

## -STUDIES IN EPHESIANS-

#29

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." 2:8.

It is the custom to parallel this passage with John 3:16. But they are not about the same thing. John is speaking of everlasting life. Paul is speaking of salvation. But even salvation is not always the same thing in all the Scriptures. In the gospel of the kingdom, salvation raised one to kingdom rights and privileges. But here in Eph. salvation raises one to rights and privileges of membership in the body of Christ. Furthermore, this salvation is not so much FROM as it is TO. But we will leave that for you to work out.

In the first of this verse are three words that stand out. They are GRACE, SAVED, and FAITH. Then follows the word THAT. Since a pronoun must have an antecedent, which of these three words is the antecedent? When the grammatical structure is examined, we find that it does not refer back to any one of the three. THAT is neuter in gender. So the only way to paraphrase it is thus; "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that grace-by-faith-salvation is not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Faith is the means by which we obtain this salvation. But faith is not a work, it is the acceptance of a fact or a truth or the trusting in a promise. It is believing what God has said and acting on it.

But why should God make this kind of a provision? There is no other way in which He could make it available to all, rich and poor, high and low, educated and ignorant, wise and fools, etc., etc. There is no respect of persons in this arrangement. It is perfectly fair to all. But far above all that, it gives to God the glory.

In the Word you will find that giving and loving are closely related. God so loved... that He gave. Here we have the same thing. It is the gift of God. Nowhere else do we find this expression in connection with salvation. What a wonderful gift it is!

For by grace are ye saved. Grace is all of God. There is no reason here for us to be boasting. The salvation is by the finished work of Christ on Calvary. But more than that; we are saved to glory. Who can find any fault with that?

Have you ever noticed how that grace and faith are linked together so often? It is so in this verse. On the other hand law and works are linked together. So if this were by works, then law, not grace, would have to enter in. But we are not under law.

## -THE PARENTHESIS-

When we speak of a parenthesis, we are speaking of something that is inserted for comment or explanation. It has been the custom of some time to speak of the dispensation of the mystery as being a parenthesis. But strictly speaking, it does not fulfil the meaning of that term. The epistles which reveal the dispensation of the mystery are complete in themselves. They do not necessarily comment on or explain what goes before or comes after. They are complete in the sense that they are all that is needed for the setting up and functioning of that group which is called the fellowship or dispensation of the mystery.

But there is a portion of Scripture that may well be called a parenthesis. It is the Acts of the Apostles and the 14 epistles related to and written during that time. We know that the Acts was a part of the kingdom program and teaching. This had its start with the choosing of a nation in Abram from Ur of the Chaldees. The expectation of that nation was a kingdom, with the King coming from the house of Judah. It was a kingdom that should have no end.

In the fulness of time the King was born in Bethlehem of Judaea. The Kingdom was first proclaimed or preached by John the Baptist. Then the King Himself, along with the 12 and the 70, proclaimed the kingdom. The multitude would have made Him King, but would not accept Him as Priest, for that would be against their religion and traditions. So they crucified Him.

So the setting up of a kingdom with a King-Priest at the head was postponed (we use this word in absence of a better expression. It was postponed to such a time as when Israel would repent as a nation and receive the One, the Just One, Whom they murdered.

So during Acts the apostles simply were marking time. They were waiting to see if Israel would repent. They had a commission to fulfil, but it could not be fulfilled till all Israel as a nation repented (changed their mind and submitted to Him as Potentate). The reason they could not fulfil the great commission was that they were not under the jurisdiction of the new covenant. They had a foretaste of it, but it was never in force. See Jer. 31:31.

So it happens that Acts is a continuation of what "Jesus both began to do and teach." It was no more than that. Israel did not obtain what she sought for. But the remnant did. What is going on today is not a parenthesis, but a separate purpose.

-WHO IS MADE UNTO US-

We read too rapidly and do not stop to think. We should meditate more on the Word. We miss so much in our hurry. A sample of what is meant follows;

There are 4 things which God has made Christ to be unto His people. They are Wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. 1 Cor. 1:30.

I. Wisdom. The greatest wisdom of which man can boast is only foolishness in the sight of God. But the wisdom from above is foolishness to the man of the world, one who is still in the flesh. He cannot understand the things of God. God can and does take the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (those who think they are wise).

The natural man cannot receive the wisdom that comes from above, those things that are taught by the Holy Spirit. They are spiritually discerned. One must have the mind of Christ to learn of God.

II. Righteousness. The best righteousness that man can produce, even under the law is as filthy rags in the sight of God. There is nothing right about the flesh. It is corrupt. So many think that after one is saved, then what he does (thinking that it is right) is right. But that which is right is not what we do with the old nature, the old man or the flesh, but what is done in us by the Holy Spirit thru the new nature or the new man. No man, saved or unsaved, can boast of his good works. We are His workmanship. We are to walk in the good works that were before ordained that we should walk in them. As to standing, we must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, accepted in the Beloved. This standing can never be changed.

III. Sanctification. This is by no means a process of getting "gooder and gooder." Just as we must get wisdom from above, just as we must get righteousness from above, just so must we get our sanctification. It is not any work of the flesh. It is a work in us by virtue of what Christ was made unto us. Again there is no place for boasting. Those who make it a work of the flesh often flippently remark that they lose their sanctification. They would never make such a statement if they realized the truth!

IV. Redemption. No repentance or doing penance in the flesh can avail in this matter. No man can by any means redeem his brother (or himself). Christ was made unto us redemption. He paid the price with His precious blood shed on Calvary. It was not silver or gold that paid it. Neither was it any good works. We have nothing to offer. He paid it all. Praise His name!

-CHRIST OUR HOPE-

"Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." 1 Tim. 1:1.

Whenever we have hope in the objective in the Word of God, it always refers to the Lord Jesus Christ being manifested in His glory to His people, whether on earth or in the super-heavens. In all references to our hope, we must not lose sight of Christ. It is not a mere doctrine that holds our attention, but a Person. As a contrast to the above statements, when Christ appears to those on the earth who are not His people, He certainly will not be their hope. Rather, to them it will be the great and terrible day of the Lord.

The various names and titles of Christ are keys to His manifestations to His families of believers. The church of the dispensation of the mystery, for example, is not looking for a Man of war, a King to deliver them from the nations of the earth.

Several years ago a lecturer said to his audience, "Tell me what you know of Christ, and I will tell you where you are as to your Christian experience." That statement is one that ought to make us stop and think.

To those who perish, any phase of preaching about the cross is foolishness. But to us who believe, it is the good news that thereon was one who shields us from what we deserved as sinners -- wrath. How we should thank God that His Son has made us meet for the inheritance of the most holy place. We are accepted in the Beloved.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our holiness before God. But to live holy before men, Christ must dwell in us. When we look to the cross, we see what God has done for us. It is, "I am crucified with Christ." The secret of holiness is identification or oneness with Christ in His death. We must be able to say, "I have died with Christ."

But how does that make for holiness? Well, did you ever see a dead man lose his temper? How about it? Did you ever think of that when the old man began to rise up within you? Does a dead man have eyes for the things of the world? Does he? Not only dead with Christ, but quickened with Him! Our eyes should be turned, not to the world or anything it may offer, but turned upward to where Christ sits at the right hand of God. This is practical Christianity!

Just a word of warning here. Death is not the hope of the believer. Death came as a result of sin. If there had been no sin, then there would have been no death.



**- THE EDITOR'S DESK -**

THANK for all the new names and addresses that were sent in lately. Just keep it up! We can use a lot more. We might just as well us a larger circle while we are at it. You can help with this.

STILL A CHANCE to get copies of The Testimony of the Lord's Prisoner by C.H. Welch at \$1 each in lots of 5 or more. We have only 50 left, so hurry.

MISSED! Just after TFT was mailed last month, new copies of From Pentecost to Prison came in. This is Mr. Welch's latest book and is an exposition of Acts. It is only \$1.50 postpaid. Fine for either individual or class study. Your editor is preparing about 58 or 60 lessons to go with this book. They are on letter size paper and punched to fit notebook. With a few exceptions, each lesson has 10 questions with space to write answers. Send 50¢ for a set; 25 lessons will be sent now and the rest when they are finished (about 6 months from now). These lessons are being used by the class at your editor's home. Fine for beginning classes.

SUNDAYS -- Note this. We have been making it a point to stay home on Sundays so that folks could drop in with their questions and chat with us. There is some calling and other work that we must do. So if you are going to drop in, be sure to let us know so we can plan for it. Visitors are welcome and we like to have you come.

RECEIPTS FOR TFT during March; Nos. 1296-1317 with a total of \$114.70. The expenses were \$195.73. Thanks for your help. Our reserve balance at the end of the month was \$187.37.

BIBLE CLASS meets each Tue. nite at the home of your editor at 7:30. New members are always welcome.

TRUTH FOR TODAY; published monthly and sent to anyone anywhere free upon request. If you can use some back copies, ask for them. Your friends might like to have some to read.

RECORDERS; write for prices and descriptions. Several to choose from.

STILL HAVE, as mentioned last month, Companion Bibles, The Two Babylons, and all current publications by C. H. Welch.

MORE AND MORE REQUESTS FOR PRAYER are coming in. Will you pray daily for these folks and their problems? There is a real place for intercessory prayer and we should all join together in remembering these folks.

TAPES; the recordings made by Mr. Welch while at various centers in this country on his tour are available for lending. Also his studies in Ephesians made in the

Chapel in London can be borrowed for the first 3 chapters of the book. For this there are 10 of the 7" tapes, about 2 hrs. to each. The rest of the studies in Eph. are about ready to send out. There are 5 of these. Have had a little difficulty and so we are delayed with these.

**BOOKS BY E. W. BULLINGER;**

How to Enjoy the Bible	\$5.00
Number in Scripture	5.00
The Witness of the Stars	4.25
The Giver and His Gifts	2.65
The Apocalypse (The Revelation)	2.50
The Two Natures in the Child of God	.60

**OTHER BOOKS THAT ARE USEFUL;**

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 (Mimeo.)	.45
Ditto, 3 copies	1.20
LXX, Greek and English, Bagster	6.30
Interlinear NT, small, Bagster	4.25
Englishman's Heb. and Chald. Con.	17.50
Analytical Gr. Lex., Bagster	4.25
Thy Testimonies, vol. 1	2.00

IF you are looking for something to distribute among friends who do not know about the Secret, we would suggest; The Dispensational Frontier, Who Then is Paul, and The Key of Knowledge, all by Welch. They are 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. These may be assorted if you so wish.

THE TWO BABYLONS or the Papal Worship proved to be the Worship of Nimrod and His Wife, is by Alexander Hislop. The first published about 1871, this book is still up-to-date and a great favorite. A new printing has just been made. Each \$2.75.

We have just made another used book list. Ask for a copy.

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

FORM 3547 REQUESTED