

Exchange Life (BBC1 22) Appropriation

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EVERYTHING IN CHRIST

▶ The three keys to the successful Christian life according to Dr. Tony Evans are:

- (1) We must know “who we are.”
- (2) We must know “what we have.”
- (3) We must know “how to appropriate” what is ours in Christ.

EVERYTHING IS IN CHRIST

Already Belongs To Us

- ▶ Appropriation does not necessarily mean to gain something “new” but to set aside for our practical possession something that **“already belongs to us.”**

The Two Essentials

- ▶ In order to appropriate something for our daily walk(lifestyle) in Christ, there are two essentials:
 - To see what is already ours in Christ.
(Embrace the “Exchange Life.”)
 - To be aware of our need for it.
(To meet our daily needs of living.)

GRACE Through FAITH

- ▶ On these two factors rests the ability to appropriate—*to reach out in steadfast faith and receive that which belongs to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ We received Salvation by GRACE through FAITH, and we receive everything else in the same manner.

Dr. Cecil Cockerham

William R. Newell

- ▶ “Paul does not ask a thing of the saints in the first three chapters of Ephesians but just to listen while he proclaims that wondrous series of great and eternal FACTS concerning them.
- ▶ It was not until he has completed this “catalogue of realities” about them does he ask them to do anything at all!”

Revelation Before Facts

“When he does open his plea for their high walk as saints, everything is based on the revelation before given the facts of their high character and destiny as saints:

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore ... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

(KJV)

Show Them These Principles

- ▶ Cease laying down to the saints long lists of “conditions” of entering into the blessed life in Christ. (Legalism)
- ▶ The counselor/pastor should point out what their *position, possessions, and privileges* are “in Christ” ALREADY. (Inheritance)
- ▶ We work with the Holy Spirit, and therefore we have “more” abiding fruit of our labor among the people of God. (Fellowship)

Supply Always Available

- ▶ Once we see “what” is ours in Christ Jesus, practical needs will cause us to appropriate -- to receive the answers that we need.
- ▶ There was a supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ for Paul, and that made it possible for Christ to be magnified in him.
- ▶ That supply was always available, but only “appreciated and appropriated” as he came to know his need.

Fresh Supply...

- ▶ Life is meant to bring a succession of discoveries of our need of Christ.
- ▶ With every such discovery the way is opened for a new inflow of the supply.
- ▶ This is the “explanation” of much that we cannot otherwise understand.
- ▶ A fresh supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ will meet our EVERY need.

Sufficiency of Christ

- ▶ As we prove the sufficiency of Christ to meet our inward need, we show forth His glory through us.
- ▶ NOW, the “world” can see Christ in us.

Two Realities

- ▶ These two realities of “seeing and needing” bring us into a specific walk of faith.
- ▶ This principle takes us from the “help me” attitude to that of “giving thanks.”

We already have it, so GIVE THANKS!!!

We Already Have It!

- ▶ This principle takes us from “*begging to appropriation.*”
- ▶ The “religious church system” has taught us to “beg” God for what we need.

L. L. Letgers Quote

▶ L. L. Letgers, co-founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, has said about **Ephesians 1:3**: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ”

- Read next frame.....

It Is All Done

▶ “If you run over in your mind and find one single blessing with which God might bless us today, with which He has not already blessed us, then what He told Paul was not true at all, because he said, ‘God has.’ It is all done. ‘It is finished.’ God hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies!

It Is All Done (Cont.)

- ▶ The great pity of it all is that we are saying, ‘O God bless us, bless us in this, bless us in that!’ and it is all done. He *has blessed* us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.”

Be Scriptural

- ▶ The believer “sees” what he possesses in Christ, and the need enables him to reach out and confidently appropriate (accept) the required rest, by GRACE through FAITH.
- ▶ This appropriation must be a case of clear, scriptural, and specific trust.
- ▶ We are *not* to “ask amiss.” (If we pray the Word, we never ask amiss.)

Jeremiah 1:12

Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it."

(NASB)

Isaiah 55:11

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

(NASB)

Key To It All

- ▶ Now the critical phase, the key to it all: In most instances of appropriation there is a waiting period between the *acceptance* and the *receiving*—often years.
- ▶ Our responsibility is to patiently wait on Him during the time necessary for Him to work into our character (our life) that which we have appropriated in Christ, ie., His *rest, steadiness, assurance* and *security*.

Possessions In Christ

- ▶ After we have seen our possessions in Christ and become aware of our need, then we must give Him the necessary time to work the appropriation into our everyday walk.
- ▶ If we are looking for our needs to be met in the next – interview, devotional book, series of special meetings, hoped for “revival,” then reality may never come, **AND SOMETIMES IT COMES IMMEDIATELY!!!**

No Shortcuts

▶ In this matter of Christian maturity there is no shortcut, no quick and easy way.

GOD builds into the believer that which He intends to minister through him to others.

▶ In order to minister Life to others, what counselor/pastor “does and says” must flow from “who and what” he is.

God's Word: TRUTH

Colossians 1:19

For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently.

(AMP)

Hebrews 3:14

For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.

(NASB)

God's Word: TRUTH (Cont.)

Ephesians 3:19

and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

(NASB)

Colossians 3:3

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(NASB)

God's Word: TRUTH (Cont.)

2 Corinthians 4:11

For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

(NASB)

His Primary Purpose

- ▶ Often we simply “admire and talk” about truths the Holy Spirit reveals to us in the Word.
- ▶ **PRINCIPLE:** His primary purpose in giving them (truths) to us is that we might stand on them in faith.
- ▶ We wait confidently for Him to make them (truths) an integral part of our life.
- ▶ We become “Who” and “what” we believe!!!

Psalm 1:1

BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks *and* lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.
(AMP)

DISCUSSION

TRUE or FALSE:

- ▶ His primary purpose in giving truths to us is that we might stand on them in faith.
- ▶ We wait confidently on GOD to make truths (realities) an integral part of our life.
- ▶ We become “Who” and “what” we believe.
- ▶ What are the major points to appropriation?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION