

Ephesians Series

Lesson #019

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Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Adoption: Heirs of God
Ephesians 1:4–5

Eph. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Eph. 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Eph. 1:5, “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph. 1:6, “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

Eph. 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

Eph. 1:4, “since He appointed us in Him [the choice ones] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

Isa. 61:10, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

Eph. 1:4, “since He appointed us in Him [the choice ones] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

John 17:24, “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

1 Pet. 1:18, “because you know that you were not redeemed by perishable things, like silver or gold, from your meaningless way of life received by tradition from your fathers,

1 Pet. 1:19, “but by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Pet. 1:20, “He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”

Job 38:4, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding ...”

Job 38:7, “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Eph. 1:4, “since He appointed us in Him [the choice ones] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

**ἅγιος *hagios*
acc masc plur
holy; (neut)
sanctuary**

**ἄμωμος
amōmos acc
masc plur
blameless,
spotless**

1 Pet. 1:15, “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

1 Pet. 1:16, “because it is written, ‘*Be holy, for I am holy.*’ ” Lev. 11:44

THREE STAGES OF SALVATION

PHASE

ONE

Justification

**Positional
Sanctification**

**Freed from
Penalty of Sin**

PHASE

Two

**Spiritual
Life**

**Progressive
Sanctification**

**Freed from
Power of Sin**

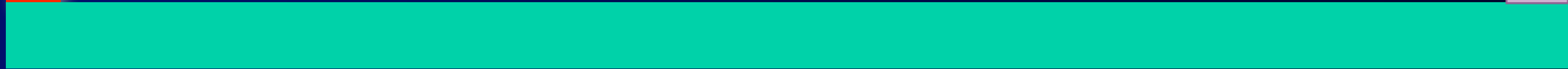
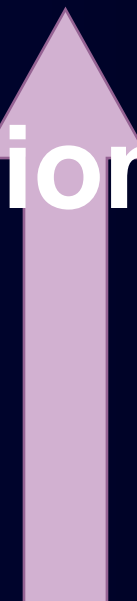
PHASE

THREE

Glorification

**Final
Sanctification**

**Freed from
Presence of Sin**



Eph. 1:5, “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,”

προορίζω

***proorizō* aor**

act part masc

sing nom

to appoint to a

task

beforehand

υιοθεσία

huiiothesia

acc fem sing

adoption as an

adult son to be

the heir

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ: even as He selected us who are in Him by imputed righteousness before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before Him in love: by appointing us beforehand to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ unto Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved:”

~RD paraphrase translation

“Indeed the phrase, *bacor atnaho* means I will *appoint* him or *make* him *first born*, which speaks of a given right and not one acquired by nature.”

~M. Weinfeld, *Royal Grant*

**What the Bible Teaches
About
*Adoption into
God's Royal Family***



1. Adoption is used in the New Testament as an illustration by analogy of the new position of the Church Age believer in relationship to God.

2. The Greek word (υἱοθεσία, *huiiothesia*) describes the act of investing a non-biological son with the privileges and responsibilities of an adult son. As such it is used by Paul to describe the new position of a Church Age believer in Christ. Now we may be experientially spiritual infants, but we have a new identity in Christ as adult sons.

3. υἰοθεσία, *huiiothesia* is found in four New Testament passages significant to the Church Age believer: Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5.

4. Understanding the analogy. Paul does not seem to be referencing either Greek or Roman practice *per se*, but uses aspects of either practice to emphasize his teaching about the believer's new position in Christ.

5. Some key words:

***brephos*, an infant, sometimes, refers to the unborn infant.**

***teknon*, a young child under parental care from infancy to adulthood.**

***huios*, an adult son.**

***nepios*, an older child or adult acting like a baby, sometimes literally a young child.**

6. The adoption ceremony indicates a formal transference of status from outside of the family to a full-fledged member and heir in the family.

7. In Galatians Paul uses the child's pedagogue to illustrate the history of the salvation relationship of Israel to the Law. From the time of the Mosaic Law up to the Cross, Israel is compared to this child. Israel is under a slave called the pedagogue [Mosaic Law] and once the child reaches adulthood, then that pedagogue no longer has any power or authority whatsoever.

8. In Ephesians, the emphasis is on the new position of the believer, especially in relation to inheritance, Eph. 1:11.

Eph. 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,”

9. Baptism by means of the Holy Spirit enters the believer into union with Christ, and that is the mechanics of adoption. So the process by which the believer is identified with Christ at the moment of salvation is called the baptism by means of the Holy Spirit.

10. When we enter into union with Christ at the moment of salvation we become adult sons positionally. We are in Christ. Christ is the Son of God, the adult Son. When we are in union with Him we, too, are adult sons.

**ETERNAL
REALITIES
(POSITIONAL
TRUTH)**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES
(EXPERIENCE)**



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

JUSTIFIED

**ETERNAL
REALITIES
(POSITIONAL
TRUTH)**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES
(EXPERIENCE)**



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

REGENERATED

**ETERNAL
REALITIES
(POSITIONAL
TRUTH)**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES
(EXPERIENCE)**



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

ADOPTED

**ETERNAL
REALITIES
(POSITIONAL
TRUTH)**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES
(EXPERIENCE)**



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

**HEIRS OF
GOD**

**ETERNAL
REALITIES
(POSITIONAL
TRUTH)**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES
(EXPERIENCE)**



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

**FILLED BY
THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

**“Walking by the
Holy Spirit”**

11. As such, because we are in union with Christ, we become heirs of God, but not joint heirs with Christ, that is a second aspect of inheritance.

Rom. 8:16, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children [*teknon*] of God,

Rom. 8:17, “and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

**Rom. 8:17, “and if children, then heirs—
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if
indeed we suffer with Him, that we may
also be glorified together.”**

Where should the comma be?

A woman without her man is nothing.

A woman, without her, man is nothing.

A woman without her man, is nothing.

**Rom. 8:17, “and if children, then heirs—
heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ if
indeed we suffer with Him, that we may
also be glorified together.”**

- ***Heirs of God* is for all believers.**
- ***Joint heirs of Christ* is for those who
suffer with Him.**