

EPHESIANS

LIVING WITH SPIRITUAL POWER: ADOPTION



SUPPLEMENTAL VERSES

2 Cor 6:17-18

1 Cor 15: 42-56

John 6:5-6

Heb 4:16

Matt 25:34

James 1:2-4

Gal 2:20

Rev 20:6

Acts 11:25-26

Psalms 121: 3-8

1 Pet 4:16

Is 43:1-3

Romans 5:15-17

Psalms 34:7

1 Pet 1: 3-5

2 Thes 3:3

1 Thes 4:13-18

Romans 8:29

WEEKS 1 & 2 REVIEW

Who wrote it? Paul

When did he write it? Approximately 62 AD. About 10 years after his ministry in Ephesus.

Under what circumstances is he writing? Paul is a prisoner in Rome.

He was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was first arrested in Jerusalem where he was imprisoned for 2 years. Because he was a Roman citizen, he appealed to Caesar and was transferred to Rome. He was on house arrest in Rome for another 2 years.

It was during this time that Paul wrote Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.

REVIEW WEEKS 1 & 2

The significance of Ephesus: It was a port city

It became the capital of Asia Minor because of its wealth and its location (would be in modern day Turkey)

It had an amphitheater that could seat 25k people.

The city was almost as significant as Rome in that day.

The people were very wealthy.

They built a temple to Artemis (Diana) which housed many great works of art.

They worshiped Artemis. Act 19:23-41

WEEKS 1 & 2 REVIEW (CON'T)

Why does Paul write a letter to Ephesus?

In the book of Acts, we learn about 3 missionary journeys that Paul took throughout the Roman Empire.

In the year 53 AD, Paul first ministered in Ephesus...but did not remain there. Acts: 18:19-21.

He went back 2 years later and stayed there for 3 years!!! This was the longest stay that he had in any city!!! He started out preaching and teaching in the Jewish synagogues which was his custom...but then began teaching & preaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

His ministry had an impact...not only in Ephesus...but all over Asia due to the location and nature of Ephesus! Even the demons had heard of Paul at this point!

REVIEW WEEKS 1 & 2

Paul begins his letter by Praising God for the riches that we have in Christ (Spiritual Blessings)

He is going to use the word “rich” more than 5 times in this letter.

He wants the believers to understand spiritual riches vs material riches.

What good are riches if you don't know that you have them?

Paul is Praising God here for the spiritual riches that we have in Christ right now! And He wants us to know what they are!

Verses 3-14 contain over 200 words in Greek and is the longest sentence in all of Scripture.

It is almost like Paul is praising God and is so excited, he can't stop his idea.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Let's read **Ephesians 1- 14**

Here are the blessings that we have in Christ that Paul mentions:

1. We are chosen
2. We are adopted
3. We are accepted
4. We have redemption
5. He has forgiven us
6. He has given us wisdom and understanding
7. He has given us an inheritance
8. He has sealed us

GOD CHOSE YOU

Last week we talked about what it meant that God chose us.

Before God laid the foundations of the world, he had you in mind.

He chose you!

The word in the Greek literally means to select or pick out from.

God Chose you to be holy(set apart for him) & blameless (spotless, without blame)

HE PREDESTINED US

Verses 5 & 6: In love, he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will ---to the praise of his glorious grace which he has freely given us in the One He loves.

WOW! In His love...He predestined us.

What does that mean?

The word predestine means to ordain beforehand, or predetermine.

In order to “predestine” something...you must have a destination.

Where are we going? Where is our destination that we are predetermined to go?

DESTINATION: “SONSHIP”

Verse 4 says “In love, he predestined us to be adopted as his sons.

Our destination is “sonship”.

What is he saying?

God ordained beforehand, (before he even laid the foundations of the world), for you and I to be adopted as his children!

He chose us...and he predestined us...to be adopted as His children!

HOW DID GOD PREDESTINE US?

How did God predestine us?

In His love...and in accordance with His pleasure and His will!

God loved you! Before the foundation of the world, he chose you and I to be His children!

It was His pleasure and His will to do it!

This is an awesome statement! And it is an amazing mystery as we discussed last week.

Since we discussed God's Sovereignty (He chose us) & Man's Responsibility (we need to chose Him) last week, I don't want to go down that road this week. Rather I would like us to discuss what does this "adoption" mean for us as a spiritual blessing?

WHAT IS ADOPTION TO SONSHIP?

The word in the Greek for adoption is: “Huiothesia”

Huiothesia = to place as a son.

It is the act of leaving one’s natural family and entering into the privileges and responsibilities of another family.

Adoption = the legal process where a child is removed from his birth family and placed into a new, adoptive family.

The new adoptive family assumes all of the care, support, & upbringing of the child as if they were biologically theirs!

Paul is saying that God predestined us to be placed spiritually into His family!!!

Most of us have heard and understand that we are son’s and daughters of God. But what does this mean practically for us in our lives? What are the spiritual implications of this? In order to understand this spiritual blessing of sonship...we need to take a deeper look at the implications!

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS “SONSHIP”?

Here are some of the implications & blessings of “Sonship”

1. He is now our Father, and we have complete and full access to Him!
2. We have a new family name, a new identity, and sense of belonging
3. We have an inheritance and we are coheirs with Christ.
4. As a loving Father, He watches over us, providing protection and security.
5. He raises us like a son/daughter bringing us to spiritual maturity.

1. GOD IS NOW OUR “FATHER” AND WE HAVE COMPLETE AND FULL ACCESS TO HIM AS HIS CHILD

This one thing alone...is so staggering and amazing to contemplate.

Think of this for a moment: The God of the universe, the Almighty, the Eternal One, the Holy One, the one who holds the universe in the palm of His hand. He is not distant or far off anymore...now He is your Father!

2 Cor 6:17-18 “I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters” says the Lord Almighty!

We now have full and complete access to Him as his children.

What does that exactly mean?

WE CAN BURST INTO THE THRONE ROOM AND JUMP ON DADDY'S LAP!

Story of Blind town in Nigeria.

We went to a city to do follow up on a child that the Doctor had operated on.

Before we could enter the city, we had to meet with the king and ask for permission to enter the city.

In order to meet with the king, we had to go through all of these formalities & rituals. We even had to bring a gift.

While we were meeting with the King, his daughter burst into the room and jumped on his lap! No formalities, no rituals, nothing she had to do to gain access...She was his daughter, and she could burst into the room and jump on His lap!!!

LET US APPROACH GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE

Because God is our Father, we can now burst into the Throne room!!!

Think about that for a second. What did access to the Father look like before Jesus?

Rituals and sacrifices had to be performed...And no one could enter into the Holy of Holies(the Presence of God)...except the priest...and only once per year!

When Christ was crucified, the temple vail was torn...what did this signify?

Now, if you are in Christ...You have no rituals to perform, no gift or sacrifice needed, no formalities to go through...You can burst right into the throne room of the Father!!!

Not only that...but just like the Father in Nigeria who welcomed his daughter on his lap...He welcomes you and is happy for you to do it! He loves when you do that!

What does this do for your prayer life?

Heb 4:16 Let us approach God's throne room of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

ACCESS TO THE FATHER IS AN AMAZING PRIVILEGE THAT WE TAKE LIGHTLY

The fact that we have instant, immediate, access to the Creator of the Universe is an amazing privilege!

We can sit on his lap, talk to Him about our cares, concerns, hug him, and enjoy His presence as our Heavenly Father.

But we are so busy with our lives, our “to do” lists, the things that we need to do, we neglect this opportunity to “be with the Father”.

How do you think He feels about that?

This is the most amazing spiritual blessing that we have, enjoying His Presence, and having access to Him as His sons and daughters.

2. WE HAVE A NEW FAMILY NAME

When someone becomes adopted into a new family, they usually take on the new family's name.

What are the implications of this?

This new name signifies a new identity, heritage, and lineage.

When people encountered God in the Scripture and were placed into his Family...God often changed their name to signify this new identity and purpose that he had for them.

Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many nations)

Sarai (my princess) to Sarah (Mother of Nations)

Jacob (Deceiver) to Israel (One who struggles with God)

Simon (one who hears) to Peter (the Rock)

OUR NEW FAMILY NAME IS CHRISTIAN

When we place our faith in Christ, we are adopted into His family.

We now are “in Christ” and we now take on the new family’s name which is “Christian”

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

I am now in Christ. My life is in Christ. My identity is in Christ.

Acts 11:25-26 The disciples were called “Christians”

1 Peter 4:16 Praise to God that you bear that name

1 Pet 1:1 : Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:1 Paul a servant of Christ

All of the early believers saw themselves in Christ and called themselves Christians

SIGNIFICANCE OF IDENTITY

Peter...an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul...a servant of Christ...

How significant is it that they saw themselves in this way?

How do you see yourself?

In our culture, after introducing ourselves what is the next thing that follows is... “what do you do?” This question follows because that is usually how we draw significance and meaning in our lives. We usually identify ourselves by what we do. I am Marc, a business owner, or I’m a coach, or I’m a student, or I’m a Mom, I’m a teacher, I’m an architect, I’m an engineer, etc.

Do you see yourself as “in Christ”?

What would it sound like if you said I am ... “servant of Christ”.

How does that affect your outlook on yourself? Does it give you new meaning & purpose?

3. WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE: WE ARE CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST

Because we are now adopted into the family of God, we become his son's and daughters...we now are now Heirs and Co-heirs with Christ.

What is an Heir?

An Heir is: Someone who is appointed to receive an inheritance. Someone who is appointed to receive something of value from the Father.

Christ is God's firstborn son and is the one to receive the inheritance. Since we are in Christ...we share in that inheritance with Christ. We are co-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8: 15- 17 we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ in order that we may share in His glory.

1 Peter 1: 3-5 He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade – kept in heaven for you!

WHAT DOES THAT INHERITANCE LOOK LIKE?

What does that inheritance look like?

We get to be in God's presence for all eternity. **1 Thes 4: 13-18** We will be with Him forever!

We will get a new body, "a spiritual body" like Christ did. **1 Cor 15:42-56** The perishable shall put on imperishable

We will inherit His kingdom!. **Mathew 25: 34** Come, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

We will be ruling and reigning with Christ! **Rev 20: 6** they will be priests of God and Christ and will reign with Him

4. HE WATCHES OVER US AND PROTECTS US

One of the roles of a father in the family is to watch over and protect.

As sons and daughters of God, we enjoy the protection and the overseeing by God in our lives.

There are countless Scriptures that remind us of this:

Psalm 121: 3-8 He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber, indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you, the Lord is a shade at your right hand. The sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night. The lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

IS 43: 1-3 Do not fear, I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you, when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned, the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Savior.

Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

2 Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

THE ALMIGHTY WATCHES OVER OUR LIVES

How does it feel to know that the God of the Universe, the Almighty, The All Powerful One, the Maker of Heaven and Earth is watching over you?

Does that give you a sense of protection and peace?

He says you are my son's and daughters, and I am with you and I am watching over your lives!

Psalm 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 27:5 For in the day of trouble, he will keep me safe in the shelter of his dwelling, he will hide me in the shelter of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock.

Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

5. HE BRINGS US TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The blessings that we have as sons and daughters of God are amazing!...Our access to the Father, our new identity, our inheritance, His protection and watching over our lives.

But one of the roles of the Father is to raise His adopted children.

When we raise our children...what are we doing? We are teaching them to learn, to grow, to understand right & wrong, good & evil, how to live in this world, how to serve and love others, etc.

Is that not also what our Heavenly Father wants to do with us?

Romans **8:29** tells us something else that we are predestined for: We are predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son!

God wants us to look like Jesus...spiritually. His destination for us is Spiritual Maturity!

Do you want that for yourself? Do you want to grow up in Him? To be transformed into His likeness?

What does that look like?

WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL MATURITY LOOK LIKE?

Someone who knows God and spends time with Him regularly.

Someone who knows the word of God and is not blown back & forth by every teaching.

Someone who prays consistently and powerfully.

Someone who is full of the fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Self control.

Someone who loves and serves others and places others above themselves.

Someone who is humble, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

Someone who is living on mission for God in this world. Ready to share God's love with words and actions!

Someone who is living by Faith and looking for God's direction and leading in their lives in every regard.

Some one who gives sacrificially of their time & money & resources...understanding that it's all God's!

HOW DOES GOD BRING US TO MATURITY?

God uses many different things in our lives to “Grow us up” in Him!

He uses His Word! Personal times of daily devotion & reading His Word are crucial for this!

He uses Bible Studies, Sermons, Christian Education, Worship & Prayer.

He uses others in our lives to help us and guide us. Pastors, Teachers, Godly friends, Counselors, Mentors.

He sometimes brings trials into our lives that challenge our faith and our character.

John 6:5-6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

James 1:2-4 He wants us to be mature and complete not lacking anything.

Do you know that God is more concerned about your spiritual transformation than He is about your comfort?

How does a goldsmith purify gold?

He wants to see his reflection in His children!

BLESSINGS OF SONSHIP

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5. He brings us to spiritual maturity.

These spiritual blessings are so amazing, they have Paul praising God! We should be praising God as well!

Paul writes “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ”