DSBC Date: 7/6/03

P/T: Ron Adema Text: 2 Cor.5:17-21 Study: Sunday Special File: Amb.#1

Lesson: AMBASSADOR STATUS

INTRODUCTION

During the month of July, we will study the following four lessons on AMBASSADORSHIP.

- July 6 Ambassador Status
- July 13 Ambassador Service
- July 20 Ambassador Shoes
- July 27 Ambassador Suffering

The Greek word for Ambassador in 2 Cor.5:20 is *presbeuo*. It is used for a distinguished and privileged messenger sent to represent a sovereign authority.

Jesus used the noun form of this word in Luke 14:31-32 and 19:12-14 (presbeia/ delegation/ NAS).

EVERY CHURCH AGE BELIEVER IS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WORLD – HIS AMBASSADOR.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of AMBASSADOR STATUS.

1. Every Church age is an Ambassador of Jesus Christ based on positional truth.

Ambassadorship is 1 of 20 status privileges of grace salvation because of union with Jesus Christ by means of baptism of the Holy Spirit (top circle).

"Therefore if any man is in Christ (positional truth), he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Cor.5:17)

This means that you do not earn or deserve these 20 status privileges in Jesus Christ because of grace salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Ambassador (2 Cor.5:20)	Chosen (Eph.1:4-5)	Heavenly citizen (Phil.3:20)
Brethren 1 Thess.1:4)	Child of Promise (Rom.9:8-9)	Joint-heir (Rom.8:17)
Beloved (Rom.1:7)	Eternal life (1 John 5:11-13)	Living stone (1 Pet.2:4-8)
Bond-slave of Jesus (Gal.1:10)	Escrow inheritance (1 Pet.1:3-4)	Member of body of Christ (1 Cor.12)
Called (1 Cor.1:9,23-26)	First born (Rom.8:29)	New creation (2 Cor.5:17)
Priest (1 Pet.2:5,9)	Righteous (2 Cor.5:21)	Saint (Phil.4:21-22)
Son of God (Gal.3:26)	Son of light (Eph.5:8-9).	,

These 20 status privileges are part of the 50 things in the package of grace salvation that you can never lose in time or eternity. *The issue is not LOSING them but LIVING them.*

2. Every church age believer has been saved to officially represent Jesus Christ to the lost world as His ambassadors.

"For our *citizenship is in heaven*, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil.3:20)

"So then we are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household." (Eph.2:19)

Church age believers are citizens of heaven and ambassadors for Christ to earth.

The ambassador's service is described in 2 Cor.5:17-21 as the ministry of reconciliation. We will discuss this next Sunday.

3. The church age believer becomes an ambassador in service when he is spiritually mature enough to be secure in his own salvation and able to share the gospel of grace salvation with others (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).

"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." (1 Pet.2:2) (Heb.5:13-14)

The church age believer must be spiritually mature enough to have Scriptural confidence of grace salvation and eternal life (John 10:28; Acts 4:12).

4. The ambassador in service must be spiritually mature enough to represent Jesus Christ in word and life.

See an interesting passage where Paul recruits believers to become active in their ambassadorship (2 Cor.5:10-21).

"Conduct yourselves with wisdom towards outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." (Col.4:5-6)

"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil.1:27) (1 Pet.3:15; 2 Cor.2:12; 1 Thess.4:11-12)

5. The ambassador's field of service is the place where he lives as well as the place he is sent.

In Jesus' prayer to the Father in John 17:15-21, we are reminded that as Christians we are IN the world but not OF the world.

We are ambassadors for Christ to the world with the both the message and ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor.5:17-21).

The mission field is the people we rub elbows with every day. They are our home mission field (parents, peers, and pressures) (2 Cor.2:14-17).