

Accepted In The Beloved (Eph 1:6)

Much is said by popular religionists about "accepting the Lord as our personal Saviour," but such an utterance cannot be found in God's inspired word, and those who use it should stop and give it some serious thought in the light of divine inspiration. The word accept is used only one time in the entire New Testament, and even then it has nothing whatever to do with accepting Christ. It was uttered in scandalous accusations that were brought against the apostle Paul by the Jews when they brought him before the Roman governor, Felix, and had him assailed by Tertullus (Acts 24:3). There are other forms of the word accept, both in the Old and the New Testament but none of them have any reference to accepting Christ. Yet, urging lost sinners to "accept Christ" seems to be the bedrock of popular religion; but we who are of the Primitive Baptist faith and order see the matter much differently.

To those of us whose hearts the Lord has touched in such way as to make us see what we truly are by nature, it is not a matter of our accepting Christ, but it is a question as to whether we have been "made accepted in the Beloved," that is "in Christ" (Eph. 1:6). In other words, has God, by quickening us into divine life, put us into a position where we are accepted in His sight through what His Beloved Son (Christ) has done for us? The only reason God embraces any of us wretched, fallen sinners is because He has made them accepted in Christ, not merely made acceptable, but "made accepted" in Christ. They are already accepted of God, and no man, and no power, can separate them from His love. Our home in heaven does not depend upon our accepting Christ, but it depends on God making us accepted in the Beloved. Those who are "dead in trespasses and sins" (See Eph. 2:1-5) have no interest in Christ, and they have no desire to place their confidence in Him, and they never will have any such desire until after they are quickened, (given divine life) by the Lord in regeneration (See Titus 3:5-8).

The Lord is an eternal sovereign and He "hath done whatsoever He hath pleased" (Psalm 115:3) and thus He is not pleading with fallen and corrupt sinners, to accept Him as their Saviour in order for Him to become their Saviour, for that is not even a workable theology. It is not a matter of our accepting Him, but it is a matter of His accepting His elect through His Beloved Son and what He has done for them, both in His life and in His death. They could never have made themselves accepted in His sight, and it is thus that God "made them accepted in Christ". Christ is "the Beloved" of Ephesians 1:7.

When God's people get the above truths straight in their minds they are well on their way to possessing a good solid theology, and the purpose of good works (Titus 3:3-9) then becomes clear to them and they begin to understand that it truly is not good works that gets them into heaven, but such works are the duty of those who have already been given faith, and those works are good and profitable unto those who perform them while they live here in this present world (See Titus 3:3-9). If anyone inquires as to what good works are, let them read the epistles of the New Testament and they will be well furnished with what they should do.

It is hoped that the Lord will bless the reader to examine this little article and its claims and compare them with the citations from God's word as referenced.

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