

Accepted and Approved

Accepted

Ephesians 1:1-6 NKJV

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- When we accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior
 - o We were accepted into God's family
 - o Accepted (charitoo)- "chari" root of "Charis" GR for Grace & Charisma- anointing
 - o Charitoo- a verb-to be graced and to endued with special honor
 - to make accepted or bestowing; highly favored with honor and blessings
 - o So to be "Accepted" is to be blessed and highly favored- He made us this way!
- Same GR word in Luke 1:28- when Gabriel spoke to Mary concerning birth of Jesus
 - o "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Hebrews 13:12, "And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood." *Jesus made us worthy through His blood!*

Becoming a Christian and being saved is not just about going to heaven when you die, that's a given. Becoming a Christian is not only about your destination, it also includes your journey in this life- living under the grace, blessing and favor of God today! Read your ticket, meals are included. When Christ died on the cross, He bought you a ticket called salvation with his own blood. This ticket assures you of your eternal destination in heaven, but wait, there's more.... Read carefully the inclusions of your ticket. It reads, "... He made us accepted in the Beloved" as a children of God to be enjoyed and to receive Kingdom benefits in this life.

- **Psalms 103:2-3**- forget not His benefits- forgives all our sins and heals all diseases
- 2 Peter 1:3-4- "All things that pertain to life/godliness...His exceedingly great and precious promises"
- 2 Cor. 1:20- "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ"
- Ro. 15:7, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."
- Different GR word- to take to oneself, to admit into friendship and hospitality

Approved

- We are all accepted in the family of God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ- Eph. 2:8
- But are we qualified, tested & approved, fit for service & prepared to do any good work?

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

But, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

- Romans 16:10, “Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ.
- “Approved” GR- Dokimos – pleasing and acceptable- particularly of coins and money

In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into molds and allowed to cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft and of course many people shaved them closely. Accumulated the shavings in order to create counterfeit coins. In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens, to stop the practice of shaving down the coins then in circulation. But some money changers were men of integrity, who would not accept counterfeit money. They were men of honor who put only genuine full weighted money into circulation. Such men were called "dokimos" or "approved"

- **Please Read: 1 Peter 1:3-7** “Proved Genuine!”
- Trials, tests and temptations bring out the impurities in our lives to be removed
- The refining fire of sanctification through the washing with water through the word
- So being approved speaks of purity and substance – nothing false, fake or counterfeit
- 1 Tim 4:12, “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
- Ro. 15:29, “I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed — God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

- We are all called to be ambassadors of Christ/ministers of reconciliation- 2 Cor. 5:18
- So being approved as a servant of Jesus Christ pertains to all of us in this life

- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-7**
 - Being approved for service: “Entrusted to those who are reliable and qualified”
- **Soldier:** Endurance, loyalty, commitment, dedication, with a commission to fulfill
 - Eph. 5:10, *“Find out what pleases the Lord.”*
 - Eph. 5:17, *“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”*
- **Athlete:** Must be willing to follow instructions and submit to the rules
 - 1 Cor. 9:24-27- running your race to win by going into strict training
 - Do not run like a man running aimlessly, fighting like a man beating the air
 - Following God’s plan/purpose- that’s our goal and target we strive for
 - Bringing our body under subjection so we are not disqualified from prize
- **Farmer:** There is no harvest without seedtime; ministry is hard work = investment
 - Acts 20:35, *“I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak.”*
 - First Dibbs: Those who serve are first in line to receives the fruit of their labor
 - Those contributing in prayer for revival, get in first to enjoy the results
 - Those actively sharing their faith Phile 6- full understanding of every good
 - Matthew 23:11, *“The greatest among you will be your servant.”*
 - vs 12, *“Whoever humbles themselves will be exalted.”*

So what does the soldier, athlete and the farmer all have in common? Purpose, focus and disciplined. The more prepared and faithful we are, the more the Lord can work through us.

- In 1 Tim. 3:10- concerning deacons, *“They must first be tested...if nothing against them”*
- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 2:15**
- So who does the presenting? We do as working unto the Lord –best is reserved for Him!

Mark 4:24 AMP, “And Jesus said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.”

2 Timothy 2:15 AMP

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 2:19-22**
- Sanctification is core to being used by God; it’s a choice we all have to make
- An instrument for noble purposes; useful to the master; prepared for every good work
- There is a such a joy and satisfaction when we’re honored to have God work through us
- Let’s pay the price of consecration and sanctification so we are approved to be used