

Sunday's reading was from Ephesians 1. It is a great start into something I want to write about, "Who we are in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

We have every spiritual blessing. Now the only blessings we need are physical (food, clothes, healing) and mental (soundness of mind, intellect, emotional). This whole reading is good but I am going to highlight a few words.

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him 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 in the beloved.

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

This is almost unbelievable.

In Christ

A man was a known drunk and wife-beater and a member in good standing at his church. He got saved and found out that he had been made the righteousness of God and begin tell people he was the righteousness of God. They kicked him out of the church within three months.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We should feel about ourselves the way God feels about us. Jesus paid a high price to redeem us from the curse of the law. We can watch *The Passion* and see what our redemption cost. The thing about that film is that it might not have been violent enough. When we still feel guilty about the wrong things we done after confessing them, we fall right into Satan's trap. He tells us we cannot be used of God because we are so unworthy.

If the Holy Spirit tells us to give some money to someone, Satan will tell us we are just showing off. He gives us an evil thought and then says, "If you were a Christian you wouldn't have such thoughts." God never gets on us when we are down and feeling bad. In fact when we are sick and not able to help ourselves, he gives us the anointing of the sick for healing and forgiveness of sins.

I do not know about you but when everything is going great and I am in a "Hallelujah" mood, God gets on me about a lot of things (food intake, exercise, TV, to name a few). When I am down God always has a good word for me; He is gentle and wants to make sure I know that I am accepted.

I believe the best way to use this teaching is to read it all the through, then every day or so read a couple of verses. Do this for a long time; at some point your faith will be so built up you will never feel that God doesn't love you.

The Word of God Says That in Christ

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ

Jesus: We are redeemed and justified.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: We are redeemed. Redeemed is a great word to follow through the Bible. Here are words to a song I like a lot.

Redeemed-How I love to proclaim it. – written in 1882

□ *Redeemed—how I love to proclaim it!*

*Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever, I am.*

- *Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child, and forever, I am.*

□ *Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell.*

□ *I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long;
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song.*

□ *I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose way I delight;
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps,
And giveth me songs in the night.*

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

In Jesus there is no condemnation. We are not condemned. If Satan tries to tell we're no good and God is so mad He doesn't love us any more, we can quote this verse to him and he will flee.

Roman 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The law of sin and death has no power over me. Jesus gave the Law of Love to replace the Mosaic Law. I am free and I also have the power to obey the Law of Love. And, even if I break

the Law of Love, I am not condemned; I have a big brother who is on my side and a daddy who loves me.

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

We are called to be saints. We do not do good works to be acceptable to God; we do good works because we are acceptable to God. He took our stony hearts and gave a heart to love.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

In Jesus we are made alive. We do not get spiritual healing; our spirits were dead and had to be reborned. We need healing in our mind and body.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

In Christ, we are set free to do as we please. Before we were born again, we almost had to do all of what Satan wanted us to do. Now we are free from that and can do what God wants us to do and God's will is always in our best interest.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are a new creation, created by God.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

In Christ, we are seated together in the heavenly places. This is not future but now. I'm not sure what all that means, but I am going to believe it has happened even if I don't understand it.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are his workmanship, made to do good works.

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

In Jesus, we are heirs to the promises God made to Abraham.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

In Christ we have complete access to God's throne. The old song says, "You don't knock, you just walk on in." God wants boldness out of us showing that we believe his word and promises. I just read through the definition of the Greek word for obtain and it is a long definition. The word "ask" does not appear anywhere.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

We are complete.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

We have eternal glory

The Word of God Says That as a Christian

I AM

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

I am chosen before the world was made.

1 Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am chosen to be holy and without blame.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

I am saved by grace through faith. If you are reading this and want to know how to enter in to all this great stuff, go to the website and look at the end of the book *Proverbs - What's In It For Us*.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

I am born of incorruptible seed to live forever.

Roman 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I am a joint-heir with Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I am the temple of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

I am saved by faith through grace.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

I am the salt of the world. We made the world a better place. We bless everyone we come in contact with.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

I am the light of the world. The things I do give glory to God. Again, we bless everyone we come in contact with.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

I am an ambassador for Jesus; we represent Jesus to the world. This is why we must be always a blessing to all. This is why God likes cold or hot Christians. The world does not know cold Christians are Christians. Hot Christians are doing their job of being a blessing. Luke warm Christians go to church and outwardly act like the world and bring a bad name to Christians.

Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

I am protected by God. Psalm 91.

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am beloved by God and called to be a saint.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

I am raised with Christ and placed with him in Heaven.

I HAVE

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

I have eternal life. Again we see that we do not come under condemnation. We have passed from death to life.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

I have the peace of Jesus.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Jesus suffered so that we could have peace. Like the song says:

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain;

Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;

Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

I can't hear or read those words without chills running through my body and if I spend a little time with them I nearly start crying.

2 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

I have someone living in me who is greater than anyone in the world.

I LIVE

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I live and Jesus lives in me.

I AM ACCEPTED

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

I am a son of God. We theologically accept this but do we really act like we believe it? Since I don't like to ask a question without answering it, I would say, no. We think that if we do something wrong, God's going to throw us under the bus. Here is where Catholics have it better than most other Christians.

Growing up one family member criticized Catholics by saying, "They think they can sin all week and then just go to confession and God will forgive them." Actually Catholics are correct in doing that. Now if they do sin all week, life is not going to be pleasant; but they will be forgiven by God. (The way of the transgressor is hard.) What a lot of non-Catholics do is sin and carry the guilt instead of getting rid of it.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

We are God's friends. I think Jesus had to use the word "friends" because at that time no one had been born again; Jesus had not gone to the cross yet.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

I have a peace that passes all understanding.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Me and Jesus are in this thing together. We are joined.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in us. Some people have said, "My prayer didn't even get as high as the ceiling. Technically our prayer doesn't have to get higher than our nose.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Jesus said, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" When we are persecuted Jesus feels he is being persecuted.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

We are not just delivered from Satan but we are taken into God's kingdom.

Colossians 2:9-10

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

We are complete.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Daddy is the judge and our big brother is the High Priest.

I AM SECURE

Romans 8:1-2

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

I have complete freedom from sin and death. I am not condemned; there is no condemnation.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

In chapter 50 of Genesis we see Joseph, after the death of Jacob, reassuring his bother that he was not going to take revenge on them. He says to them - **Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.** God took what the brothers did to Joseph and worked it for good.

Romans 8:31-39

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 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?

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

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God is on our side.

God has given us all things.

Nothing, and I mean nothing, can separate us from the love of God.

The prize fighter wins the fight; he gets his check. He is a conqueror. He then goes home and gives his wife the check and she is more than a conqueror. This is a perfect example of Jesus and us. He conquered; we get the benefit.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Colossians 3:1-4

3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

I AM SIGNIFICANT

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Ephesians 2:6

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 3:12

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

CONCLUSION

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

We are kings and priests. This is who we are and it does not depend on our behavior. We use this right-standing not to lord it over people or act like we are better than anyone; we use the right-standing to help others and get God moving on their behalf.

Revelation 5:9-11

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

I am not just an old sinner saved by grace but I am a king and a priest. I was an old sinner but got saved by grace through faith and I have been made righteous.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

I am: chosen, royalty, a member of the priesthood, and a member of a purchased, special people.

We have seen amazing Bible verses compiled to build our faith in who we are. This is such a great place to be that the rational mind has trouble grasping it. However, we need to say about ourselves what God says about us. Abraham accepted God's word and this made him righteous.

Romans 4:19-24

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Abraham did not stagger in unbelief but believed God.

I have repeated myself in this and other things I have written, but if anyone wants to study this I assume that person will take their time and study these verses in context. They can come at these verses from different angles. I would suggest that sometimes they be read one after another to the vastness of God's love for us.