



# The Sanctity of The Church

## Close Up

3/24/2019

### Who are we?

**Ephesians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and *who are faithful* in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

<sup>4</sup> just as He **chose** us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have **redemption** through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

<sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight

<sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of **His will**, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him

<sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

<sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

<sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you, and your love for all the saints,

<sup>16</sup> do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;

<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

<sup>18</sup> *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

<sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

<sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

## Where are we and how did we get here?

**2:1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

<sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

<sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

<sup>7</sup> in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision " by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands--

<sup>12</sup> *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

<sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

<sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near;

<sup>18</sup> for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

<sup>20</sup> having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit...

## So what do we do now?

...4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,  
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,  
3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;  
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.  
7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.  
8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men."  
9 (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?  
10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)  
11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;  
13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.  
14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;  
15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,  
16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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