

Satan Is Under Your Feet!

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The book of Ephesians was written by Paul to proclaim our relationship to Christ, the world, and our enemy Satan. The theme of the book is the body of Christ. Christ Jesus is our head and we are His body. We as His body receive all from Him. What is true of the Head is true of His body. Jesus ruled over all the satanic powers of hell during his life on the Earth. He exercised His authority given to him by His Father. He actually defeated Satan at the cross. Satan thought He had defeated Jesus but Jesus defeated the devil! He gave the devil a **P.H.D.** – **Permanent Head Damage!** By His substitutionary death he removed our sins and satisfied God's holy law perfectly. He did it for us and **as** us. Today we are not blessed because of our obedience to the 10 commandments but because of His perfect obedience during His whole life and on the cross. Christ is the fulfillment and end of the Law to all who believe (**Rom 10:4**) In the New Testament we are called to obedience but the only obedience that satisfies God is the "**obedience of faith**" in His finished work for us.

Rom 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

We are saved by grace through faith **unto** good works! (**Eph. 2:8-9**) Our works are merely the **fruit** of His righteousness that was placed on the inside of us. (**Gal. 5:22**) We reign in life because of His righteousness, His obedience, and His merits. (**Romans 5:17**)

Ephesians starts out proclaiming that we have been blessed with everything in this life and the next all by the sheer grace of God. **Vs. 3** No commands to follow or hurdles to jump, just promises to believe! We are holy and blameless. **Vs. 4** We have been favored and accepted in the beloved. **Vs. 5** We have the forgiveness of all our sins that we have committed, are committing, or will ever commit through the precious blood of Christ. **Vs. 7** We have obtained an inheritance and have received the Holy Spirit of God in our hearts all by His grace. **Vs. 11, 13** All this was from one sacrifice for us for all time! What grace!

Chapter 2 tells us about what Jesus did for us to bring us all this grace and blessing. He died for us- not only for us- but **as** us. When He died, we died in Him as our representative. He was buried and raised. We were also. He was seated in Heavenly places- so were we in Him! Again we are His body and He is our head. He is above all the powers of Satan, so that means we are also. The devil is not somewhere between the head and body. No, He is below the body.

He is beneath our feet! Notice where Paul places the teaching about the devil and our relationship with him- He places it LAST in the letter- He says finally!! Many Christians seem to be so focused on the enemy and fighting Him that they think Paul should have started out talking about the devil. No, He put him last. Instead of talking about the devil Paul wanted us to know about the grace of God. He wanted us to know that all our sins have been forgiven- past, present, and future. He wanted us to know that we died with Christ and that we are risen with Him. He wanted us to know we are seated with Christ. Christ is seated because His work is finished. It is called the finished work of Christ. Are you trying to finish the work Christ has finished? Are you trying to overcome sins in your life? Are you trying to overcome Satan in your life? You need not, because it has been done! Jesus actually disarmed the devil at the cross! What was the armament of the devil? It was the law! It was the commandments that we had broken. It was God's broken law that allowed the devil to condemn us.

Col 2:14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Col 2:15 In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross. (NLT)

What armed the devil before the cross was the commandments that we violated! It allowed him to condemn us and overcome us. The KJV says that God blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. What was the handwriting that was against us? It was the 10 commandments. This was the only portion of the Law that God wrote with his own hand upon two stones. God removed His own handwriting of ordinances that we broke and blotted it out. He did it by the shed blood of His Son. Jesus paid the debt off fully! It is finished! Now the devil has been disarmed. Do you know that when we go around focused on our performance and live in guilt and condemnation because of our failures we are actually re-arming the devil! Instead of focusing on Christ and His perfect sacrifice for us and the righteousness He has given us we often focus on how we fail to keep the 10 commandments. When we do this we re-arm the devil. Let me say this reverently. Jesus has forever fulfilled the 10 commandments for us! Rick, are you saying God does not care anymore if we live holy? **God forbid!** Yes, God is interested in a holy life but that comes from Christ on the inside of us. It comes from that gift of righteousness He placed on the inside of us. The Spirit has come to manifest Christ in us and through us when we trust Christ that He has forgiven us of all our sins and we are righteous in Him. As He is so are we in this world. (1 **John 4:17**) He is victorious over Satan and so are you! This is why Paul tells us to stand fast in God's armor of grace. All the armor is aspects of Christ's redemption and grace. The truth, righteousness, salvation, peace, faith, and sword are all gifts of His grace based upon what Jesus has done for us at the cross. They are aspects of the finished work of Christ for us. Stand fast in the grace of God and the devil will remain beneath you! Put Him last!

Confession: God I thank you that you have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in Christ. I thank you that you have chosen me to be your child. I thank you that you see me holy and blameless because of what Jesus did for me. I thank you that you have forgiven me of all my sins. I declare that you disarmed Satan by blotting out my sins on the cross. I stand free, clean, and righteous because of the blood of the Lamb. Satan, I will not let you rule over me. You are under my feet. I am forgiven and I am blessed because of Jesus! Get behind me! Thank you Father for your grace and love!