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W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

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THE STRAIGHT THINKING OF GOD

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 2
EPHESIANS 1:3-7

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIANS 1:3-7 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

In this passage we begin our study of the divine establishment. We are going to see something that was designed for us in eternity past. This provision was made for all believers of all time. If one has accepted Christ as Saviour, then remember this plan was designed for him millions of years before he ever lived. Isn't it a wonderful thing to know that God had you in mind millions of years before you were born and meant for you to have blessings in time and everlasting life in all eternity.

EPHESIANS 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" Ordinarily people live with a certain amount of routine, and routine can become very dull and uninteresting. When we listen to stories of some exciting incidents of so-called victorious Christians and hear them relate some thrilling romantic service they have experienced, often we ask "Well, where do I fit into the picture? I don't seem to be having all these wonderful experiences and I wonder what is wrong with me?" Sometimes we read exciting stories from events on the mission field and how the missionary won the chief of the tribe, or how he escaped from some charging ferocious beast, and we wonder why something exciting like this never happens to us. Yet remember, in the main, the life of a missionary is made up of the dull routine things of the grinding heavy load of a terrific work schedule. Please remember this, that no matter how much romance you may hear about, when it comes down to it the Christian life is routine and back-breaking. Just remember, these missionaries who tell you all these romantic stories, also see a lot of fleas and mosquitoes and ants. They rarely see people who speak their own language or even have the same color of skin. You see, no one writes about these things. They often tell us about their glorious experiences. This is also true of television programs or exciting books. The routine, the ordinary, the regular run of the mill things are usually omitted. Please remember it takes discipline to stay with the routine, but this is the thing that is necessary for the building of character and stability. Don't get blinded with the exciting romantic things and forget that life is mainly made up of the ordinary routine things.

Many millions of years ago God knew you and knew that you would live right at this time. He saw the first day of your life, the last day of your life, and every day in between. God knew you would one day go on positive volition and accept Christ, and his knowledge of this fact didn't influence your volition one way or the other. And God also knew that in the routine, hum-drum events of daily living you would be hard

put to it to maintain your stability. God knew you would be bored with the daily routine and he also knew that many times we would experience fantastic failure. By human standards we come to think that we are really great, then we come to understand divine standards and we realize how little and insignificant we really are. As you begin to see yourself through divine eyes you begin to get a true picture of yourself. Now this Book of Ephesians, written by Paul in Rome, while he was a prisoner, was written to help you to see that even the routine, hum-drum ordinary things can be glorious and exciting and triumphant. Cooking food, ironing clothes, work around the house, or any other menial task has a tendency to be dull and uninteresting. Ephesians shows you how you can so live that nothing is dull or hum-drum. A good percent of the young people who get on drugs or throw away their moral standards, do so in an attempt to get away from the routine and get into something exciting. But it just doesn't turn out that way. Now Ephesians comes along and reminds us, that, as Christians, everything we do is to be done as unto The Lord and the routine can become glorious and every common bush can glow with the glory of God. You can pound a typewriter as unto the Lord. You can do ordinary housework as unto the Lord. And remember, routine does not prepare you for disaster. After you get into disaster, you long for the routine. God provided operating assets in eternity past for every emergency we will ever face in our whole lifetime and Ephesians 1:3-14 is a description of what he did for you in eternity past and it is the longest sentence in human literature. This is not only the longest sentence in literature, it is the most important sentence in literature showing you what God did for you in eternity past. This sentence is a description of the establishment, and shows us what came before the revolt of Satan and what came before the revolt of man. In English we have punctuation and at the end of verse 6 and 12 you have a period, but there is no punctuation in Greek. It is one sentence as we will see when we study it. In the Greek the sentence begins with verse 3 and ends with verse 14 and is the longest sentence in the Bible or in literature. In this sentence there is an outline of all God prepared for you in eternity past and this sentence has one main verb in it.

The word "Blessed" comes from "eulogetes" and it means "to think well" and is a verbal adjective and it is directed toward deity only, never directed toward man. This word recognizes the existence of the absolute, who is God The Father, the author of the divine plan. It is placed first here to let you know that in every moment of your routine hum-drum life you can live by grace, think grace, pray by grace and serve by grace. This word "eulogetes" recognizes the fact that God has something fantastic for us and wipes out the boredom of the routine and hum-drum things. This word "blessed" describes the entire concept of the plan of God and this word applies to the individual who learns Bible doctrine. When you know doctrine this enables you to think God, love God, serve God, and praise God. So "eulogetes" is not for everybody, it is for the person who sticks with Bible doctrine until it becomes the major thing in his life. "Eulogetes" is a word of fantastic stability. It gives dynamics to the routine. It is a word that says no matter what you face in life there is total provision for you, not just partial provision. This one word which begins this long sentence reminds you God has made provision for your every need, your every sin, your every ambition and your every desire. "Eulogetes" really means thinking right all the time about God, not any of this off and on stuff. This

is a directional word toward God. It is "thinking straight toward God", and you and I need this more than anything in the world. This is the secret of the Christian life and Bible doctrine is the only thing in the world that will help you to think straight toward God. This means that you are looking at life from the divine viewpoint.

Now how is this possible? Because the provision for this thinking straight was designed for you in eternity past. This is life's stabilizer and the whole book of Ephesians emphasizes thinking straight about God.

Now God is a person. He is the Father, the author of the divine plan. But he is also the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. In eternity past he blessed us. This is an aorist, active, participle of "eulogeo". You see, before we could ever think straight toward God, God had to think straight toward us. Long before we ever thought of God, he had thought of us. Now if you ever get to the place where you think like this--"No one ever thinks about me, no one ever really cares for me". Then remember this--The Book of Ephesians has news for you. Right in the beginning of Ephesians God announced that he is thinking about you. He is providing for every minute detail of your life. And when God thought about you, that thinking was always straight. The aorist tense of "eulogeo" means that in a point of time God thought about you before he chose you.

The main verb for this whole long sentence will come up in the next verse. That main verb is "He hath chosen us". So don't fall apart, don't become a crybaby and begin to lose faith. Just remember that in eternity past he thought about you and made provision for your every need. God knew about your sins in eternity past and he still sent his Son to die for you. Now that's grace! Now don't try to make a trade out with God. You can't buy grace and you don't deserve grace. Sooner or later you will probably commit some sin that will even shock you. But God knew about it a million years ago and he still saved you and he still loved you. Everything we have is a blessing from God in spite of what we have done. So his provision is on the basis of his character and not on the basis of how good we are or on the basis of how well we perform.

This verse next says "Grace to you and peace". All this comes from the perfect character of God.

"Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings". This means "in the sphere of spiritual blessings". Spiritual blessings mean blessings in every realm. You see, spiritual blessings include physical blessings as well. Then we read "in the sphere of the heavenlies" and this refers to positional truth. The first blessing we receive when we become Christians is union with Christ. That is what Christianity is. This is why Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a relationship with Christ, while religion is man's attempt to reach God. One of the thirty-four things given to each believer at the point of salvation was union with Christ. Positional truth is perfect stability.

ROMANS 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Being in this position, we cannot lose. Neither can our position be improved. Neither can it be lost. You share Christ's sonship, his priesthood, his ultimate perfection. (He is already perfect and ultimately we will be perfect. This is the doctrine of ultimate sanctification.) There is only one stable place in the universe and that is "in Christ".

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The old things that are passed away, potentially, is the old sin nature. And remember, you did not become a Christian because you gave up something. You are a new creature because of what Christ is and because of what he did for you. Then we read "in the sphere of Christ". So we have three "ins" here. You are "in" and you can never get out.

In our next study we will continue this emphasis on how things were designed in eternity past for our benefit.