

MADE ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED---EPH. 1:6

Being made accepted in Christ shows that we did not do it ourselves. It is all the work of God. He made us accepted, and the first step in the process was when He chose us in Christ, and this was done "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). Hence we are what we are by virtue of being in Christ, and we could not possibly have been instrumental in any way in being in Him since that transaction took place in eternity when the only existence we had was in the mind and purpose of God. Therefore our being put into such a standing with God is said to be "to the praise of the glory of his grace," --- not "to the praise of our own actions."

Again we emphasize, all this comes to us by virtue our being in Christ, and it was not us who put ourselves in that place. It is all of grace.

God's people are blest "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). In Christ they shall all be made spiritually alive (I Cor. 15:22). Notice: they shall be made alive---not brought to life by their own doing. He saves them and calls them, not according to their works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to them "in Christ Jesus" before the world began (II Tim. 1:9). It is in Christ that He causes them to triumph (II Cor. 2:14). They are "preserved in Jesus Christ and called (Jude 1), and they are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:5). "Made accepted in the Beloved." What a beautiful expression, and what a wonderful reality for God's people!
---Elder Ralph Harris