

The New Testament Church
Our Identity in Christ – Colossians 2:9-10
 Pastor Paul Jehle – June 13, 2021

I The Story of Mephibosheth (“from the mouth of **shame**”)

- A. Son of Jonathan, grandson of Saul – 2nd Samuel 4:4
 - 1. Saul began as “little in his own eyes” but **he took credit for what God was doing**, and thus the anointing was removed, and he ended up consulting the witch of Endor (1st Samuel 28)
 - 2. The battle of Mt. Gilboa ensues, and Saul and Jonathan are killed (the nation is in despair)
 - 3. A nurse flees with 5 year old Mephibosheth, but he is dropped and becomes lame
 - 4. David, when vengeance is possible, **upholds respect (for it is God who judges)**
- B. Then, about 15 years later, at 20, Mephibosheth is married with a child – 2nd Samuel 9
 - 1. He has lived with Machir (**barter**), who will supply David with help (2nd Sam. 17:27-29)
 - 2. A king usually eliminates all descendants from his predecessor to remove possible rivals
 - 3. David asked Ziba (**strength**) to find any descendants of Saul, and Mephibosheth is named
 - 4. He is treated as a prince, to eat at the King’s table, live in Jerusalem, his inheritance **restored**

II Our Identity in Christ

- A. We are all born with a nature that tends toward sin – we are also “**fallen**”
 - 1. We are **lame** in our feet – unable to walk or live out any godliness on our own
 - 2. Though our enemy seeks vengeance against us, our King respects **righteous** judgment
 - a. We are unaware of the fact that a Chieftan has prepared to “**barter**” or trade our identity
 - b. The true King demonstrates His **strength** by seeking us out, restoring our **inheritance**
- B. This story reveals how important it is to understand “who we are”
 - 1. We are first identified as sinners, or of Saul, and filled with shame (no hope v. guilt)
 - a. Guilt is the *act* of sin – Eve (and then Adam’s) taking of the fruit in the garden
 - b. Shame is the *consequence of sin* – Eve and Adam hiding from the presence of God
 - 2. Like Mephibosheth, though he had no guilt for being Saul’s descendant, he did have shame
 - a. His identity was tied to despair, hopelessness and depression
 - b. His identity was tied with his family line – an enemy of God’s anointing
 - c. His identity was tied with his obvious lack of ability – being lame
- C. Then comes the defining moment of our lives when we trade identities! (Romans 6:3-4)
 - 1. When He died, we died – *though Mephibosheth’s destiny was death, David redeemed him*
 - 2. When He was buried, our sin was buried – *his lameness was healed*, David took him in
 - 3. When He rose, we rose – *his inheritance was restored*, for David made sure of it
- D. Colossians 2:9-10
 - 1. *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*
 - a. The Father’s identity brings worth and security
 - b. Christ manifests the Father’s acceptance
 - c. The Spirit makes it real to us
 - 2. *...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*
 - a. We are not complete in ourselves, but we are in Christ (read from “Who I am in Christ”)
 - b. *“Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed...”*

III Let us be reminded that we have an inward and outward man (Tim Tonello)

- A. Pr. 18:14 – *The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?*
 - 1. Christ dwells in our spirit by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (if one is born again)
 - 2. What we feel, experience, and have in our physical bodies may wither, but we can overcome
- B. The Holy Spirit works in our spirit and rehearsing who we are strengthens its work!