
-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #27

-THE BURNING HEART-

Verses 2 and 3 of Eph. 2 give us a picture of the flesh, and a true one. That is why so many do not like this great book. Its doctrine and practice are a little too high for the old man. When the Lord was here on earth He laid down some requirements for discipleship. They were just a little too much for the carnal minds of the multitudes. They left off from following Him. Then the Lord turned to the 12 and asked if they too would leave Him.

It is natural for people to strive to feed the desires of the flesh and of the mind. But this is further inflamed and energized by a wicked spirit. All is brot up and conformed to a world that is at enmity with God. That is a picture of the flesh.

When we see the terrible state of the flesh we begin to realize that all effort of itself to improve or save itself is vain. The aspect is desperate indeed. If it were not for the first two words of verse 4 we would indeed give up in despair.

BUT GOD... What a ray of hope this is. If God does not intervene, the laws of nature must take their course. But God does intervene in the affairs of men. Those interventions are miracles, whether it be the dividing of the Red Sea or the making a man a new creature. We do not have the evidential miracles today as they did in the Pentecostal times, but we do have miracles. God is still a Person. He yet intervenes and stops the course of nature. Why?

Because He is rich in mercy. How sweet that sounds! Mercy does not ask any questions about the worthiness or unworthiness. It pities when it sees misery. God in His mercy does not ask any questions. But in grace there is a little different quality. The unworthiness of the recipient is recognized, but he is graced nevertheless. That makes grace even greater than mercy. There is also something else behind that great grace. It is GREAT LOVE. Because of that great love God has given us favor which we never did nor could deserve.

Now let us take heed here. We must not overlook anything or assume anything. If you will note the margin in the Newberry Bible you will see that in verse 1 and also in 5 it is present tense and TO should be used instead of IN. So being dead to sins, grace works in us. God so loved the world (the manner) as well as so much that He gave His only Begotten Son. But when man in belief becomes or reckons himself dead with Christ to sins, then he is quickened. So grace works only in the believer.

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while He talked by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32.

No wonder their hearts burned within them! These same Scriptures testified of Him Whom they loved. Once He had said to them "They testify of Me." At another time He said "He wrote of Me."

Today it is ever the same. The hearts of the believers burn when hearing the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the One that is loved. Did you ever notice with what respect and fondness the believer handles and speaks of the Scriptures? It is not so with those who do not know the Lord. To them the Scriptures are only literature, or maybe fables. They care nothing for the study of the Scriptures and wag their heads at those who do. To them it is all nonsense.

It was a little the same way with the Scribes at the time of the coming of the wise men to seek the One Who was born King of the Jews. When asked about the birthplace, they were able to answer readily and even give the reference. They needed no time to even look it up. But they cared nothing about going down to Bethlehem to see. So today we do have some who read and study the Bible, but it never appeals to the heart. They are ever ready to criticize it or to question its authority. They would even instruct God!

The believer looks to the Scriptures for his authority. There is the place to find the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. For He alone has the Words of life. There is nothing else that can be a lamp to the feet or a light unto the pathway.

But with the religious man who does not know God it is not so. Nothing appeals so much to him as the traditions of the elders. He soon learns to question the Bible and put it in the background. The deity and authority of Christ are laid aside. Wisdom is assumed to be the ability to criticize the Bible and show where it is weak or wrong.

Then there must be a substitute for the Bible. For something must be held as an authority. Literature of some sort must be substituted for the Word of God. As the Jews in the time of Christ had all their sacred writings and traditions, so today there is a vast quantity of writing that is studied and regarded as authority which is only the invention of man.

Let us pray that more will join the cult of the burning heart. They too will rejoice when He expounds in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

-FIVE DEGREES OF SAINTHOOD- #4

"And raised up with Him." (Eph. 2:6).

"Ye were also raised with Him thru faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col. 2:12). "If then ye were raised together with Christ" (Col. 3:1).

Here are three passages using the word RAISED along with the Greek SUN which means "With." The first step was being dealt with Him (reckoned so). The second was being buried with Him. The third was being quickened with Him. All these are made possible by reckoning as a result of the mighty power to usward who believe in Eph. 1:19.

Now the fourth step is RAISED. There is no possibility here of one being made alive and remaining inactive. The word raised seems to imply action of some kind. When Lazarus was raised he came forth, and that coming forth, we hasten to add, was a part of the miracle. In the way that he was still bound he could not have done it of himself.

So good works is the proof of the being quickened and raised. But they are not of ourselves. There seems to be the idea that altho the works of the flesh are not in any way acceptable before salvation, they might be acceptable after salvation. Nothing could be farther from the truth! The works of the flesh cannot be acceptable to God whether the person is saved or not. The good works that are acceptable are the outcome of the new nature, the new creation, not of the old. We must not forget this at any time.

There is a little item in connection with raised mentioned in Eph. 2:6 that we must never overlook. First in verse 5 we noticed last time that we are quickened. That is followed by a little NT SELAH, "by grace are ye saved." Here is a good place to stop, look and listen. Something important follows. **WE ARE RAISED UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST.** As He walked about after being raised from the dead, so we should also walk in newness of life. What a thot!

Col. 2:12 also makes clear that this being raised is an operation of God. That this very present experience of ours was done in like manner as when God raised Christ from the dead.

Col. 3:1 sets out in no uncertain manner what should be the activity or walk of the one who has been raised with Christ. The mind and affections should be on things above, not on things of the earth. The old life, if it were a life, is dead, but the new life is hid with Christ in God. Then follows the hope and instructions for practice. Let us act the part of one raised with Him.

-PAUL AND PRAYER-

EPH. I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praying always with all prayers and supplications in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints, and for me.

PHIL. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy. And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation thru your prayers, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

COL. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you. For this cause we also do not cease to pray for you, giving thanks unto the Father. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us. Epaphras...always labouring fervently in prayers.

I TIM. I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. I will therefore that men pray everywhere.

II TIM. I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.

PHILEMON. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, For I trust that thru your prayers I shall be given unto you.

You can go thru your Bible and check these and maybe find some more. These are just from the epistles written after Acts. You will find many more in those written during Acts. Also in Acts itself you will find that Paul practiced prayer.

But the question has arisen from time to time as to whether we should pray today and whether our prayers will be answered.

Surely the Holy Spirit has given us something to think about in the above Scriptures. If prayer is not answered, then why pray for each other? Why pray at all?

Like miracles, prayer supposes a personal God. When we realize that God is a person, then we do not doubt miracles. It is the same with prayer. Pray for us.

-TRACKS THRU ACTS- #10

How many times the scene of the trial of Stephen must have come to the mind of Paul in later years! Tho the religious leaders had been cut to the heart, Paul yet more. He was brot under deep conviction. To silence this convicting voice, he got permission to persecute Christians even as far as Damascus. Certainly the arguments of the martyr Stephen must have been powerful.

But at last Paul was charged with a very serious charge at Jerusalem, even as was Stephen. Paul was not brot before the council, but was surrounded by an angry mob. They would have killed him without a trial. Only the Roman soldiers saved him.

Let us compare the charges that were made against Stephen and Paul. Of Stephen it is said, "Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. . . This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law; For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs thich Moses delivered us." Acts 6:11-14.

If you will go back to the gospels you will find that this is very similar to the charges of the false witnesses against the Lord when He was on trial. Surely some of His followers were baptized with the same baptism as He was.

Now see what they charged Paul with. "And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. . . . This is the man that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place; and further brot Greeks into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place." Acts 21:21, 28.

It mattered not whether Paul had the truth. There was no consideration of his teaching itself. Only that part was in any way remembered which seemd to have some bearing on the traditions of the elders. The temple and its rituals had become an object of worship instead of a means of worship. The law of Moses was kept only in letter. The spirit of it had long been forgotten. The explanations and the superstitions that had sprung up about it had more importance than the voice of God.

It is sad to observe that human nature has not changed any since that time and men are still offended and stirred up by the same things today. They love tradition, not truth.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: You may remember that one time I told you that we should take all things to the Lord in prayer, and that there was nothing too small in our lives to be of interest to Him.

We must never for a moment forget that we are entirely dependent upon Him for all things. Israel were just as dependent upon the Lord for every thing when they were in the land as they were when they were still in Egypt. But they forgot that. They made the mistake of assuming that they had wisdom of their own.

So when they met the Gibeonites on the way they did not ask of the Lord what they should do, but they made a covenant with them. Of course when they found out that they had been duped, they wanted to break the covenant. But that would have been another wrong on a wrong. You cannot get out of a bad situation by breaking your word.

You should read that 9th chapter of the book of Joshua to get the whole story. You will see how that these people who should have been exterminated were allowed to live and to mingle with the Israelites.

I suppose that the children of Israel had had so much success and the Lord had so well delivered their enemies into their hand that they thot that they could now go on their own and make ther own decisions. They never made a greater mistake!

We have a similar circumstance at the birth of Ishmael. Abram had gone on before the Lord, not waiting on Him. Then he found that Ishmael could not be the promised one. He was very fair about it and God granted a blessing to Ishmael, but to this day there has been enmity between Ishmael and Israel. (The Arab and Jew question in Palestine)

So no difference how long you may have been a believer or how well you may have learned the Bible, nothing can take the place of God's way and directions.

Today we find the "Gibeonites" on every hand. The world has this and that movement for you to join in order to take you away from your study of the Word and the fellowship you should have with others of like faith. Beware of making league with all these unless you have the go sign, "THUS SAITH THE LORD."

If Joshua had only stopped to "ask counsel at the mouth of the Lord," they would have been saved much grief. Keep this in mind and do not forget to pray about every decision that you have to make. Just trust Him and God will give you an answer. Do not expect to always like the answer!

Sincerely in HIM,

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

BIBLE CLASS meets each Tue. nite at the home of the editor. A welcome to all, either to visit the class or join in the series of studies. At present Acts is the theme. A lesson outline furnished each week printed and punched for notebook. The class will have finished 8 years of study April 5th.

REPEAT. Enough copies of The Testimony of the Lord's Prisoner are still on hand that the offer of last month may be repeated. One to 4 copies, \$1.30 each. Five or more copies to one address, \$1 each. All prices on books are postpaid.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is published each month and sent free to anyone anywhere. It is made possible by the help of many friends who desire the publication of the good news of the dispensation of the mystery. There is no need of nor intention of asking for funds. Recently the annual financial report was sent out to contributors. If any one was missed, we are sorry and please let us know as some copies are left over.

RECORDERS: Send for folders and the latest prices on Webcor and Tape-o-matic (V-M) models. Special institutional prices to those wishing to use them in classes or for missionary work at home.

TAPES: The circulating of the recordings of Mr. Welch's messages in this country has slowed up a little. They are all out but not moving very fast. If you desire to borrow any of these, let us know. There are 10 reels, 7" size, on hand of the tapes on Eph. by Mr. Welch. With these are also furnished charts, copies of those used in the Chapel in London. Let us know how many will be listening to the tapes and we will furnish small charts for members of the class. You may borrow these tapes free or buy them at \$3.50 per reel. A few sets have been sold already.

COMPANION BIBLES: Have these at the prices as announced last month. Might add that of the full leather ones in black, only two are on hand and no more available. That is the old style. The new one is in red leather. Don't forget the India paper edition.

OLD BOOKS: We are constantly on the lookout for odd copies and sets of Things to Come and The Berean Expositor. Some friends want to finish out their sets and some want complete sets. Let us know what you have and how much you want for them.

BACK COPIES of TFT are available from #67. Sets of these are free as long as they last. New readers may be interested in these.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Berean Expositor are still being taken. It is only \$1 per year. Glad to take care of it for you.

C. H. Welch WRITINGS: A complete stock on hands to take care of your needs. See former issues for list. Watch this page for announcements of two new books which will be out soon.

OTHER BOOKS: We stock the following which are always good tools for the Bible student and are in demand most of the time.

How to Enjoy the Bible, Bullinger	\$5.00
Number in Scripture, Bullinger	5.00
Witness of the Stars, Bullinger	4.25
The Giver and His Gifts, Bullinger	2.65
The Apocalypse, Bullinger	2.50
The Two Natures, Bullinger	.60
The Law of the Offerings, Jukes	2.50
The Coming Prince, Anderson	3.95
The Silence of God, Anderson	2.50
The Gospel and its Ministry, Anderson	2.50
New Covenant, Mills (Mimeographed)	.45
Ditto, 3 copies for	1.20
LXX, Greek and English, Bagster	6.30
Interlinear NT, small, Bagster	4.25
Englishman's Heb. & Chal. Con.	17.50
Thy Testimonies, Vol. 1	2.00
Analytical Gr. Lexicon, Bagster	4.25

APOLOGY; We have never mentioned it before, but we have been reluctant to use this page commercially. However if TFT is to continue we have to have the bread that perisheth. Also TFT takes the major part of time so that little if any farming activities can be engaged in. Health is also another factor to be reckoned with. Your editor still has the chronic ulcer and probably always will. So the sales of books and recorders and tapes have aided materially the income problem. We appreciate the part you have had in this.

TFT REPORT: Receipts Nos. 1264 to 1284 with a total of \$249.90 for Jan.

THANX for all the fine letters. Glad for your prayers and thotfulness.

TRUTH FOR TODAY
R2, WARSAW, IND.
U.S.A.

Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Warsaw, Indiana
Permit No. 20

Form 2547 Requested