

The Way One Obtains Lasting Significance
(A Devotional On Ephesians Chapter One)

I. What God has done for every believer.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed (2127 *eulogeo*-- to speak well of, religiously to bless, praise) **us with all spiritual blessings** (2129. *eulogia*-- fine speaking, commendation ("eulogy"), reverentially adoration, benediction) **in heavenly places in Christ:**

:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (40. *hagios*-- sacred, physically pure, morally blameless, religious, ceremonially consecrated, saint) **and without blame** (299 *amomos*--unblemished, faultless, unblamable)**before him** (2714 *katemporion*--directly in front of) **in love:**

:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted (5487 *charitoo*--to grace, i.e. indue with special honor, make accepted, be highly favored) **in the beloved.**

II. Practical consequences of God's provision

- A. My holiness is not dependent on my efforts; it is dependent on the finished work of Christ and the Holy Spirit in me. Therefore. . .
1. I can stop "trying" to get holiness and accept I am already holy.
 2. My achievements do not make me "more" holy neither do my failures make me "less" holy.
- B. I can accept God's forgiveness and thus forgive myself for my past failures.
- C. God loves me unconditionally because Christ died for me. It is not tied to my performance or obedience.
- D. I am acceptable and have worth with God based on the finished work of Christ--not by my efforts--it is a gift through faith. Therefore. . .
1. I don't have to focus on my strengths to get acceptance.
 2. I can accept myself with my weaknesses because God created me and accepts me completely with my weaknesses.
 3. I no longer have to hide my mistakes and failures because God knows about them, has forgiven them, and loves me despite my past.
 4. It eliminates pride because I didn't do anything to earn my worth and acceptance.
 5. My "identity" is not determined by my education, vocation, wealth, power, or position. I am a child of God, a saint, and a chosen one.
 6. It produces security because my acceptance is based on something that will not change with time. I don't fear the loss of intelligence, looks, abilities, finances, friends, social status, reputation, position, family, etc.

because my acceptance is based on an unchangeable--the finished work of Christ.

7. My worth, acceptance, and purpose is not based on what other's think; it is based on how God views me. Therefore, I am free from the peer pressure.

E. My relationship with others is based on God's view of me and of them.

1. I can accept believers because they are accepted "in Christ."
2. I can forgive believers because "in Christ" they are forgiven.
3. I don't compare myself to other people because my acceptance and other's acceptance is solely based on the fact we are "in Christ." (Eliminates pride.)
4. I can accept others of different race or gender because our acceptance is based on the fact we are "in Christ."
5. I can accept "non-believers" because they are one "knee bend" away from accepting the lordship of Christ and being accepted by God.
6. I can accept my spouse and my children solely based on the fact they are accepted by God--they don't have to "measure up" to my standard. I can forgive them and accept them as they are.
7. I can accept people who may have handicaps or limited abilities because they are acceptable to God.
8. I can disagree with another and still love him, accept him, and honor his person because acceptance is not based on our "doctrinal" or "political" ideas--acceptance is based on the finished work of Christ.
9. I can restore the "fallen saints" because God's acceptance is not dependent on performance.

III. The significance of me being placed "in" the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. I am placed in his finished work.

1. His life--I get credit for fulfilling the law completely.
2. His cross--my "flesh" or "sin-nature" is put to death "with" Christ.
3. The shedding of His blood--forgiveness of sin and redemption for me.
4. His burial--The means by which my "old-nature" is "put away" from me.
5. His resurrection--I receive a "new-nature", the Holy Spirit.

B. I am placed in his present work.

1. His place at the right hand of God--I have authority over the enemy.
2. His High Priestly function--I can enter into the presence of God and pray without fear.
3. His right standing with God--I have favor and receive God's grace.

C. I will be placed into His future work.

1. His return--I will meet him in the air and be glorified.
2. His rule--I will rule with Him.
3. His judgment--I will judge angels.
4. His dwelling--I will dwell with Him for ever.

D. I am complete in Christ--I have all I need to live a victorious life.