

## *Ephesians* Study 2

***"I Am Who I Am Because Of What He/They Did"*** ( ⌚ 35 minutes )

**Introduction and Brief Review** ( ⌚ 2 minutes )

**Last Time** We talked about why every born again believer can rightfully be referred to as a saint – a holy one. We also looked at God the Father's role in making us who we are and the plan He lovingly pursued in giving us our new identity.

**This Week** we will look at the role the other two members of the Godhead had in changing our identity. We'll discuss Jesus Christ's involvement and the Holy Spirit's function at the moment of our rebirth. All 3 Persons of the Trinity are intimately involved in shaping our born again spirit and soul. Based on the loving pursuit of all 3 members of the Godhead, Paul closes his statements with a prayer request that for the Ephesians that makes sense for us here today.

**For Today's Study Please Turn to Eph. 1:7-23 – Read Text.**



***What We Want to "Take Home" After This Study Time***

1. A better understanding of Jesus Christ's role in my born again identity
2. What part the Holy Spirit had and has in my born again identity
3. And a reminder not to miss God revealing Himself to me

**Section 1.** To start off today, let's look at Jesus Christ's role in our born again identity. ( ⌚ 15 minutes )

*Our Purpose is* to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

## *Studying* the Letter to the Ephesians

Learning to let who we are in Christ, shape how we perform in life.

### **Group Question**

- **What is your identity?** ...multiple answers...

**Dictionary Definition of "Identity"** – the qualities of a person or group which make them different from others.

**Physical attributes** can help identify us – finger prints, hair color, height, nowadays DNA etc.

**Recorded items** such as social security numbers and driver's licenses and credit card account numbers can help differentiate one person from another and be used to identify us.

### **Group Question**

- **What is one the main tasks the *Witness Protection Program* performs for the people in that program?** Answer *Give people a new identity.*

If you have ever placed your trust in Jesus Christ for your eternal life, you've been given a ***new identity***.

- **When we say "*my identity in Christ*" – what does that mean?** Answer *Who I am based on what Christ has done for and to my soul/spirit that makes me different from those who are not born again.*
- **Why or why not is my identity in Christ important?** Answer *Because we are eternal beings, it is critical that we be identified with Christ in order to spend eternity with Him.*

**Take a look at verses 7-12 of Ephesians chapter 1.**

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- **From these verses, what was Jesus Christ's role in our born again identity?** Answer *He **redeemed** my spiritually dead soul/spirit*
- **How was this redemption accomplished?** Answer *He **redeemed** us by ridding of us of our sins through His sacrifice.*

**Let's talk about what "redemption" means for a moment.**

**Listen to These Dictionary Definitions of "redemption"?**

- To exchange something representing a specified value for an amount of money or goods of the same value.
- To fulfill a promise or pay back a debt:  
*The amount required to redeem the mortgage was \$212,000.*
- To make something or someone less bad:  
*A poor game was redeemed in the second half by a couple of outstanding goals by number 33.*
- To get something back:  
*She managed to save enough money to redeem her jewelry **from** the pawn shop.*

**Doctrinal Definition** of "redemption"

THE PURCHASE BACK OF SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN LOST, BY THE PAYMENT OF A RANSOM. THE GREEK WORD SO RENDERED IS *apolutrosis*, a word occurring nine times in Scripture, and always with the idea of a ransom or price paid.

**Jesus Christ paid for each one of us to be able to have a relationship with God by making payment with His own life.** The offer is made to every individual.

**BUT only by accepting the offer is the transaction complete.**

Receiving a coupon in the mail is of no value unless it is applied to whatever the desired item is. Christ did indeed die for the sins of each

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person in the world; the free gift of eternal life is offered to everyone. But only those accepting the gift, only those believing in His work on the cross will be redeemed by His blood and have the needed forgiveness applied to them on an individual basis.

**Okay, back to our text, read verses 1:9-12 of Ephesians.**

**God's plan was once hidden** from human reason for ages but now has been divinely revealed by Christ's arrival. When the predetermined time was right, the Messiah physically came and fulfilled the plan of God and God chose not to keep humanity in the dark about all of it.

**Knowing** that God has a plan and possesses the power to execute that plan should give those who have relationship with Him great confidence.

Furthermore, the very **fulfillment of prophecy by Christ** is evidence both to believer and non-believer that *the Biblical record is reliable* as Christ can be seen throughout both Old and New Testaments.

**Section 2.** Now let's continue in our study and look at the Holy Spirit's role in our born again identity. ( ⏰ 8 minutes )

**Look at verses 1:13-14. Read verses 13-14.**

**1:13 After that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.** They were sealed, not in order to be redeemed, but because they had accepted the terms of their redemption:

*100% reliance on Christ's payment for their sins.* They had trusted in Christ and now they are sealed in Him.

**The word seal means** to mark one for ownership. They were sealed at the moment they believed, not at some later time. The sealing was not something apart from salvation or something in addition to salvation. All who believe in Christ are sealed the moment they trust.

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**Look at verse 1:14: which is the *earnest* of our inheritance.**

Have you ever heard of **earnest money** or a **good faith deposit** or a **guarantee** – If a product has a guarantee, then we don't have to give it an ounce of worry because it'll be "taken care of" if it breaks.

**Section 3.** Now at this point in his letter to the Ephesians Paul says, "Therefore..." And whenever you read a "therefore" you go back and see what it's there for. ( ⌚ 5 minutes )

**Look at verse 15. Read 1:15-23**

Paul explains to these first century believers, that **based on all of the truths about their identity in Christ** and that all 3 Persons of the Godhead have been pursuing us, the Apostle Paul had been praying for them in a specific way.

**Paul's prayer request for the Ephesians was that precise knowledge of Christ would be revealed to them.** He wanted more than anything for them to have a deep, truth-based, transparent, personal knowing, that can only come from extensive time spent with someone.

**How do you get to know someone?** *Spend time with them and talk and listen to them.* **How do you get to know Jesus Christ?** *Spend time with Him and talk and listen to them. Talking to Him is easy – it's called prayer. But how do we listen to Him? By hearing and reading His Word.*

### ***Illustration***

Michael Stipe of the secular rock band REM, in preparation for writing the lyrics for a song, surrounded himself with dozens of spiritual books and manuscripts, among them the Bible. One of his songs hauntingly chronicles the possibility of seeking and never finding the elusive truth that is right in front of you, which he called "*missing the big reveal.*"

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**Tragically, many Christians** are missing the Big Reveal on a daily basis. Many of us are not spending time with the One who is right here with us all of the time. Remember: *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...* **Heb. 1:1-2**

**How about you today**, are you seeing Christ in your day to day events? He is trying to show Himself to you. He wants to be part of everything you're dealing with – and offer His power to all you do. It's never too late to get closer to Christ and you never have to worry about getting to close – it's what He wants for each of us.



***So What Do We Take Home from Our Study Today*** (on the Handout - ⌚ 5 minutes)

### **1. Jesus Christ's role in my spiritual identity is significant because:**

**A.** Jesus Christ shedding His blood to *redeem* me, graphically shows His intense, *unconditional* love for me.

**B.** Jesus Christ's fulfillment of ancient *prophecies* recorded in the Old Testament is *evidence* of the reliability of the Bible.

### **2. The Holy Spirit's role in my spiritual identity is important because:**

**A.** Sealing indicates the *permanence* of my rebirth and can not be *undone* by anything I do or fail to do.

**B.** The Holy Spirit's *permanent* residence in me not only offers companionship but serves as a *guarantee* of a future in glory.

### **3. I want to be careful not to miss Him revealing Himself to me because:**

**A.** I miss the *enjoyment* of a *growing* relationship with Him

**B.** I do not get the *benefit* of His power in my life *here* and *now*.

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