

LIGHT FROM EPHESIANS- Pt. 3

Planned Parenthood

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I. Introduction

A. Last week we continued on in our series- "Light from Ephesians" We talked about our calling as saints. In Christ we are holy and blameless before the Father because of the blood of Jesus. Because of this we can and should live a saintly life. We should live as it is "fitting for saints".

B. Ephesians chapters 1-3- list out the blessings of grace that have been given to us. These are unmerited blessings given to us in Christ because of us being IN Christ. We share everything with Christ. (**Romans 8:17**) These blessings are to empower us to live a God honoring life. (Ephesians ch. 4-6)

C. **Ephesians 1:5-6**- Today we are going to look at the next blessing freely conferred on us because of Christ.

D. There is an organization today called, "Planned Parenthood". Now I do not endorse this organization but the term "planned parenthood" expresses clearly the blessing from God we are looking at today. God has pre-planned for His family. He pre-planned for you to be His child before you came on the scene. God's redemption plan is God's "planned parenthood"!

II. Planned Parenthood

A. **Eph. 1:5**- God has predestinated **US** unto adoption of sons through Jesus Christ

1. Predestinated- Gr. *proorizo*- to mark out, define, limit in advance. Our word horizon comes from this Gr. word. This word means to decide and plan in advance.

2. We all do this when we make a plan for a trip we are going to make. We decide in advance on where we are going. We mark out our trip in advance. In making this plan in advance we limit our

self in advance to the place where we planned to go. Other options are excluded once the plan is made. God doesn't change His plans once they are made.

3. God pre-planned our redemption

a. **Rev. 13:8**- Jesus is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world- God's way of salvation was pre-planned. (Acts 4:12) After the plan was made this placed limits on how salvation could be secured. It could not be through any other person.

b. **Romans 4:16**- God pre-planned the mode of salvation would be by faith in His grace. This plan limited how you could receive salvation. Other options were then excluded.

B. He predestinated **US**- believers. Predestination is never used of unbelievers. God did not plan in advance for people to be lost. God's redemptive pre-plan was for all. That is why Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. When someone dies without accepting God's pre-plan their name is blotted out of His book of Life. God pre-plan of redemption had everyone's name recorded in it. When someone rejects Christ they are not included in the plan. God made a redemptive plan in advance for all. However, only those who accept God's plan of redemption by a choice of faith enter into God's pre-made plans. God foreknew who would accept his plan and enter into Christ. Those who enter into the pre-plan of God by faith enter into His plan for sonship and to be conformed to the image of His Son.

(Romans 8:29)

C. God made an advance plan for you to be born again and be His child.

1. We are born of God- **1 Peter 1:23, Titus 3:5, 1 John 3:9**- This is regeneration- "son making"

2. We are adopted by God- The word adopted means- "son placing". This was a Roman practice that means to confer upon one born in your family with adult privileges.

3. When we are saved we are regenerated (***made a son***) of God. (**Titus 3:5**) However, we don't have to wait to grow to certain

point before we can partake of the family's blessings and privileges. We are treated by God as adult child of God (***placed as a son***) once we are born again. (**Gal. 3:26**)

4. However, we start walking in and enjoying our status as mature child when we learn to walk in and be led by the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:16**)

D. As children of God we share in the qualities of our Father- (**Ephesians 4:24**)

1. We are holy in Him
2. We are righteous in Him
3. We have a deep hunger for good and to do what is right because of God's nature and life in our spirit.
4. These qualities are greater than our fallen nature in our flesh.
5. If we acknowledge our new nature as children of God and speak in line with the Word of God and act upon it, the Holy Spirit will cause us to walk free from the control of the flesh.

III. Walk as Children of Light

A. **1 John 1:5**- God is light.

B. We are born of the light so we have God's light properties.

1. We give illumination to the darkness
2. We give warmth by our love
3. We provide purity- Light kills germs
4. The Christian lifestyle is timeless- Light is timeless
5. We expose what is done in darkness

C. **Ephesians 5:5-13**

1. As children of light we should not participate in the deeds of darkness- sexual sins, watching or listening to what is impure, covetousness...
2. The light within us should expose these things

D. The things of darkness need to be first exposed in our own mind and heart. Our spirit was born of the Word of God. The Word is light. Our spirit is complete. There is no darkness in our spirits.

Our soul does have places of darkness. These are dark places are the lies of the enemy we hold in our beliefs and thoughts. We now need to place that light daily in our minds which exposes those lies. Through time meditating on the Word of His grace and spending time in the presence of Light Himself we will be filled with light and cause us to walk in the light. (**Luke 11:34-36**- the eye is the doorway to the mind)

- E. Our righteous life itself will expose and convict the world of their sin
- F. Pray