

## -STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #22

We have a very important question to answer this time. It is; Where is Christ?

Our answer is found in Eph. 1:20, 21.

The word where is not to be found here, but it is found in Col. 3:1, "Where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." So it must be a place that can answer the question Where?

Since the saints and faithful are identified with Him positionally, we are not then much surprised when we examine Eph. 2: 19 that the word saints is holies or most holy, which of course refers to what is known in the OT as the Holy of Holies. Our inheritance is there. It is a place.

In study #3 some time ago we took up the five occurrences of "in heavenly places" which occur in Eph. and nowhere else in the Word. We may have something further to say about the last one sometime as we are not yet satisfied with what we have put forth. But it has been suggested that this phrase should be translated "among heavenly beings." Beings is substituted for places for in the original no word is there. But we have already shown that it answers the question Where? and must be a place.

But further than that there is a very subtle attack on the person and work of Christ which cannot pass unnoticed. Many claim that He is a created being, an angel, or an archangel, at the most. That would place Him among heavenly beings. But our text does not say so. It says that Christ is set at the right hand of God, FAR ABOVE (not among) all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named. These are heavenly beings.

But there is one among the heavenly beings who did at one time aspire to climb to the holiest of all, to the throne of God in heavenly places, and take the place which was destined for Christ. Read Isa. 14:12, 13. That one some day will be cast down from among the heavenly beings and into the earth. See Rev. 12:9. He does not want men to know where Christ is and that saints and faithful may also be in the same place after resurrection.

In the beginning the Word was with the Father in the holiest of all. He was made (placed) a little lower than the angels. Now he is set far above angels. That means that he by-passed angels in both His humiliation and exaltation. He is not, and never will be one of them. He is far above such.

Here we are to set our affections. Col. 3:1-4. Here we are already seated with Him. Eph. 2:6. Blessed assurance. We have access to the Holy of Holies!

## -MATTHEW 5, 6, 7-

This portion is usually known as the sermon on the mount. In it are the Beatitudes. This part of the Word of God has been a puzzle to many during the past centuries. Many have tried to make it work in present day society, but only failure was the result. Why? Is this sermon impossible to carry out? If so, then why was it given? These and many more questions have come to mind as Bible students have tried to find a solution to the problem here.

In the first place we must remember that in Matthew's gospel the Lord is ministering to Jews only. In 1:21 we read, "call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins." His people were the Jews. The wise men asked where is He that is born King of the Jews. In chapter 10 He chose the 12 and told them not to go to Gentiles or even the Samaritans, but rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

So the people spoken to in Matt. 5, 6, 7 are a people who have an earthly hope, a great kingdom here on the earth with the Messiah of Israel on the throne of His father David ruling over Israel and the nations of the earth. So He could say, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." That is not a promise to anybody today. When at the end of Acts Israel was set aside for the time being, the hope was also postponed.

Today people can believe John's gospel and be resurrected in the last day and inherit the new earth. Or they can go on to believe the gospel of the dispensation of the mystery and at resurrection go into the heavenly places of Eph. 1:3. But the membership in the Millennial kingdom has been closed and so meekness will not make one inherit the earth today.

There is another angle to this question which many have not thought much on. We know that lending when anybody asks of us or to give away our clothing if anybody asks of us is just not a practicable doctrine for today. We would soon be out of house and home and anything to wear. Then why the command?

The kingdom was already among them, for the King was present. Soon He was to ratify a new covenant with His blood. The terms of this new covenant are to be found in Jer. 31:31. It is only to Israel and Judah to whom the old covenant pertained. It will be a time when every Israelite will know the Lord. Their hearts will be changed, or rather exchanged. Then the sermon on the mount can and will be put into practice.

But to try it in the present society will only result in disappointment and failure.

**-DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH-**

A few days ago a man lost his life because he did not believe in dispensational truth. He did not believe that God had now ceased dealing with the Jews and was dealing with Gentiles. So he tried handling rattlesnakes during a prayer meeting.

The Syro-Phoenician woman came to the Lord seeking a favor. She called Him "Son of David." But she did not receive her favor while using that title. She had not made a right division of things that differ. It was not till she ceased using the title which a Jew could and should use that she obtained that which she sought for. When she called Him "Lord" then she obtained the favor.

A man would not think of going to court and seeking a decision based upon a law which had been repealed years before. His neighbors would laugh at him. But today many Christians, yes, most of them, are doing this very thing with God. They wonder why their prayers are not answered. They wonder why they do not have the peace and assurance they should have. It is because they are in error, and that because they do not know the Scriptures.

Think of the multitudes who talk about going to heaven in the resurrection. But they regularly observe rituals that belong to a people who once lived with the hope of living on the earth in resurrection. These rituals are earthly. They use earthly elements in their signification. What business has a man on the rifle range with a bow and arrow? His armament is entirely too limited for the range he has in view. So the earthly elements would hold the Christian to the earth and its limited range.

I agree with those who say that we should put our energy and emphasis on the person and work of Christ. That is where it should be put. But if Christ is not put in His right place, all this emphasis will be but in vain. We must know His relationship to us today before we can know what is truth for today. Dispensational truth puts Christ in the right place. When that is done, then blessing can and does come.

That our wonderful Lord is not put in the right place today is very much in evidence on every hand. Do you not hear Him called by His earthly name "JESUS?" But are they willing to call Him Lord and Savior? He was called Jesus because He was to save His people from their sins. His people were the Jews. There is nothing there concerning Gentiles

This is not a finished argument by any means, but hope that you will think!

**-THE PURPOSE OF THE AGES-**

- A. PRIMAL CREATION. The heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1. A perfect creation. Isa. 45:18.
- B. THE OVERTHROW. Gen. 1:2. By water. Connected with fall of Lucifer. See Ezek. 28.
- C. EDEN. Peace in all the earth. Man had complete dominion. Eden a pattern for all the earth.
- D. SIN ENTERED. Death. Both had a prior existence, Rom. 5:12. Man lost dominion, Eccl. 3:20.
- E. ANTEDILUVIAN AGE. Long life. False seed. Violence. Gen. 6: 1, 2, 13. No open rebellion.
- F. FLOOD OF WATER. A new kind of death (second) upon man. False seed destroyed. Rain and wind.
- G. BABYLON. Man's kingdom. Open rebellion. Satan's counterfeit. Worship of man.
- H. A NATION CALLED. Abram from Ur. A kingdom in view. Beginning of a purpose for earth.
- I. GOD DEALING WITH ISRAEL. A kingdom proclaimed and reproclaimed. Acity revealed. Failure.
- J. ACTS 28:28. Pivotal point of the ages. Purpose of Israel and the earth suspended for a time.
- I. GOD DEALING WITH GENTILES. Heavenly program revealed and begun. Whosoever & Chosen.
- H. A NATION RECALLED. 70 weeks resumed. Kingdom again proclaimed. Restoration begun.
- G. BABYLON. The pre-millennial kingdom of man and Satan. Rebellion in the open. Worship of man.
- F. LAKE OF FIRE. A new kind of death. Second death. False seed destroyed. Nations judged. End of wrath.
- E. MILLENNIUM. Long life. No open rebellion. Violence and unrest, Psa. 2. God's man reigns.
- D. SIN GOES OUT. The deceiver and his angels in the lake of fire. Man regains dominion.
- C. POSTMILLENNIAL KINGDOM. The age of Rev. 20:10. Still day and nite. Peace in all the earth.
- B. THE OVERTHROW. By fire. All trace of the curse removed. Judgment of believers, the final one.
- A. THE NEW CREATION. The heavens and the earth, Rev. 21:1. A perfect creation. Glory restored.

Note; From overthrow to overthrow is a temporary program. It is from glory to glory.

-TRACKS THRU ACTS- #5

Several times in the book of Acts we have an account of the Damascus road experience of Paul. Our question this time is; Who was it that spoke to Paul from heaven? It is very clear from the onset that if the reasoning of some is at all true, then there is a contradiction in these accounts which we cannot account for. But let us look and see.

In 9:4 a voice comes and says, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" This Saul had been taught the faith of the fathers and he knew of one God, the God of Israel. So here he recognized authority and power and looking in the direction of the heavens to the God of Israel, he answered, "Who art Thou, Lord?" From the notes in the Companion Bible, Appendix 98, we learn that here was used the word KURIOS which is used in like manner in the LXX for Jehovah. Saul knew no God except the God of his fathers, known by the covenant name Jehovah. He knew very well that this was Jehovah calling him, even as He did Samuel of old.

But note the answer. Jehovah answers and says, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest." Saul remembered no doubt the witness of Stephen and his arguments in the synagogue concerning the Christ, the Messiah of Israel, the Jehovah of Israel, and from this moment on there was no doubt the mind of Saul as to the deity of Christ.

In 9:10 the Lord (Jehovah) appeared to Ananias in a vision.

In 9:17 Ananias speaks of this and says that the Lord (Jehovah) even Jesus had appeared to him.

In 22:8 we have again the account with the titles as in 9:5.

In 22:14 Paul, in recounting the experience, speaks of Ananias meeting him and saying, "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee." So three terms have been used interchangeably; Lord, Jesus, and God of our fathers. We have noticed that the first one is the same as was used of Jehovah.

Again and for the last time the account is given in 26:15 and the same terms, Lord and Jesus are used.

Now from these references, who did do the speaking to Saul on the road?

Now for your own study just take a good look at the salutations to the 14 epistles of Paul and note his claims of apostleship. By Whom in each case? Notice in 1 Tim. that the terms God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ. Then looking at the concordance we find that Savior is used by Paul in connection with the name of Christ about as much as in connection with God. Are they the same?

Dear Brother in the Philippines; I will write to you thusly so that others may get in on the message too.

The false teachers who are plaguing you are not unannounced. It was foretold that such would come and deceive many. You will at last notice that they attack the person and work of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This attack is very subtle and thus is deceiving.

In Col. 3:1-4 we are admonished to put our affections on things above, not on things on the earth. We are to seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth. But these folks are very much the opposite. They would have you look at all the social and political ills about us, things here on the earth. They attack all religious organizations outside their own. They complain if they are not afforded police protection, but they will not do any military service of any kind themselves. So they are not even consistent.

Then after they have your attention on these things, they deny the deity of Christ. They say that He is a created being of the highest order, but not deity. They ignore the fact that He was originally with His Father in glory and that He was made (or placed) a little lower than the angels, and that now He is again in glory with the Father far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named. He is not among the heavenly beings, but far above all of them. But the denial of all this wonderful work and the person of Christ leaves them without a Kinsman Redeemer. Angels are not related to men. No angel could redeem man.

But redemption is more far reaching than to just include mankind. The purpose of the ages is from overthrow to overthrow and that includes all that there is of time. Before was no time, and following will be no time. The foundations of the earth in Job 38:6 are sockets, the same word as used of the foundations or sockets of the tabernacle. These were made of redemption silver. When you start in Eph. you get down just 7 verses and you have redemption. It is everywhere you look in the Word. The price of it was the precious blood of Christ.

So all you can do is to show men the Christ and His work for the redemption, not only of man but for redeeming the glory of God which was dimmed in the overthrow. Hold up the Christ for all men to see and He will draw all men unto Him. You can hold Him up both by word and deed.

Sincerely in HIM,

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

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SENDING MONEY to England seems to be quite a chore for most folks. There are some who would like to assist with the publication of Mr. Welch's books but just do not know how to go about sending the money. Just send the check or money order to Truth For Today (you can send cash too) and we will take care of it for you. Glad to.

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ROLAND PRIDDLE from Barnsley, England, is spending this school year at the University at Berkeley, Calif. He and his parents have attended Mr. Welch's meetings in their neighborhood for many years. These meetings are held twice a year. I am sure that those in the Berkeley area would be glad to meet Roland. Get in touch with him. He is at the International House, Berkeley 4, Calif.

THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE, or Dispensational Truth, is now ready for distribution. We have over 1200 copies here and they are 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. Written by Mr. Charles H. Welch, it is a fine little pamphlet of 20 pages and deserves a wide distribution. Give us a hand with this.

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TAPE RECORDINGS: No new ones this month, but all are still available as we have announced heretofore. You can either buy or borrow them.

A SUGGESTION as to the use of the recordings by Mr. Welch; it is a waste of your time and our effort if you just sit and listen to a tape without doing something about it. Every reference should be looked up and notes taken so that you have an outline of the subject. The tape should be run more than once as you cannot get all of it at the first hearing. You cannot get much from just listening. Do something!

BOOKS: See list for last month.

FOR CLASS STUDY. Since several new classes will be starting up this fall, and many of them without a regular teacher or leader, we would suggest a book for outline study. Be free to differ with the text at any time, but let it be a guide to questions and outline work. A book that would be very good for this is NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRIES by J. Eustace Mills. The book is divided into 7 sections as follows; (1). John the Baptist. The Lord's Forerunner. His ministry. His Ministry as presented in John's Gospel. (2). The Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord from Heaven. The Former Period of His Ministry: teaching, warning, parables. The Latter Period of His Ministry: prophecies, sufferings, ascension. His Ministry as presented in John's Gospel. (3). The Twelve. Early Incidents. The Former Period of Their Ministry. The Latter Period of their Ministry. (4). James and Jude. The Lord's Brethren. James an Apostle of the Circumcision. The Epistles of James and Jude. (5). Peter. Peter an Apostle of the Circumcision. The Former Period of His Ministry. The Latter Period of His Ministry. The Epistles of Peter. (6). Paul. Paul an Apostle of the Gentiles. The Former Period of His Ministry--to Israel: Acts of the Apostles, Hebrews. The Former Period of His Ministry--to the Gentiles: His earlier Epistles. The Latter Part of His Ministry: His Later Epistles. (7). John. John an Apostle of the Circumcision. His Gospel. His Epistles. Revelation.

This book has 240 pages and is \$1.25 postpaid. However, till Nov. 1 (or till supply is gone) we will send 3 or more copies to one address at \$1 each postpaid.

THANK YOU ALL for your kind remembrances in so many ways in the past.

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