

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

by Oliver B. Greene

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CHAPTER NINETEEN -

BELIEVERS ARE NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST - WE ARE TO WALK AS A NEW MAN

Ephesians 4, verses 17-19

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

Born again believers, members of the Body of CHRIST, are new creations. A believer is a new man; therefore, we are to put off the clothing, the garments (the life), off the old man and put on the new man. In I Corinthians 2:14-15, and in I Corinthians 3:1 we read concerning the natural man, the carnal man, and the spiritual man. There are believers who deny that there is such a person as a carnal Christian. To make that statement from the pulpit is to invite some people to call the minister or evangelist a false prophet; but I am not a false prophet: **"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"** (I Corinthians 2:14). The natural man CANNOT receive the things of GOD because his heart is dead, his mind is blinded by the god of this age, and he cannot receive the things of the Spirit OF GOD.

"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man" (I Corinthians 2:15). This second man is spiritual and he judges all things - yet he himself is judged of no man because the spiritual man gives an account to GOD, not to his fellowman. We will be judged of the Lord, and we are to judge nothing before the time.

So - we have two men - the natural man and the spiritual man: **"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in CHRIST. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. FOR YE ARE YET CARNAL: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, ARE YE NOT CARNAL, AND WALK AS MEN? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; ARE YE NOT CARNAL?"** (I Corinthians 3:1-4).

Thus, in the last verses of chapter two and the first verses of chapter three of I Corinthians, we are clearly taught that we have three distinct men on earth today:

- (1) the natural man who needs to be born again,
- (2) the spiritual man who has been born of the Spirit, and
- (3) the carnal man who is a babe in CHRIST, feeding on milk because of carnality described as envyings, strife, divisions - and bragging about the fact that some outstanding evangelist is the one who baptized him.

We had as well face it, there is no need to deny it: All born again people possess The HOLY GHOST, but all born again people are not spiritual. All born again people are not filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Yes, there are born again people who are carnal. They have not grown, they are still babes. In the preceding verses in our study in Ephesians, Paul said, "**Be no more children, tossed to and fro.**" GOD wants us to grow up. Sad but true, many Christians seemingly will never grow up. The dear pastor has a hard job. He has the spiritually minded in his church who need meat . . . strong meat; they love meat and crave it. But he also has the babes who are on milk, and they are not able to bear the meat. So GOD's dear preacher has a problem when he goes into the pulpit to feed the children of GOD.

Verses 17, 18, and 19 give us the picture of the unregenerate, and we are not to walk as sinners walk. By nature, the unregenerate has a mind filled with vanity. His understanding is darkened. The heart of the natural man is blind. He has no feeling toward GOD, he is given over to lasciviousness, working all uncleanness with greediness.

Paul gives a picture of the unregenerate in Titus 3:3: "**For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.**" In connection with this, read Romans 1:21-32 and you will get a full-sized, sordid, despicable portrait and the life-sized features of an unregenerated man.

We who are new creations in CHRIST JESUS are not to walk as these men walk. We are to put off the carnal man because we have "**NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST.**" We who know CHRIST have not been taught such an evil practice of life. We are to live a new life because we are a new creation in CHRIST JESUS. We know THE TRUTH IN CHRIST; and we should follow His teaching as the example of our daily living. David describes it in these words: "**The Lord is my shepherd . . . HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (right living) FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE**" (Psalm 23).

When we are born again we are called upon to "**put off**" the old garments of the natural life, the natural man. We are to deny the ways of the "**old man.**" (The "old man" is by nature corrupt, and by nature follows "deceitful lusts.")

"**As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**" If we "**walk in the Spirit, [we] shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**" "**If [we] love the world, the love of the Father is not in [us].**" The grace of God that brings salvation teaches us to deny ungodliness, to deny worldly lusts, and to live sober, righteous lives in this present age, looking for and hastening to "**the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**"

Verses 20-29: "**But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard Him, and been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation**

the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

That is exactly what JESUS said to Thomas: "**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**" (John 14:6). The truth is not IN JESUS; JESUS IS the Truth. There is no truth apart from JESUS. He does not just "possess the truth," He does not just "tell the truth." He is the Truth. It is impossible for JESUS to lie. When He speaks, His words are spirit and truth (John 6:63; 1:1, 14; Hebrews 6:18; and Titus 1:2).

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

JESUS is the truth, and in JESUS we have all spiritual blessings . . . but ONLY in JESUS.

In verses 23 and following, we are instructed to put on the spiritual man. Christians belong to a new order, a new creation, we are a new man. The first step in spiritual things is not to be repaired or overhauled - but "**renewed.**" We must become a new creation through the miracle of the new birth. The new birth occurs through the power of the Gospel and the operation of The HOLY SPIRIT. Therefore, we are redeemed through the power of GOD. We become a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17, II Peter 1:4). We are renewed in soul, spirit, mind and heart. We are to be renewed "**in the spirit of [the] mind.**"

The mind must think right about GOD before we can trust Him fully.

When we think right concerning GOD, CHRIST, the Word, and The HOLY SPIRIT, then we can walk in the newness of life - but not until we have been renewed in our minds by the power of GOD. GOD does not work on the surface . . . on the outside; He works on the inside.

In verse 24 we note that the "**new man**" is "**after God.**" The new man is a product of GOD's power to create a new man - not to repair the old man. We are created in CHRIST JESUS, as we learned in Ephesians 2:10. We are created "**in righteousness and true holiness.**"

Notice the first word in verse 25: "**WHEREFORE.**" That means, "*Because of the preceding, the following is true.*" Wherefore (or because) we have put on the new man, we are a new creation, created in CHRIST JESUS by the miracle and the power of The HOLY GHOST. Because of this miracle in our life, we are to put away, to put off . . . "**LYING.**"

In verse 21 we learned that JESUS is Truth; and truth and lying have no place in the same heart. A truthful heart is not a lying heart, and a lying heart does not possess truth. Therefore, when

truth comes in, lying automatically falls off. JESUS is Truth. Satan is the lie. The first thing named to be dropped by the new man is **"lying."**

We are to put away anger, we are to put away stealing, we are to be honest in our labors and purpose of life. We are to work in order that we might have means to help those who are less fortunate than we are. We are to put away worthless, foolish talk. We are not to say things that would deny the new man within, or misrepresent the new creation. Our conversation should always be such as to edify, build up, strengthen . . . never to tear down and hinder other Christians or stand in the way of sinners. We are always to be **"[ministering] grace unto the hearers."**

We are to put away all that grieves the Spirit, remembering that He abides in our bosom at all times, and if we say things, do things, go places, and keep company that grieves the Spirit, certainly that is wrong.

Let me point out some things about anger. Perhaps you do not understand the statement, **"Be ye angry and sin not. Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."** The believer can indulge in "RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION" without sinning. There are times when, in the pulpit, I become very angry; but it is the right kind of anger. I am angry at the devil, at sin. When I am preaching against the liquor crowd . . . men who would sell liquor to your eighteen year old boy or your sixteen year old girl, thus causing them to commit sin that would wreck their life and ruin them . . . I am angry with those men But I would put my arm around anyone of them and lead him to JESUS if he would give me the chance. We can be extremely angry - and yet not sin. A minister who cannot GET ANGRY in the pulpit is not worth two cents! I do not mean become angry at souls who need JESUS. I mean become angry at sin . . . because of the fruits of iniquity. A minister needs the ability to become righteously indignant - and yet not sin.

In Galatians 5:19-21 it is clearly taught that anger is the working of the flesh - but that is another kind of anger . . . not righteous indignation.

Verses 30-32: **"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for CHRIST's sake hath forgiven you."**

Let me give you a brief outline of the HOLY SPIRIT's part in our redemption and in our journey to the Pearly White City:

1. First, we are drawn to GOD by the power of the HOLY GHOST (John 6:44; 16:7-11).
2. The HOLY SPIRIT "borns" us into GOD's family: (John 1:11-13; 3:5-7). The HOLY SPIRIT is the attending physician at the spiritual birth which occurs through the Word (John 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:17; I Peter 1:23).
3. At the time of the new birth the HOLY SPIRIT baptizes us into the Body of CHRIST (I Corinthians 12:12-13).

4. The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD seals us until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30). The HOLY GHOST puts upon our heart the stamp of GOD's ownership, and the seal remains until the HOLY SPIRIT performs His last work in our journey from redemption to the Pearly White City.

5. The HOLY SPIRIT leads us into the paths of right living (Romans 8:9, 14; Galatians 5:16; Psalm 23:1-3).

6. When we allow the HOLY SPIRIT, He fills us (Ephesians 5:18-20).

7. We shall be quickened by the Spirit in the first resurrection, which will occur at the Rapture of the church: **"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, HE THAT RAISED UP CHRIST FROM THE DEAD SHALL ALSO QUICKEN (make alive) YOUR MORTAL BODIES BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU"** (Romans 8:11). Read carefully I Corinthians 15:35-57.

You will note that this passage of Scripture begins with a question: **"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?"** Later in the chapter, the HOLY SPIRIT reveals, **"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; THE LAST ADAM WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."**

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

In the first resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:13-18, I Corinthians 15:51-55) the bodies of the saints who have died will be quickened (made alive) by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT. The living bodies will be changed by the Spirit in the twinkling of an eye . . . in the fraction of a split second. The HOLY GHOST will see us safely inside the Pearly Gates.

I am so glad JESUS did not save me and put me on board the salvation ship - and then say, "Son, work hard; strive and endure to the bitter end; do your best. I hope you do not run into any storms; I hope there will be no pitfalls in your path. I wish you well. Do your best to make it to Heaven." I am glad the Bible does not say that!

But rather, GOD's precious Holy Word says this: **"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee . . . We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper . . . There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to every man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape . . . Ye... have overcome them: because greater (more powerful) is he (Jesus) that is in you than he (Satan) that is in the world!"**

We are more than conquerors through CHRIST who loved us. My GOD shall supply all your needs - physical, financial, mental, spiritual . . . whatsoever the need . . . THROUGH HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS. GOD the Father loved us so much that He gave GOD the Son to die for us on the cruel Cross. GOD the SON died for us, descended into the lower

parts of this earth, conquered death, hell and the grave; ascended from the dead with the keys to death, hell and the grave, appeared to chosen men of GOD (five hundred at one time). He ascended back to the Father, and on the day of Pentecost He sent the HOLY SPIRIT . . . and He (the HOLY SPIRIT) has been in the world ever since then, to convict the sinner, to draw the sinner, to "born" the sinner; to indwell the believer, to baptize him into the Body of CHRIST, lead him into the paths of righteousness and around the pitfalls of the devil.

The HOLY SPIRIT has been here to fill those of us who will permit Him to fill us; and He is our seal of ownership.

Every true, Blood-washed believer has GOD's stamp of ownership on his or her heart; and the Spirit will not forget us if we depart this life and the body goes back to dust. He will quicken our flesh and give us a brand new body just like the glorious body of JESUS!

Behold what manner of love! . . . It doth not yet appear exactly what we will be, BUT WE KNOW THAT WHEN JESUS COMES WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM! (I John 3:1-3).

Paul begs the believers at Ephesus not to grieve the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD. It is possible for a believer to grieve the Spirit. It is possible for us to quench the Spirit. Paul tells us, "**Quench not the Spirit**" (I Thessalonians 5:19). We should realize and recognize the Bible fact that our bodies are the temple of the HOLY SPIRIT, and we should be careful how we treat Him. He is a person just as surely as GOD the Father and GOD the SON are persons.

GOD the Father is a person, GOD the SON is a person - and in like manner the HOLY SPIRIT is a person. He can be grieved, He can be quenched. We should be very careful how we treat the Spirit who abides in our bosom.

In verse 31, we are told to put aside all bitterness, all wrath, all anger, clamor and evil speaking, and we are to put away all malice. We are to be kind to each other, we are to be tender-hearted. Jesus was tender-hearted and we are to follow His steps. We are to be Christ-like if we advertise to the world that we are Christians. Insofar as is humanly possible, we are to live as our CHRIST lived when He was on this earth. We should have a forgiving spirit - why? Because . . . "**God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**"

There is a tremendous truth here: Dear reader, if you are saved, you are saved for the same reason I am saved. GOD did not save you or me because we were fit to be saved, nor because we were good enough to be saved. GOD saved us for CHRIST's sake.

Through the HOLY GHOST, GOD is forming a bride for His Son, made up of individuals who put their faith in JESUS.

- GOD did not save us just so we would have a happy life on this earth.
- GOD did not save us just so we would go to Heaven when we die, and not burn in hell.

GOD saved us for JESUS' sake, for the joy and the glory of His only begotten SON. For an inheritance to the only begotten SON, we born again believers will be displayed in the heavenlies to show the exceeding riches of GOD's grace, as we learned in Ephesians chapter two. In case

you have a tendency to be just a little bit "**puffed up**" because of your sonship in the family of GOD, proud of your spirituality and holiness, just remember that the only reason you are not dead and in hell - or on the road to hell - is because GOD for CHRIST's sake saved you! Had it not been for the willingness of JESUS to lay His life down, the willingness of the HOLY SPIRIT to draw you and convict you while you were yet ungodly . . . had it not been for the sake of the only begotten SON of GOD, you would not be saved - and no sinner would ever have been saved. GOD saves sinners "**FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.**"

~ end of chapter 19 ~

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