

**"God's Grace in the Believer's Life"**

**Part 2**

**Ephesians 1:4-7**

**Introduction:** As we come back to our study in Ephesians, I want to do a little review to catch you up and then we shall work on in our study.

Several weeks back we looked at the subject of Election and we did this because of what is recorded here in Ephesians 1. We determined that ELECTION in the Bible has absolutely nothing to do with salvation. There are three groups in the Bible that are referred to as the elect.

**1. Israel**

**Isaiah 45:4**

*<sup>4</sup> For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.*

**2. The Church**

**Romans 8:32-33**

*<sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

*<sup>33</sup> Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

**3. The Righteous Angels**

**1 Timothy 5:21**

*<sup>21</sup> I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*

Each one of these groups has a specific purpose in the plan of God. Israel represented God in the Old Testament. The Church represents Him today. The Angels are His spiritual representatives who minister to the heirs of salvation.

**Notice Ephesians 1:4**

Here we see that before the foundation of the world God chose to have a group of people known as the CHURCH who would be the Bride of His Son. God did not choose individuals for salvation He chose to have a church and the invitation is to WHOSOEVER will may come.

**Revelation 22:17**

*<sup>17</sup> And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Those who repent of their sin and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior become members of this group. Here in this first chapter we have seen that those who come to Jesus Christ are baptized into the body of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

*<sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many.*

So, the CHURCH is the BODY OF JESUS CHRIST. He is the HEAD we are the BODY and the BODY is made up of many members just as the human body. We who are members are also given spiritual gifts and we are to function together.

Now here in Ephesian 1 Paul is writing to a church of mostly Gentiles and he needs to get them grounded so here in this first chapter he is showing them who they are IN CHRIST. He is pointing to the riches which they have in Jesus Christ. Now let me show you why he is doing this.

**Ephesians 4:1**

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*

It is his desire that their lifestyle in the world would match their position in Christ. So, as we work our way through this first chapter, we are seeing who we are in Christ. Now the most difficult part of the study is separating FEELINGS from FACTS. In this chapter we see the facts about who we are in Christ, but we do not always feel as the facts state.

**I. Blessings for the Believer**

**Part 2**

**A. Blessed with all spiritual blessings.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:3**

When you choose to repent of your sin and trust in Jesus Christ, God then credits your spiritual account with all spiritual blessings. We can lose all we have in this life but in Christ you will never lose your spiritual blessings.

**B. Made Holy and Blameless**

**Notice Ephesians 1:4**

Before the foundation of the world God determined that all who would repent and turn to Jesus Christ would be holy and without blame. We looked at this verse last week, but I want to look at this one more time.

IN CHRIST we are seen by God as HOLY and BLAMELESS. This is our position in Jesus Christ, and this will never change.

**Romans 3:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The righteousness of God is credited to our account when we place our faith in Jesus Christ and from that day forth, we are JUSTIFIED, which means we are DECLARED RIGHTEOUS. This is a one-time legal action. Now, as God looks upon us, He sees us covered in His own righteousness.

**1 Corinthians 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

<sup>6</sup> Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

<sup>7</sup> So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>8</sup> Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. We are placed into God's royal family.

**Notice Ephesians 1:5**

The word "adopted" here literally means "son placing". When a man or a woman accepts Jesus Christ as Savior we are born again into the family of God.

**John 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

We are then placed by the Holy Spirit into God's family as mature sons. There is a beautiful picture of this in the Old Testament. It starts with Jonathan and David.

**1 Samuel 20:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:*

*<sup>15</sup> But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.*

*<sup>16</sup> So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.*

Jonathan was the son of king Saul and he knew that David would be the next king. The common practice was that when a new king took the throne, he would execute all the previous royal family to protect his throne. That prevented anyone from the previous royal family from undermining the new king and killing him to take the throne.

Jonathan foreseen this coming and so he made a covenant with David and made him promise to show kindness to all of his family. Now let us look ahead to what happened when David became king. He never forgot the covenant and the promise he made.

## **2 Samuel 9:1-3**

*And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?*

*<sup>2</sup> And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.*

*<sup>3</sup> And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

The son of Jonathan was named Mephibosheth and he was crippled.

## **2 Samuel 4:4**

*<sup>4</sup> And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.*

This man is a picture of all of us. He was crippled in a fall and we were spiritually crippled in the fall of Adam. Because of Adam's sin in the Garden we are all born with a sin nature and we are enemies of God.

**2 Samuel 9:4**

<sup>4</sup> And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

Lodebar means "dry and barren". We live in a world that is dry and barren. There is nothing here that will bring lasting satisfaction. We are constantly thirsting for more. Now let me get you back to David again. Let me show you what he did for Mephibosheth.

**2 Samuel 9:**

<sup>5</sup> Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

<sup>6</sup> Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

<sup>7</sup> And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

<sup>8</sup> And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

<sup>9</sup> Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

<sup>10</sup> Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: **but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table.** Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

<sup>11</sup> Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. **As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.**

He was as one of the king's sons. This is the picture of the meaning of adoption. We are now royalty. When Jesus sets up His Kingdom on this earth we will be seated at His table for we are the children of God/we are royalty.

**D. We are accepted.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:5-6**

God has done all of this according to the good pleasure of His will. It is all to the praise of the glory of His grace. Grace is unmerited favor. We do not deserve any of this but God in His grace has blessed us with all of these blessings. This is what He desires to give to every person.

**Notice Ephesians 1:6-7**

We will look at the redemption next week but for now we need to see that we are **ACCEPTED** in **CHRIST** and we have the forgiveness of sin.

Before we could ever come into the presence of God all of our sin must be paid for.

**1. Sin separates**

**Isaiah 59:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

<sup>3</sup> *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

**2. Sin must be paid for.**

**Romans 6:23a**

<sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death;*

**3. We cannot earn the forgiveness of sin.**

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

**4. God requires a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.**

**Hebrews 9:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.***

**5. Jesus died and shed His blood to pay for our sins.**

**1 Corinthians 15:**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**Ephesians 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior God removes all of your sin from your account.

**Hebrews 10:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

<sup>17</sup> And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

**Psalms 103:**

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

**Conclusion:**

This is just a small amount of who we are in Christ. This is what God desires for every person in the world.

**2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.