

LIGHT FROM EPHESIANS- The Blessing of the Firstborn

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I. Introduction

A. We continue today in our "Light from Ephesians" study.

B. We have been looking at the balance of God's grace- His unearned gifts or His "ability" versus the Christians personal responsibility- "response to His ability" which is faith and actions of faith in our daily walk.

C. Last week we looked at the fact our sins have been forgiven which we are to accept by faith. This leads us to forgiving others.

D. This week we will finish this series. I want to look at another blessing of His grace today and our response to it.

E. [**Ephesians 1:11-14**] - We have **obtained** an **inheritance** by his grace.

F. An inheritance comes because someone has died and left you in the will. You never have to come to the Judge and perform for him to get your inheritance. You must come and receive it. Jesus died and left you in the will. The New Testament is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ. Jesus inherited all from His Father and when he died he left that inheritance to us. We must just believe and receive it.

G. [**Colossians 1:12**]- The Father and Jesus has qualified us to partake of our inheritance. Religion teaches us that we must qualify ourselves by our works.

II. The blessing of the Firstborn- The grace of God

A. The New Covenant is an extension of the Abrahamic covenant. God promised to bless Abraham and bless the nations through Him.

B. This was an unconditional covenant made between God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Abraham was asleep while it was made. [**Gen. 15**]

C. The blessing of Abraham passed down to his offspring.

D. If you follow the passing down of the blessing of Abraham, God would set aside the firstborn to whom the blessing was owed and gave it to the younger son to whom it was not owed. They received it by grace and not because of works!

E. Ishmael was cast out and Isaac received it instead.

Esau was rejected and Jacob got it instead. Jacob gave the coat of many colors that belonged to the firstborn to Joseph the youngest instead. Jacob crossed his hands and by passed Manasseh and gave the firstborn blessing to Ephraim instead. God did this to show that the New Covenant and the blessing of Abraham comes to those whom it is not owed and are not deserving of it. It comes by grace and not works. It is received by faith. God did this to show that by the rejection of the firstborn, those who were not owed it and did not deserve it would receive the blessing of the firstborn.

F. [**Gal. 3:13-14**] -Jesus the firstborn of God. He was cut off on the cross so the blessing of the firstborn, the inheritance of the Father, would come on those to whom it was not owed nor deserved- US! We receive the blessing of Abraham by faith not works.

III. **The seal of our inheritance**

A. When we got saved we were sealed by the Spirit of Promise

B. A seal in ancient times was a mark of ownership, showed authenticity, and provided protection and security.

C. The Spirit of God has been given as a sign we belong to God and only Him.

D. The Spirit of God is the down payment (guarantee) of our inheritance. The fact the Holy Spirit is in your life is proof that you are an heir of God and can partake of you're the inheritance. All the promises of God are yes and amen! This down payment is a guarantee that you will go to heaven and get a resurrection body one day.

E. The Holy Spirit has sealed your spirit from contamination of sin and pollution.

IV. Putting on the Armor of God- Our responsibility

A. The Spirit protects us from sin and enemy.

B. God has given us spiritual armor to wear against the enemy. The protection over our spirit will cover our souls and body if we will put on the armor of God.

C. It is our responsibility to wear it.

D. We are to walk in the truth. We are to walk in righteousness. We need to walk in peace. We are to focus our mind on the things of salvation. We are to walk in faith. We need to speak the Word of God.

E. God has given us everything to protect ourselves, we need to use what God has given us!