



the
finished
work of Christ

It is only when we understand our **HERITAGE IN CHRIST** that we can know what our life in Christ looks like & how it works.

Ephesians

Part 1: Chapters 1-3

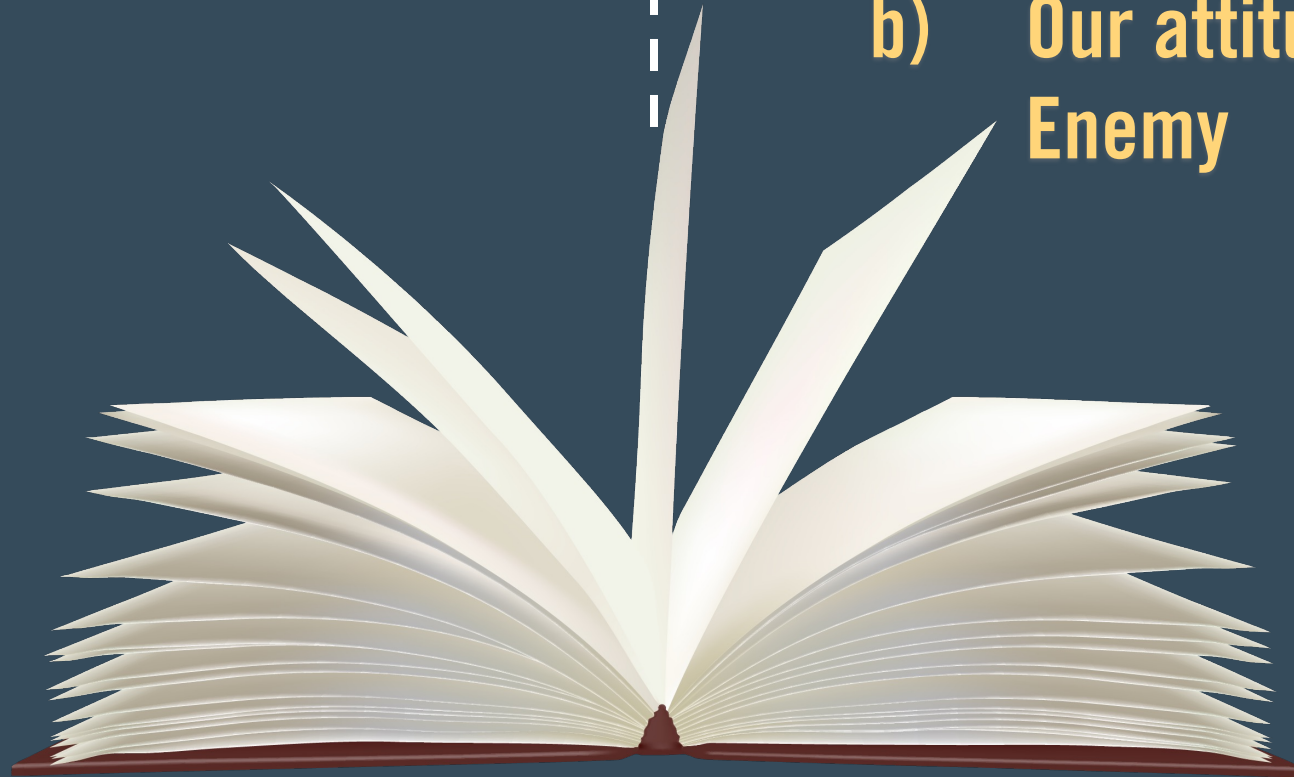
Doctrinal:

Our position in Christ

Part 2: Chapters 4-6

Practical:

- a) **Our life in the world**
- b) **Our attitude towards the Enemy**



theological 

EPHESIANS

 practical

Part 1: Chapters 1-3

The root

Spiritual wealth

Position of the believer

Blessings

The finished work of Christ

We in Christ

Heavenly standing

Part 2: Chapters 4-6

The fruit

Spiritual walk

Practice of the believer

Responsibility

The faithful walk of the Christian

Christ in us

Earthly walk

“The Christian experience proceeds, as it began, not on the basis of our own work but always on that of the the finished work of Another.”

- *Watchman Nee*

Ephesians 1:7 [ESV]

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, *according to the riches of his grace.*



we did nothing to merit it!

We have redemption through **HIS BLOOD** and on the grounds of what **HE DID**.

Christ **DID** everything:

Romans 6:2-6 [ESV]

How can we who **died** to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who **have been baptized** into Christ Jesus **were** baptized into his death? ⁴ We **were buried** therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ **was raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we **have been united** with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

His EXPERIENCE has become my SPIRITUAL HISTORY

Historic facts of Christ, I enter into them through faith:

- **Crucified**
- **Raised from the dead**
- **Set in heavenly places**

Galatians 2:20 [ESV]

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

How can I know that I am in Christ?

1 Corinthians 1:30 [ESV]

And because of *him* you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

2 Corinthians 1:21 [ESV]

And it is *God* who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,

It is something accomplished by Him, in His sovereign wisdom, to be seen, believed, accepted and rejoiced in by us - Watchman Nee

- God puts us in Christ
- Effectively, what happened to Christ – happened to us.

Romans 6:6 [ESV]

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Our history in Christ was written even before we were born!!

How do you save someone from drowning?

- God is waiting for your store of strength to be utterly exhausted before He can deliver you.
- Once you have ceased to struggle, He will do everything.
- God is waiting for you to **STOP** trying to help yourself.

LUKE 15

Parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

“...go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.”

Parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)

‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’

Parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son

Parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **28** But he was angry and refused to go in.

Parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Two groups: two brothers

The eldest son:

Selfish obedience

Relational separation from father

Sin: doing the right thing for the wrong reasons

The youngest son:

Selfish disobedience / rebellion

Physical separation from father

Sin: doing wrong things

Both want the father's stuff more than they want him

a heart issue



What do we see the father doing?

1. The father saw the younger son while he was still a “long way off” (v.20) [He is waiting for us to return to him... always looking over the horizon]
2. He RAN to the son (abandoning his own dignity) [God abandons his place in heaven to save us]
3. He kissed this filthy son (smelling like a pigsty) [repentance before love and acceptance?]
4. He clothed the son in a new identity [undeserving]
5. Celebration for the lost son's return [found something that was lost]

How to Gird Up Your Loins

The Art of
MANLINESS
— — — — —



1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

Are the two brothers really so different?

- Older brother was just as lost as the younger brother – he just didn't know it.
- The father went out to the legalistic older brother and invited him so celebrate the return of the younger brother. He wants both brothers to come home and back into relationship.
- Rebellion [wilful rejection] vs. Religion [loveless obedience]

theological 

EPHESIANS

 practical

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The root (the heart)

Spiritual wealth

Position of the believer

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The robe, sandals and ring belongs to Jesus

- Jesus is our older brother (the first born)
- Younger brother squandered all of his inheritance, what remains belongs to the older brother

Romans 8:15-17 [ESV]

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



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