15.b. **COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD**

ACCEPTANCE – HOLINESS – PRIVELIEGES (THE 3 GREAT PURCHASED BLESSINGS)

The whole purpose of grace is to glorify the whole Trinity. Each member of the Godhead plays an indispensable role in our salvation. And each member of the Godhead has fulfilled His obligations to the uttermost. We glorify the whole Trinity by reaching up to the Father's love, through the work of the Spirit and by the blood of the Son. The Father purposes, the Son purchases, and the Holy Spirit effectively brings to pass. The work of the Spirit brings us to faith in Christ, by which we are accepted by the Father.

This then is how we are brought to acceptance with the Father, for the glory of God through Christ.

The Holy Spirit is given to us, to enliven us, to convert us to a work of Faith – and so He is glorified.

The Son is glorified by this work of the Holy Spirit, for it is by the Spirit's work that we come to trust in the blood of Christ.

The Father is glorified when we are accepted by Him and pardoned by the blood purchasing redemption of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are glorified in our justification and acceptance with God. The reason we are delivered and freed in that way, is that the honour and glory is bestowed on the whole Trinity. We are brought into this saved state, as discussed, for the praise of the glorious grace of God.

The obedience imputed to us (given to us), and our obedience done to God, have two different functions. (Please refer to the last lesson where we discuss obedience). Christ's obedience imputed to us, is so we might be counted as righteous before God, and so be justified. But our obedience to God is not the righteousness by which we are accepted by God and justified, but it is that for which God has created us, and which we do out of love and gratitude to Him for His grace.

Our obedience is the workmanship of God, in order that we might fulfill God's expectation of us in thanks for His Gracious work in our lives. This is sufficient reason for us to yield obedience to God.

Our obedience and good works are absolutely necessary from the Sovereign appointment and the will of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is individually the will of the Triune Godhead. Our obedience, or holiness, and works of righteousness are one important way in which God is glorified in our salvation. Our motive for holiness is the Love of the Father for us. We have been recued from a situation of absolute hopelessness. A case that had absolutely no merit or promise of hope. But God prepares us for holiness and obedience.

Obedience is necessary to bring glory and honour to God **MAL 1:6** God created mankind to bring glory and honour to His name, and God was determined that His plan would succeed. God is grieved by our callous disobedience.

It is to our honour that we should obey God. It is by our obedience that we have fellowship with God and experience peace in our hearts. By our obedience we become useful to God and become the fruit bearing branches of the vine. We thus convict the world of its lawlessness.

By our obedience others may be persuaded unto righteousness by our example. Our obedience often benefits others as others eat the fruit of our obedience. Obedience is a necessary condition for us to be admitted into the presence of God.

Obedience is necessary because of the place that holiness has in the covenant. We shall not see the face of God if we are not holy. It is the way of eternal life. It is the way appointed by God for us to walk in, to obtain salvation.

Obedience is also a testimony and sign of evidence of grace and our acceptance by God. It is the best way we have of showing our gratitude to God for His grace.

We have communion with Christ when we heartily approve of this righteousness as purchased by Him, so that we might be accepted by God. But to be able to come to the condition of total and hearty acceptance of this need of Christ's righteousness, we need to recognize the utter barrenness of our own hearts in achieving one iota of this righteousness in our own strength. God cannot look on any unrighteousness, which is our own condition in our unregenerate state. We will only approve of Christ's righteousness when we are convinced that we will be found wanting when weighed in the balances – **DAN 5:27** "You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting" Our own righteousness's are as filthy rags in God's eyes **ISA 64:6**

Those of us who have fellowship with Christ, approve of and rejoice in His righteousness. This is the pearl of great price **MATT 13:45 & 46** This is what we understand through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This wisdom of God that comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit, causes us to be amazed and full of wonder at the great unfathomable grace and joy that God has bestowed on us. This causes us to look at ourselves and realise this great work of salvation that God has worked in us, is nothing short of a great miracle.