

## **PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS**

by Doctor Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1939

by

edited for 3BMB by Baptist Bible Believer in the Spirit of the Colportage Ministry of a century ago

~ out-of-print and in the public domain ~

### **CHRIST IN EPHESIANS**

In this lesson we consider together as our subject the Person of our LORD JESUS CHRIST as found in the Book of Ephesians. Let us learn to find where things are in the Bible so we can help souls and hearts that are seeking comfort and counsel. We turn to Genesis for some truths, to Romans for other truths, and to Galatians for others, etc. If we had a fine drug store with kinds of medicines and drugs in it, they would be of no value to us if we did not know just where to look for them. So it is with the Bible. It is full of the richest and sweetest things, but we must know how and where to find them.

In the first series of lessons, we looked at the place the Father has in the Book of Ephesians; now, the place that the LORD JESUS has.

In the first chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in salvation. Verse 7 "In whom (in the LORD JESUS) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." We must be in CHRIST to have these two great blessings of redemption and forgiveness. It is not enough to be in a religion or to be a character builder. It is not sufficient to be active in Christian work. The point is that we must be in CHRIST. GOD has nothing whatever for any man or woman who is outside of CHRIST. CHRIST is pre-eminent as SAVIOUR and is the One who suffered in our stead.

In the second chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in exaltation. Verse 6, "And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in CHRIST JESUS." God has put Him on the throne. GOD has put CHRIST at His right hand. There are many religious leaders, even so-called vicars of CHRIST, but none have reached that position. There are many who have devised all sorts of religious plans, but not one has GOD's approval, only the LORD JESUS. Those who are in CHRIST are predestinated and elected with CHRIST in heavenly places because that is where He is.

In the third chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in separation. Verse 6, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in CHRIST by the gospel." We are separated from the world to become heirs of GOD with CHRIST JESUS. We are "fellowheirs." Whatever CHRIST gets, we get. We are linked up intimately with Him. We receive all things from GOD with the LORD JESUS. The enemies of CHRIST have no such privileges. Those who have no CHRIST have no inheritance. We are "fellowheirs.. of the same

body, and partakers of His promise in CHRIST by the gospel." The LORD separates us from the world. He takes us away from the things of this life and knits us with Himself. Where He is, we are, and where He goes, we may go.

In the fourth chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in education. Verse 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the SON OF GOD, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of CHRIST." Note also verses 11 and 12. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of CHRIST." I wonder if that is working in our fellowships. Are we "perfecting the saints" that are in our audiences until they become ministers of JESUS CHRIST? Is our ministry such that those who listen to us will develop into evangelists, pastors or teachers "Till we all come in (or "into") the knowledge of the SON OF GOD, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of CHRIST."

That man who knows CHRIST best is best educated. That man who knows the LORD JESUS most intimately is the man who has the broadest intellect and the broadest vision. CHRIST JESUS changes the mind. Heathen do not invent anything, except for destructive purposes. They invent nothing that is truly profitable because they have no CHRIST. CHRIST enlightens the mind. When CHRIST comes into a man's heart, he begins to think of things that are constructive, upbuilding and helpful. The knowledge of CHRIST produces, or should produce, a blessed knowledge of GOD "till we all we come... unto a perfect man."

In the fifth chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in illumination. Verse 8, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the LORD: walk as children of light." CHRIST is the One who illuminates us. The verse does not say that you were in the dark. It says you were darkness. It does not say, "now are ye in the light" but "now are ye light... walk as children of light." This is a strange thing. When we trust the LORD JESUS, He makes us a light, not a lamp that can be dimmed and needs to be polished, but a light like phosphorus, for it will shine any place. Phosphorus always shines. That is its business, its character, its nature. The LORD says that is what we are. He wants us to be phosphorus wherever we are. No matter where the Christian is, he should be a light. Light should emanate from him because CHRIST has come to dwell in him and CHRIST is the Light of the world.

In the sixth chapter, CHRIST is pre-eminent in occupation. Verses 6-7. We are told to serve. "Not with eye-service, as menpleasers; but as the servants of CHRIST doing the will of GOD from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the LORD, and not to men." That is our job -- to do the work of GOD from our hearts and not as to men. CHRIST JESUS should occupy our hearts and minds no matter what we are doing, whether we are singing, praying or serving. Our service is to be rendered to our blessed LORD. We should have Him before our faces and should serve Him with gladness until we see Him face to face.

We are great time wasters. Most of us waste our time. You will be surprised and astonished if you will take a sheet of paper and divide the day up into fifteen minute periods from the time you arise until you retire. Write in each space what you do in the period of time. At the end of the day, get down on your knees and get out the paper and see how many periods were profitable to GOD, profitable to your fellowman, and profitable to yourself. Let us be occupied with Him.

In chapter One, CHRIST is pre-eminent as the Head of the Church. Verse 22, GOD "hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church." Note the past tense. In the Old Testament, many things were put in the past tense that had not yet happened. In Isaiah 53, long before CHRIST was crucified, it says, "He was wounded." Why? Because whenever GOD decides on a thing it is done as far as He is concerned. He is finished with it, and it will be done according to His Word.

GOD "hath put all things under his feet." We do not yet see all things put under His feet, but as far as GOD is concerned, all things are already under His feet. CHRIST is the Head of the church. Isn't it wonderful what He does? He makes a man very resourceful and sends him out into Africa and it is a Livingstone! He makes a man very patient and sends him out to India and it is a William Carey! He gives a man a wonderful love for lost souls and it is a Billy Sunday or a D. L. Moody! He has picked out great men and women down through the centuries and has done wonderful work in the church of which He is the Head. Each one of us was led to CHRIST by some man or woman who told us about the SAVIOUR and His finished work for us in such a way that we grasped and understood. The Head of the Church has charge of all that.

In Chapter Two, CHRIST is pre-eminent as our Peace. Verse 14. "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us". He is our Peace as the mother is the peace of her baby when it is frightened. The storm comes; the thunder rolls; the lightning flashes; the whole house shakes. The little one comes running to mother. He snuggles up to her and is not afraid. The storm cannot now molest. The mother is his peace.

CHRIST wants to be our peace as the guide is the peace of the man lost in the woods, hungry and thirsty, fearing and apprehensive, until the guide appears to lead him out. CHRIST is our peace.

Is CHRIST your peace? Or is it CHRIST plus a good bank account? Is it CHRIST plus a healthy body? Is it CHRIST plus a lovely home? Would we have peace if death entered our home tomorrow? CHRIST is our Peace and CHRIST alone. We will lose everything else and GOD wants us to have the peace that will stand any storm -- CHRIST in His completeness.

In Chapter Three, Verse 8, CHRIST is pre-eminent as the world's great remedy. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ". He is all they need. He brings unsearchable riches. It isn't politics they need. "Poly" means "many." Ticks are something that sucks the blood out of us. "Polyticks" are "many ticks." What they need is CHRIST in the heart.

In Chapter Four, verse 13, CHRIST is our model. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the SON OF GOD, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of CHRIST." GOD would have us walk, act, love and have a heart like CHRIST. Has He not planned in His purposes to conform us to the image of His SON? Let us try now to be what He wants us to be. Do not blame things on the old nature. Are you stingy? Get rid of it! Are you faultfinding? Get rid of it! GOD has provided a way to get rid of it. There is no excuse for any of us holding on to the old habits and ways we had before we were saved. Why not say, "LORD, start in on me now. Make me the kind of person you want me to be." He will do it.

We have FORTY revelations of CHRIST in this Book of Ephesians, but we shall not look at

them all in this brief lesson. I may say this about His precious person. There is a danger of being so occupied with the work of CHRIST that we fail to fall in love with the person of CHRIST. "He that hath the SON hath life," not he that believeth about the SON has life. It is that lovely Man with the wounds He received for us. Who should fill our hearts with love because of His love, beauty and attractiveness.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*