

In the Household of God

By Betty Harstad

How blessed are those who are accepted into the household of God. Paul spoke of the Gentile saints in the following verse: *“So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God”* (Ephesians 2:19 ASV). Scripture shows that salvation through the Son of God was carefully planned from the beginning, for the Jew first but also for the Gentiles. Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone of this marvelous plan of salvation for all who believe the Gospel: *“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone”* (Ephesians 2:20).

We are to heed the sure word written by the apostles and prophets as we are buffeted in this world during various trials and testings. No matter how mature we think we have become, we will find it necessary to depend upon the written Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. *“In Him you also are being built up together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit”* (Ephesians 2:22 ESV). *“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 2:15). What glorious and sure promises these are for us as Believers in the household of God. God always fulfills what He promises in His Word: *“For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory”* (2 Corinthians 1:20).

What is sad is that so many churches and organizations have downplayed reading and meditating daily on the Word for individual and corporate study and for teaching. It seems to be replaced with systems that tend to promote the advancement of a movement and its leader, who uses only the few Scriptures that fit into his own views. But since we belong in the household of God, we are to devote ourselves to prayer and to the Word. *“And they devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* (Acts 2:42). We are to rely on the full and glorious work of the Holy Spirit to continually exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to make His Person the grand central theme of our witness for ourselves and to others.

Remember what Jesus said to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection: *“O’ foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”* (Luke 24:25-27). Think also of the disciples in Jerusalem: *“Then He said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem’”* (Luke 24:44-47).

Thanks to God for opening up our minds and our hearts so we may understand His Word and the Gospel. The plan and purpose of the Father concerning our salvation was fulfilled in Christ. Because of His great mercy and love He made the way so that by faith we could belong in the household of God and live with Him forever.