

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

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VICTORY IN EPHESIANS

As we examine this subject at this time let us be quite concerned with regard to having that victory for ourselves. It will be of little use for us to learn the theory if we do not enjoy the application. Victory begins in the very first chapter of this book and at verse 3. Here we do not read that all spiritual blessings "WILL" be given to us, we read that they "ARE" given to us. Faith reaches out an empty hand and accepts GOD's gracious gifts without hesitation. Faith thanks GOD for that which He says is true. In order that we may serve our LORD with happy hearts, free from care He reveals in verse 7, that our own need has been already met. He also tells us in verse 12 that it is GOD's plan to have us glorify His name and be occupied with His praise throughout our lives.

In order that we might be acceptable to those we meet he grants his Seal in verse 13, the imprint and impress of Heaven upon our lives, so that our friends will know that we have been with the LORD and carry about with us the fragrance of His presence. In verse 17 we find that it is GOD's good will and pleasure to give us revelations of Himself and wisdom in using our knowledge for His glory. He encourages us by reminding us that we have at our disposal the exceeding greatness of His power, so that we may undertake great things for GOD.

Chapter 2 is occupied with an unfolding to our hearts of the wonderful place we have in connection with and in conjunction with other believers, particularly Jewish believers. This is given to us in order that we may be confident of the fellowship and co-operation of others who know and love our LORD. We notice in verse 16 that this union is brought about through the LORD JESUS and His death at Calvary.

CHRIST unites hearts and lives.

CHRIST brings together those who were enemies.

CHRIST mends broken homes.

CHRIST mends broken hearts.

CHRIST links together those who naturally would be opposed to each other, such as the Germans and the French, the Italians and Ethiopians, the Japanese and Chinese.

When once CHRIST enters the heart and becomes the LORD of the life, then all of these can and do sit together around the LORD's table in happy fellowship.

Victory in Chapter 3, is centered around the love of our LORD filling the heart. When the love is there then we forgive and forget. When that love is there, we desire to help and not to hinder. When that love is reigning in the soul we dry the tears of others and never cause any. When that love is precious to our hearts, we lighten the burdens of others and never add to them. That love submerges our feelings so that we are not hurt by what others do to us, or fail to do for us. That love gives us the spirit of CHRIST when He said "the SON of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." The love of our LORD makes us willing, happy servants of all.

Chapter 4 reminds us of the blessed place we have in relationship to the welfare of each other. We are conquerors because we are a very part of the mystical body of CHRIST, as indicated in verse 16. Each one of us has a part with each other one. We have the joy of receiving from each other the essentials of this new life and have the privilege of giving those essentials to the others with whom we are linked by the LORD. Each part of the body flourishes and continues to be useful because it is supported and supplied by every other part of the body. This assures growth in grace and usefulness. Just as each part of your body is a blessing to the rest of the body, so we may be confident that each of us is a blessing to others of GOD's dear children.

Victory in Chapter 5 is centered around the gracious care of our LORD for the Church which He loves. We may expect that He will minister to us and for us according to the need which He sees. He tells us of His love that we may be assured of His care. We may feel quite free and happy in our hearts because we have such a wonderful bridegroom who will never fail us. He will do in our lives individually and collectively that which is necessary to make us what He wants us to be. For this reason we yield ourselves to His care and rejoice in the training which He gives.

The soldier aspect of the Church is brought before us in chapter 6, because victory here is to be a proper defense and a skillful offense. We are to protect our own hearts from Satan's arrows and we are to learn the Scriptures in such a way that we shall conquer those who do not know our LORD. Each part of the armor is a type of the LORD JESUS. The sword, of course, is the Word of GOD. Paul writes in Romans 13:14, "put ye on the LORD JESUS CHRIST." This is the path of victory and this is the path of peace.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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