

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

by Oliver B. Greene

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CHAPTER NINE -

THE RESULTS OF GOD'S MERCY, LOVE AND GRACE

1. In CHRIST we are now raised from the dead.

As a result of GOD's great mercy, lovingkindness and gracious Grace, we who believe are raised from the deadness of sin. Thank GOD, it is past tense: "**RAISED!**" We are not going to be raised, we are not being raised. Salvation is not future tense, nor is it progressive, in parts, nor on the installment plan. We are resurrected from the dead instantaneously, the split second we embrace the finished work of JESUS by faith.

Because of GOD's Grace (Hebrews 2:9) JESUS was permitted to taste death for every man. To fully appreciate the deep spiritual truth taught here, we must study again Romans 6:1 ff. We - each and everyone of us - deserved death and hell, because all have sinned; but He (GOD), for us and for our sake, counted His only begotten SON worthy of death. Judicially JESUS died our death and we died with Him: "**Ye are dead, and your life is hid with CHRIST in God**" (Colossians 3:3).

In the same manner, we are raised with Him . . . not going to be, but we are NOW raised with Him. The true believer is just as sure for Heaven as JESUS is sure for Heaven - and He is there! Positionally we sit with Him NOW. I know that is too glorious for human comprehension. I confess that I do not understand it; but I believe it because it is pure Scripture without the taint of man's thinking, reason, speculation or exegesis.

JESUS died, He was buried, and He rose again. Christian baptism is for believers only - and if you have not been baptized since you believed you have not had Christian baptism. Christian baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament church signifying that we have died with JESUS, are buried with Him and raised to walk in newness of life. Water baptism does not save us, water baptism does not wash away our sins, water baptism has nothing to do with redemption. But we should be baptized in obedience, in order to fulfill all righteous acts. We cannot partake of righteous Acts until after we have been made righteous in JESUS, through the redemption that is in His Blood, received on our part by faith.

JESUS died, was buried, and rose again; and when we receive His finished work we die and are raised with Him. "**I am crucified with CHRIST** (crucifixion means death): **nevertheless I live** (I was crucified when JESUS was crucified, but I am alive now); **yet not I, but CHRIST liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me**" (Galatians 2:20). Please study carefully Colossians 2:20

and Colossians 3:4. Also study Romans 6:8-13.

2. With CHRIST we are now seated in the heavenlies.

JESUS died, was buried, rose again, appeared to the believers, was taken up into glory and He is coming again. (Study the entire fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians.)

In JESUS we died, we were buried, we are now risen, and we are NOW (present tense) seated with JESUS - IN JESUS - at the right hand of GOD the Father. Beloved, I do not profess to understand it - but I dare not refuse to believe it because the HOLY SPIRIT has revealed this glorious fact to this unworthy heart of mine. The HOLY SPIRIT has planted in my bosom this abounding, astounding, astonishing assurance. Did I hear you say, "I cannot accept it . . . I cannot believe it" . . . is that what you said? If you did, then kind friend, perhaps you had better check up and see if you have had a change of heart, because it is the natural man who refuses to believe the things of the Spirit. The born again receive the things of the Spirit because He (the Spirit) is the teacher of the Word. He moved upon holy men, they penned down GOD's message - and since the HOLY SPIRIT is the author of the Bible He is very capable of teaching us - yea, even the deep things of GOD.

Those who deny the mystical Body of CHRIST (the Invisible Church) cannot comprehend nor accept what I have just said. But we know that the church IS His body . . . we know He is the head and the Foundation, we are members of His body, and positionally we are seated with the Head of the church. "**In Him**" we actually are seated in the heavenlies. What a contrast from that which we were before we became believers!

3. In CHRIST we have a glorious future.

"(GOD) **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus**" for a singular reason:

"**That in the ages (the eternity) to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**" GOD is going to display the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us. This is a future tense benefit of our redemption. We are raised (now - present tense) - we do sit (now) with JESUS in the heavenlies - but we will be placed on display in the heavenlies in the ages to come. This glorious fact (or benefit) of redemption is foreign to most Christians . . . they are totally ignorant of it.

In that grand and glorious day when JESUS is manifested in power and great glory, we (the church, the Bride) will occupy the Pearly White City which is now being prepared for us (John 14:1-6, Revelation 21:1-27). Revelation 21:9 tells us: "**And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**"

Then it was that John was carried into a great high mountain and he saw the Holy Jerusalem, the Pearly White City, descending from GOD out of Heaven. That Pearly White City is the place to which JESUS was referring when He said, "**In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you.**" The place being prepared for the Bride (the church) is the Pearly

White City.

There are three heavens mentioned in the Scripture. In II Corinthians 12:1-3 Paul distinctly refers to the third Heaven. If there is a third Heaven there must of necessity be Heaven number one and Heaven number two. The first Heaven is where the clouds are. The second Heaven is where the planets and the constellations are. The third Heaven is GOD's house - Paradise. We will have a new Heaven, a new earth - and the Pearly White City.

The new Heaven is the atmospheric heavens just above us that will be delivered - the demons will be removed and put into hell and the prince of the power of the air will be cast into the bottomless pit. We will have a new first Heaven.

The second Heaven will be renovated - all the stars and planets will fall, the moon will drip with Blood, the sun will be needed no more for JESUS will be the light of GOD's new creation.

The Pearly White City will be suspended between GOD's house and the new earth, and it will be the home of the church . . . all who are saved by GOD's marvelous grace. All of GOD's creation - the peoples on the new earth, the angels in Heaven (GOD's house) - will see the Pearly White City, and will witness throughout eternity the display of the exceeding riches of GOD's grace that brought about the Bride, the Lamb's wife. So . . . this glorious event lies ahead in the ages to come.

In Ephesians 2:8-10 we have the origin and the outcome of salvation . . . by grace, through faith, ye are saved . . . it is the gift of GOD, not of yourselves. We have the certainty of salvation: "**Ye ARE saved!**" We have the fact clearly set forth that salvation IS GOD's gift . . . man has nothing to do with redemption. Ephesians 2:8 reads "**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.**"

I trust you will accept the statement I am going to make, because I have scripture to back it up: Salvation is totally and entirely (one hundred percent in every minute detail) of GOD, through GOD, the gift of GOD. Not one iota of anything that man can do, be, say or give adds one mite, one jot or tittle, to GOD's redemption. Here is what I mean: We are saved by grace. Grace is GOD's unmerited favor. Grace provides for us what we do not deserve. Grace does the saving; but Grace becomes ours by faith. We exercise the faith - but how do we exercise the faith, why do we exercise the faith? Where do we get the faith? " . . . **FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE Word of GOD**" (Romans 10:17). So you see, GOD Almighty in the beginning perfected salvation, completed salvation, and in the fulness of time presented salvation.

All you or I can do to become the recipient of salvation is to hear the Gospel, and receive JESUS through the faith brought to our heart by hearing the Gospel. It is all of GOD, beloved. I have been preaching the Gospel for many years, and the hardest thing on this earth for me to get across to people is the Bible fact that man cannot save himself - nor can man help GOD save him. Salvation is totally and entirely of GOD.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that "**we are His workmanship, created in CHRIST Jesus.**" We who are saved are the products of GOD's marvelous grace. We are not what we are through any work,

labor or merit on our part. We are the workmanship of GOD, we are the product of GOD's works.

Christians are not manufactured from other products to make us better persons. We are "**CREATED**" . . . not educated, not trained, not cultured, not overhauled, repaired, or put in first-class condition; we are "**CREATED**." Today thousands of preachers are substituting education for regeneration; religion for repentance; works for grace; but "**except a man be born again** (from above), **he cannot see the kingdom of God**." The natural man must be created in CHRIST JESUS, thereby becoming a new creation. This happens by the provision and the operation of the grace of our GOD.

The first man (Adam) became a dead sinner because of disobedience. The second Adam (CHRIST JESUS) become flesh, and in the flesh did what the first Adam failed to do . . . He conquered the world, the flesh and the devil, death, hell and the grave. Therefore, "**If any man be in Christ Jesus he is a new creature**" (II Corinthians 5:17). GOD does not repair natural man . . . GOD creates a new man within. A person who is truly born of the Spirit, regenerated by the power of GOD, saved by the grace of GOD, is

THE MASTERPIECE OF ALL GOD'S CREATIVE ACTS

Salvation is not OF works, but salvation is "**unto good works**." By our good works we prove to ourselves and to our fellowman that we are saved. James declares, "**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also**" (James 2:26).

It is not the quantity of works (how much you do) that proves you are saved, but the fact that good works automatically follow salvation. The believers at Thessalonica proved their salvation by turning to GOD from idols, to serve GOD (I Thessalonians 1:9). The Ephesian believers confessed, brought their books of magic and burned them before all the people, thereby proving that they had experienced a change of heart (Acts 19:18-20).

The believers at Rome who were the servants of sin, obeyed from the heart the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith, and they became the servants of righteousness unto holiness (Romans 6:14-23).

Works have nothing to do with redemption; but works testify that redemption has been wrought in the heart. We work because we are the sons of GOD. We do not work to try to gain Heaven - we work because we are on the way to Heaven. Salvation is totally and entirely by Grace, the gift of GOD. Our eternal reward will be determined by our faithful works . . . our faithful stewardship. (Study carefully I Corinthians 3:11-15.)

Let me share with you a truth the HOLY SPIRIT has just revealed to me as I study and ponder these messages! So far as our redemption is concerned, spiritually we are sitting. For example, in Hebrews 1:1-3 we read, "**God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS, SAT**

DOWN on the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Note: When JESUS had completed redemption, He took a seat. He had finished the work GOD sent Him to do.)

In this Scripture we clearly see that JESUS finished every minute detail of redemption according to GOD's blueprint and plan. And when He had finished redemption He sat down . . . and to me that signifies a man after a hard day on the farm, in the shop, in the plant . . . when the day is finished he goes to the warmth, shelter and security of the home . . . and he sits down. When JESUS had paid sin's debt He sat down at GOD's right hand. He had finished redemption. Nothing can be added by GOD or man so far as the saving of the soul is concerned. When we trust JESUS our redemption is complete . . . finished.

The split second we are born into GOD's family, we are as much a SON of GOD as we will ever be. We are completely and totally redeemed. We are taken out of the slave market of sin and placed into the family of GOD - no longer a slave, but a son.

When a new-born babe comes to the home, the moment it is born it is a son . . . it is a body - not full grown, but a living personality, a complete body. The same is true in redemption: We become a SON of GOD by faith in the finished work of JESUS, and when we are saved (so far as redemption is concerned) we sit down to rest in the heavenlies with JESUS until that glorious day when we will receive our glorified body to reign with JESUS. So now, those of us who are born again are resting . . . we are sitting with JESUS so far as redemption is concerned. But notice: We are walking here on earth.

The inner man, the spirit, is sitting with JESUS in heavenly places; but we are walking on earth . . . a pilgrim, a stranger. We are His workmanship, we are created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works. GOD hath before ordained "**THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.**" The believer is forever on the move, never still, always walking for JESUS. "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**"

That is the reason Paul cried out, "**I beseech you (I beg you)... [to] present your bodies a living sacrifice!**" (Romans 12:1).

"Yield... your members as instruments of righteousness!" (Romans 6:13).

We should be walking daily, working daily, in such manner that others might see our walk and our works, and glorify GOD because of the display of the miracle of grace in our lives!

GOD the SON is seated beside GOD the Father in Heaven - but GOD The HOLY SPIRIT is walking on earth . . . convicting sinners, drawing sinners to GOD; indwelling and assuring believers; leading believers in the paths of righteousness for the name's sake of JESUS. In Ephesians 2:6 we sit with JESUS. In Ephesians 2:10 we walk with the HOLY SPIRIT. " . . . **WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFIL THE LUST OF THE FLESH**" (Galatians 5:16).

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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