

15.a. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD

ACCEPTANCE - HOLINESS - PRIVILEGES (THE 3 GREAT PURCHASED BLESSINGS)

In chapters 15,16 and 17, we will discuss more fully the topics raised in chapter 14, namely acceptance, holiness, and privileges.

Believers enjoy fellowship with Christ in acceptance with God, holiness and in the privileges, grace brings them.

Firstly, what Christ did, He did for us and not for Himself. Christ became human in order to redeem humankind. The Jewish high priests offered first for themselves, then for the people. But Jesus Christ offered only for others. There was no sin in Himself that He had to make sacrifice for MATT 20:28 "... and to give His life a ransom for many".

Secondly, Christ's provides and purchases for us a perfect righteousness, in order that we might be accepted by God. We have been given by God to Jesus (JN 17:2). Jesus has revealed the Father to us (MATT 11:27) and Jesus has provided all security and comfort to us (MATT 11: 28-30). This is all possible through the righteousness of Christ, imparted to us.

These promises are very precious to us, and we need to place great value on them. Nevertheless, despite the powerful preaching to the gospel, man will not under his own volition come to Christ to enjoy these promises. That is why Christ sent to us, the regenerate, the Holy Spirit. It is by the quickening of the Holy Spirit that we hear the voice of the Master. We are thus enabled to be partakers of His righteousness and accepted with God. This is all the work of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, in order for us to be accepted by the Father, two things are necessary. Firstly, that satisfaction is made for our disobedience and secondly, that the righteous demands of the law be fulfilled. Both of these were fully and perfectly done for us by Christ. As we have now been enlightened to know our acceptance with God, we now need to know how to have fellowship with Christ in this grace of acceptance with God. How do we keep alive and active this acceptance with God, for without it life is hell, for there can be no peace and joy?

Now, one of the important keys to us maintaining our acceptance by God, is obedience. Obedience plays a crucial role in our relationship with the Godhead. It was, after all, the disobedience of Adam in the garden that led to the destruction of his relationship with God.

Roger Whittaker sings the song "I don't believe in "IF" anymore", saying that it is an illusion, it is for children. but the great conjunctive word "IF" plays a significant role in God's communication with us. 2 CHRON. 7:14 "... if my people, who are called by my name ... "It is a call to obedience. MAL 3:10 "... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven ... ", obey and I will reward you. However, again in 2 CHRON 7:19 "But if you turn away ... "These will be the consequences.

Obedience is the major key to achieving our acceptance with God. It is the major duty of Christians in fulfilling the teachings of Christ. MATT 28:20 "... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Christ is the representative of God's people at the throne of Grace. He was appointed by the Father. Therefore, Christ intercedes for us with God Himself. We have dealt with the righteousness of Christ. A righteousness from the Father, and how we are righteous through, and only through, the righteousness of Christ.

Exactly the same situation pertains to our obedience. It is Christ's obedience in us that enables our obedience to the teachings of Christ.

Christ being our representative, arose from His undertaking our punishment. This was to deliver us to the Father, without loss. "None shall pluck them out of my hand". Christ therefore received on our behalf from the Father all the promises of mercy, grace, the good things, and privileges that we now enjoy. These having been bestowed on us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As the covenant between God and His son, for Christ to be our representative was made before the beginning of time, so those set aside for salvation were determined before the beginning of time. And as such it can be said that eternal life had been given to the elect before the beginning of time. This applies to the elect in both dispensations **11 TIM 1:9**

As Christ has accomplished all that the covenant He had with God required, God has now absolved Jesus from His obligations and bestowed on Him the privileges of Grace. These are now ours as co-heirs with Christ to the Kingdom.

God's purpose was that we should be adopted as His children. we were brought into this state by Jesus Christ.

Being Co-heirs with Christ, does not mean that we are equal to Christ. Christ still is, and always will be our Lord and Master. More on this in a later lesson.