

TAPES: Nos. 1-6 as previously announced are still available, as well as W1 and W2. In addition we have 7 two-hour reels of addresses by Mr. Welch, 2 addresses on a reel. We can lend these free or sell them at \$3.50 per reel. They are as follows;

XW1 Bremen. Warsaw afternoon.

XW2 Warsaw evening. Hobart.

XW3 Indianapolis May 3 and 4.

XW4 Indianapolis May 5. Rockford May 11.

XW5 Milwaukee. Rockford May 10.

XW6 Muskegon AM & PM June 19.

XW7 Philadelphia June 23 and 24.

Can put one of these addresses on a 5" reel for \$2. Can pair any of them off to suit if you wish to buy.

RECORDERS: We use and recommend the Webcor. Send for descriptions and prices on latest models. Can send them to you express paid right from the distributor.

NOTICE: Some may not understand it, but we can make any number of duplicates of a tape recording right here in our home. That will explain the tape offers above.

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