

Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human

Part 2: A New Past

Ephesians 1:3-5

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us...*

Proverbs 18:14

*A man's spirit will endure sickness,
but a crushed spirit who can bear?*

Psalms 38:4-5, ESV

*For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.
5 My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness*

We need a new past

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God chose us before our past

Psalms 139:13-16

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.*

Psalms 139:3-6

*You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I
cannot attain it.

It's not fair, it's grace

CS Lewis Quote:

Any man claiming to forgive sins is "so preposterous as to be comic. We can all understand how a man forgives offences against himself. You tread on my toes & I forgive you, you steal my money & I forgive you. But what should we make of a man, himself unrobbed & untrodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men's toes & stealing other men's money? ... Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, & never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken & whose love is wounded in every sin." – Lewis

Isaiah 1:18)

*"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.*

Luke 7:36-39

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, (all scholars agree that that expression, woman of the city who was a sinner meant that she was a prostitute) when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

Luke 7:48-49

And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

God chose us out of His great love

John 17:24

...because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Isaiah 62:3-5

*You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

*4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.*

*5 For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.*

God chose us to transform us

Eph 1:4

*4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should
be holy and blameless before him*

John 8:3-11

*"The scribes & the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery,
& placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been
caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone
such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might
have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down & wrote w/ his finger
on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up & said to them,
"Let him who is w/out sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And
once more he bent down & wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they
went away one by one, beginning w/ the older ones, & Jesus was left alone w/
the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up & said to her, "Woman, where
are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus
said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, & from now on sin no more."*