

**SERMON: To The Glory of God's Grace-Seated In Heavenly Realms**

**GOOD Morning OIC & Welcome to Father's House**

**Today, we will continue in the Book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul. This Letter to the Church in Ephesus tells Christians to live in God's perspective, as if they were already in Heavenly Places, BECAUSE THEY ARE! . Paul boldly proclaims repetitively that God has given more than Christians need to SUCCEED in living a holy life on Earth which continues in Heaven to The Glory of God's Grace.**

**So we read in The Book of Ephesians:**

*15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

The Church at Ephesus was establishing a godly reputation of *faith in the Lord Jesus and..... love for all God's people*, as we see in **(Ephesians 1.15)**. 1<sup>st</sup> Century societies relied on face to face networking for news. People were also more trained or conditioned by necessity to remember accurately what they heard. The Jewish people especially had this trait as for thousands of years they took seriously the responsibility to keep the Scriptures not only in rare written scrolls, but also, as commanded in **(Deuteronomy 11.18)** to: *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

This news about these Ephesians greatly encouraged Paul. His love for Jesus' Sheep would bring about prayer for either success or failure. Yet, Paul's emphasis was on his having *not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17* These words, *I keep asking*, in **(Ephesians 1.16-17)** implies or shows a likely joy in prayer by the Apostle. All workers in Christ's Service get encouraged when God works in their disciples beyond expectation. This is the joy beyond duty! For even the Lord Jesus Himself has said in **(John 5.19)** *Jesus gave them this answer: 'Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; He {Jesus} can do only what He sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.* Having faith that God is working in all the people we serve is good and needed; but, realizing that Jesus' Father is doing much more in someone is a real encouragement to focus on that person or ministry. For this is

doing as Jesus did, as it says, *what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does*. Of course, unlike the Lord, we do not have perfect “vision” to see what Father God is doing. We must walk by *faith and not by sight*. This applies in particular to difficult people or impossible challenges in our Ministry. But, in the case of the Ephesians, it follows logically that Paul would pray to *the glorious Father*, and *keep asking that He may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better*.

As serious Bible students know, the Holy Bible is very consistent in what it says, and for each human author under Holy Spirit inspiration, consistent within each writing. In my Message last week titled “To The Glory of God's Grace,” we saw how the Apostle Paul emphasized a Christian's position in Christ and the many *Already and Not Yet Benefits* provided. In the same attitude Paul prays for *the glorious Father* to give the Ephesian Christians *the Spirit of wisdom and revelation*. This is, of course, the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Christ.

It is by the Spirit that God acts in our salvation as written in **(1 Corinthians 1.27-30)**: *27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

Please be patient with my theological explanation of how Jesus Christ, now sitting on His Throne at the right hand of the Father, *has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption*. Holy Spirit is the spirit in *the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better* in **(Ephesians 1.17)**.

We see this also in **(1 Corinthians 15.45-46)** *45 So it is written: ‘The first man Adam {the created Son of God} became a living being’; the last Adam {begotten not created Son of God}, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.* Paul goes on later in **(1 Corinthians 15)** to emphasize that Jesus' Resurrected Body is His spiritual body. Whereas Adam's body was a natural body, in His spiritual Body Jesus could disappear and walk through walls to reappear. The Apostles were shocked by this miracle, as well as that His spiritual body could be *handled*. Let's go back to the **Gospel of Luke (24.30-32) & (36-40)**. This dinner is with the unknown Jesus who, with two disciples, met Him on the road to Emmaus: *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’*

Then these two disciples rushed back to tell the disciples in Jerusalem, who were in hiding: *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'* **37** *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.* **38** *He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?'* **39** *Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'* **40** *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.*

But Pastor Bruce, why did Paul say that Jesus became **a life-giving spirit**? Well, we know that Jesus is now in Heaven in His resurrected spiritual body. So you may ask, "Pastor Bruce, how can Jesus be in two places at the same time, in Heaven and in my heart? Well, Jesus, **a life-giving spirit**, can be in two places at a time without leaving His Throne, by the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Jesus is really with us, as the Three Persons of the Trinity Godhead are never separated anywhere in the Universe which They created. Remember Jesus said in **(John 15.26/MOUNCE)** *"But when the **Paraclete** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes forth from the Father, he will bear witness about me."* The original Greek gives a word describing Holy Spirit's work in Christians: **Paraclete** - παράκλητος (paraklētōs) one called, or sent for, to assist another; an **advocate**, one who pleads the cause of another, **(1John 2.1)** *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.* One present to render various beneficial service, and thus the **Paraclete {Comforter/KJ21}** whose influence and operation were to compensate for the departure of Christ himself, **(John 16.7)** *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate {Paraclete, Comforter} will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.* All these Bible verses point to the spiritual truth that when we believed in Jesus, we received Holy Spirit inside our bodies. Therefore, the Spirit who lives inside of a Christian's physical body will, according to **(John 15.26)**, *bear witness to each Christian about {Jesus} from inside of his body.* As we sense the Holy Spirit moving in our innermost being we can freely say **"It's Jesus in my soul."**

## **TAKEAWAY #1**

**God sent the Holy Spirit into a sinner the moment they believed. Thus a sinner, an enemy of God, became a holy saint.**

Why such a long theology here, Pastor Bruce? If you don't understand it all...that is okay. But, believing the Bible, I expect, that sooner or later, a serious student of the Bible would ask about Jesus being in Heaven and also in our heart at the same time. Even more confusing, without accepting this Truth, is to get to understand the spiritual knowledge or theology of **(Ephesians**

**2.6 )** *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.* I will further exegete this verse later in this Message as we go on.

Reading (**Ephesians 1.18-19**): *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

As we saw above, and in much of the Letters by Paul, all Christians, mature or immature, need an *inside job* by the Holy Spirit as they follow Jesus to Glory. Paul prays for *hearts* not just *heads to be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.* Jesus said in (**John 8.12**) *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* Paul is asking God by Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, inside of these Ephesians, to make Jesus' light shine inside them to, quote, *know the hope to which he has called you.* Remembering that Biblical *hope* is a confident knowledge of our future which we have come to learn about by faith. Jesus promised that Jesus Followers *will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* This is Paul's prayer for the Ephesians. What Jesus called them and us to is *the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.* Christians are made saints, holy people, when they accept Jesus and His sacrificial Death on the Cross to bear their sins, taking them away. Jesus' inheritance is these holy people, including you and me. We are on the path to become totally glorious, thus, an inheritance worthy of our Lord. Paul wants the Ephesians, as I want you all, to know with confidence, that God will cause that to happen for every Jesus Follower who keeps following Him. Paul's prayer includes hearts to be enlightened and to know more of **19** *his incomparably great power for us who believe.* This inner knowing, as a Christian matures, is the Holy Spirit's *inside job forming Christ within us.* This is more tangible than just head knowledge. It will use head knowledge from the Bible, but the Christian will realize more and more how God's power is changing them. This exegesis or bringing out the meaning here is as Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church in (**2 Corinthians 3.18/AMP**) *And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.*

A note on 1<sup>st</sup> Century mirrors. In general, only the richest people, the kings and queens, had mirrors as our everyday 21<sup>st</sup> Century mirror, which reflects almost 100% of the image. The 1<sup>st</sup> Century mirrors were usually translucent. That is unless you held it at the correct angle to your face, you could see through it. This is the meaning regarding *seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord.* Holy Spirit gives us crystal clear truth in Jesus; yet, at the same time we see or experience only a dimmed image of His Full Glory. This is Holy Spirit's work in us who believe in

Jesus. Our personal God and Saviour works into our daily life experiences, by which He causes a continual transformation for our becoming Sons of God. He always uses the WORD and the SPIRIT; yet, the Spirit must *enlighten us* which means to make the WORD to dwell deep in the core of our being. Then we can say as in **(2 Corinthians 3.18/AMP)** that we *are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory.* This might include miracles, as Father knows best, but our continual transformation toward being like His Son in our character and person-hood is the greatest miracle, regardless of God's supernatural works around and through us. This week I heard a Christian say such a glorious testimony; "I am finding it easier to forgive people who hurt me!" This indeed is a testimony of *His incomparably great power for us who believe* as in **(Ephesians 1.19).**

Next reading in **(Ephesians 1.19b-20):** *That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,* When I realize how difficult it is to either change a sinner's heart away from the dark into Jesus' *marvelous Light*, or, to make a saint's heart more like Jesus, nothing less would work than God's *mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms!* Thus, human hearts need as much of God's power to change as for God to raise His Son from the grave. That power is also available for supernatural miracles in order to *Build the Church of Jesus Christ.* This exegesis fits neatly with the next verses, **(Ephesians 1.20b-21),** *and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

As Paul will repeat again in Chapter 2, as a good teacher, Jesus' position at the right hand of God the Father confirms and declares His Deity as the only Son of God and LORD. This troubles Jesus' enemies, both men and devils. We saw how the High Priest's anger boiled when Jesus told them this soon-to-take-place fact after His glorification on the Cross. As we see in **(Matthew 26.63-65)** *The high priest said to him, 'I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.'* 64 *'You have said so,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.'* 65 *Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has spoken blasphemy!*

We Jesus Followers too easily forget the current position of our Lord Jesus. We also forget that Jesus was not keeping it any *mystery* that He was coming back to Earth, *coming on the clouds of heaven.* Note that He told His enemies that they would see His Return on the Clouds. His Followers, won't! More on this later this summer as I plan to preach a sermon message on *Jesus'*

*Return for Us, and against Them.* But the next verse (**Ephesians 1.21**) *{Jesus is now} far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.* Jesus is Lord ever since His glorification and return to Heaven, and will always be in the age to come. That age will be above Time and last forever! He is there for us, and not against us, dear OIC Saints.

**22** *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.* “Under His Feet”...is as we often sing the song to encourage us Christian Soldiers for Christ, the Bible verse in (**Matthew 16.18/KJ21**): *I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Let's keep singing it...let's keep living it. As we serve Jesus in our often imperfect but faithful and sincere effort, to work with the Spirit of Christ to *build My {Jesus'} church!* Let us remember that *God placed all things under his{Jesus'} feet.*

Last week on a subway train I confronted a demon-possessed young man who his parents were trying to control with binding cords. This was obviously his frequent behaviour. As I got closer, he got harder to control. I had experienced this before with a demon-possessed man on a train in Boston. Remembering that education, I looked straight at the unruly and violent man. I prayed and lifted my arms to Praise The Lord, then commanded Satan and used a Bible verse that Jesus spoke against a demon “*be silent, come out of him.*” I noticed only a slight change but less violent. Of course, Satan started to accuse me of failure. But, as God had me get on the wrong train (which I do usually take correctly even when half asleep after Wednesday Bible Study) I knew this was God's plan, not mine. Then we were at the end of the line! I had not noticed any stops, as I was concentrating in the Spirit in prayer. We all had to get off. The man's parents looked thankful and said so, but they were clueless to my intentions to free their son. I simply said clearly to the father, “*Iesu Kirisuto.*” He heard me and acknowledged my attention to his son. Only Eternity will tell what God started from that encounter. By the way, there is a member here at OIC who successfully cast demons out of a young boy. My main point here is that Jesus' position over all the powers who try to push people through *the gates of hell* means there is no such thing as failure for Christians as long as we try. I prayed before I verbally confronted the Devil. The coincidence (wrong train) and the obvious behaviour change as I approached him, meant I must try to cast it out for the man's and Jesus' sake.

## **TAKEAWAY #2**

**Satan likes it when timid Christians take no action against him because they fear him! ...Or who fear judgment by his children, that is sinners. I am so glad that he hates me.**

Jesus' position of authority over the Universe also includes His Church, His Bride. We see this next in **(Ephesians 1.22b-23)** *the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.* OIC, we, and all the Christians on planet Earth, are Jesus' Body. As we just read in **(Ephesian 1.21)** *{Jesus is now} far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked.* We pastors feel with the Apostle Paul's love for Jesus' Sheep and also Paul's frustrations for the church members to obey Jesus' command in **(John 13.34)** *A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* Inside OIC, and outside OIC, I say that **“OIC is a church with much LOVE!” I mean it!** But we all are in process in our walk to Glory to become more like Christ. None of us, especially your pastor, is there yet! Remembering that the Head of the Church is Jesus, the Chief Shepherd of the Sheep, helps us all learn to be one Body, a connected Local Church. I have seen in my life and in other Christians that Jesus, the Master Potter, always does the most powerful long-lasting shaping of His *jars of clay* in the Local Church. We are all at different levels of maturity, but we are all still on The Potter's Wheel, as in **(2 Corinthians 4.7)** *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.* We note that Paul ends this verse, **(Ephesians 1.23)** with: *the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.* Today Jesus wants to have a Spirit-filled Church. This is how, while still in Heaven, Jesus fills His Church. We will see later in this Letter to Ephesus that at the End-of-Time Jesus will fill literally all things.

Now we start Chapter Two of Ephesians. There is much spiritual *meat and potatoes* or *rice and salmon* for us Bible hungry students in this chapter.

The NIVUK Bible titles Ephesians Chapter 2 with **“Made Alive in Christ.”** This is very appropriate as Paul starts with **(Ephesians 2.1-2): 1** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air; the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

Here Paul does a verbal *before & after*, like the television commercials I saw in America and in Japan. This is very effective to make a point of sale, or point of Bible Truth. It is important to Paul that the Ephesians, and all Christians, recall how bad things were without Jesus, as we read in **(Ephesians 2.1):** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.* Sinners are Enemies of God. They are without Jesus who is LIFE as in **(John 14.6)** *Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* We saw the amazement and wonder by a Japanese lady we took to dinner in Boston, when Dorothy said to her (in Japanese) “*Iesu Kirisuto wa ginsei desu.*” This created about a half-hour of conversation as this lady spoke good English. I expect it may be hard in personal evangelism to say the other side of this TRUTH,

“You are spiritually DEAD!” Well, that is what all people on planet Earth are without Jesus, the LIFE.

Being spiritually dead affects everyday life. **Please note** that as in **(v.1)**, *dead in your transgressions and sins*, is the effect of being spiritually dead, and not the cause of being spiritually dead! Thus a sinner's *transgressions and sins* resulted from, or are, the effects of being born “*spiritually dead!*” The Bible teaches us this from what King David said wisely in **(Psalm 51.5/NLT)** *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

More on the effects of being spiritually dead in **(Ephesians 2.2)**: *in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.* Whether they knew it or not, the Ephesians were, as are sinners, *good friends by bonds of slavery with Satan.* Yes. Sinners follow the world and Satan, *the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

The World is the system of Nations and Governments and Businesses and every institution by Man {except Christian-owned businesses and institutions, and of course, the Church}. The World is under Satan's strong influence, yet with God's sovereign limits. Satan is a fallen angel and *the ruler of the kingdom of the air* and thus a spirit. He stays mostly invisible but the spirit world runs the physical world. Too many Christians still think the physical world, such as money and material things, runs the spiritual world. **Not so!** For God continues to overrule Satan's control of the world only when it fits God's wise plan for eternity: salvation of sinners and the Return of His Son Jesus. Jesus is LORD of Heaven and Earth!

Sinners, who are disobedient to God, have the devil working in and around them as it says in **(Ephesians 2.2b)**: *the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.* Paul makes it clear that he was not born an Apostle, but also a sinner as King David said. Thus he uses the pronoun “us” in **(Ephesians 2.3)**, instead of “you,” as in **(Ephesians 2.2)**. So we see in **(Ephesians 2.3)** *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.* Paul is next setting the stage to bring out how “dead sinners” were “Made Alive in Christ.”

Sinners just live to satisfy “self” and *gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.* They don't try to curb these desires, and actually, cannot for very long-lasting effects. A form of godliness, which Satan encourages, may be visible at a quick glance at some sinners; but sin keeps happening deep in their souls. Therefore, believing in a Holy God all must, like Paul say: **(Ephesians 2.3b)** *Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*



Paul now ends the “**Before** Christian Rebirth” to preach the glorious “**After** Born Again.”

*4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.*

### TAKEAWAY #3

**Mercy is God's heartfelt love to Mankind, Grace is God's love in action to Mankind.**

**Remembering that “grace” is “unmerited favor” more clearly brings out that God is always acting toward those who have found “unmerited favor” in His eyes. This should be no surprise to Bible Students for at Jesus' Birth the Angels declared this Message from God in Heaven to Planet Earth in (Luke 2.14) ‘*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.*’**

We learned in the Book of Romans that Christians, Jews and Gentiles, are God's Chosen, *on whom His favour rests.* God acted upon the mercy in His Heart to cause our being lifted out of spiritual death into Jesus, who is spiritual LIFE. He actually is the *Author of Life* outside the spiritual world as well. So we Christians experienced that *even when we were dead in transgressions* could not stop God's Saving Power, the same Power He showed *when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand.* This power opened our eyes which were blinded by Satan, to see and believe the Good News of Jesus' death on the Cross to buy our pardon.

We can never overestimate God's Love or power toward us who believe in His Son Jesus. This is dramatically shown by the Holy Spirit inspiring Paul to write in **(Ephesians 2.6-7)**, *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.* Paul is not talking about our resurrected bodies raptured to Heaven. In the spirit world, in God's eyes, we Christians are seated with Jesus in Heaven.

Remember in Ephesians Chapter 1 how Paul repeated “*in Christ*” and “*in Him.*” Quoting from last week in my Message titled: **To The Glory of God's Grace:** “Now Paul emphasizes the position of the Believer, **in Him**, that is **in Christ.** We read in **(Ephesians 1.9-10)**, *‘in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.’* And **(Ephesians 1.10-11)**, *‘In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose.’* And **(Ephesians 1.13-14)**, *‘In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.’*” (End of the Message Quotation)

And also, it says in **(1 Corinthians 1.30)** *It is because of him { God } that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God*

Pastor Bruce, what does this all mean in our everyday life? It may sound too simple, but Jesus was raised to Heaven to sit at God the Father's right hand. **We are spiritually “in Christ.”**

Therefore, God in a real way sees us already in Heaven as we are already in Christ. Now, the Holy Spirit we received is not agnostic spirit. Our physical bodies and our inner being will be transported to Heaven when Jesus returns for His Bride, the Church. But there is power for the believer just thinking this spiritual truth...power and authority in Christ as we, too, are at the Right Hand of God Almighty...by God's unmerited favor. This is truly Jesus being *wisdom* to us as we can trust our position in Him.

I will give an example of my first year in Christ at a Church retreat with mostly new brothers and sisters in Christ. It was the Jesus Movement in Boston USA. I had been impressed with **(Ephesians 2.6)** and sensed some kind of confidence I felt. Yes, my gift to rightly divide the Word of God was already being praised by my mentors and it made no sense to me as a new Bible reader. I was a *babe* in Christ but I had a very conscious deliverance from being one who *followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, Satan*. At this wonderful Retreat I met a recent Born-Again Christian young woman. She seemed sincere yet heavily sharing her worshiping Mary at her Roman Catholic Church. I knew this was idolatry. A few of my mentors and brothers with whom I lived rebuked me for correcting her rather harshly. The last day of the retreat she came to me and thanked me profusely, lavishing thanks on me as Jesus' Spirit had spoken in her heart and convinced her that my rebuke was true. She repented of Mary Worship and was obviously filled with great joy. God is not a respecter of persons in His family – He can even use a babe in Christ. Whatever gifts and calling God has for you will become more clear and concrete as you consider in yourselves, as **(Ephesians 2.6)** tells all of us, **that God has raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.**

***Let Us Pray***

#### REFERENCES

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