

SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

At Paul's conversion, about 36AD, the Lord sent Ananias to commission Paul as Apostle to the Gentiles: "But the Lord said, 'Go, this man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name.'" (Acts 9:15)

At the age of 70, Paul has no illusions of the cost of preaching the gospel to world as Apostle to the Gentiles: "And of this gospel, I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed because I know whom I have believed and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." (2 Tim.1:12; 2 Cor.11:23-28)

After some 32 years of ministry, Paul is nearing the end of an illustrious ministry as Apostle to the Gentiles: "And the time of my departure has come." (2 Tim.4:6) [68AD].

Now Paul faces a new ministry challenge that will take him from time to eternity. It is at this time that Paul reflects on his connection to his ancestral spiritual heritage in Christ Jesus: "I thank God, Whom I serve as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." (2 Tim.1:3)

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Church Age Believer's Spiritual Connection.
The same ancestral spiritual heritage, in Christ Jesus as Paul's.
"I thank God, Whom I serve as my forefathers did?"**

1. Paul used the Greek word progonos (ancestor or forefather) for the ancestral spiritual heritage in Christ Jesus.

If you want to look at the full ancestral spiritual heritage that Paul is referring to, read Luke 3:23-38. (76 sons are listed from Joseph to Adam).

Luke makes sure that you are familiar with the miraculous conception and virgin birth of Jesus by completing the list of ancestral spiritual heritage with Jesus this way: "And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being (eimi / p.a.ptc. nsm) supposedly (hos nomizo / impf.p.ind.3ps) (John 8:41) the son of Joseph, the son of Eli." (Luke 3:23; 1:35-35)

Actually Eli or Heli (Hebrew) was the father of Mary. Since Joseph's father is listed in Matt.1:16 as Jacob. Joseph is identified as the son-in-law of Heli. You will also see that this is the blood lineage of Mary and goes through Nathan rather than Solomon (Luke 3:31; Matt.1:7). This is the humanity lineage of Jesus Christ from the First Adam to the Last Adam (1 Cor.15:22, 45). Luke's genealogy declares Jesus Christ to be the Savior of **all mankind** and not just the Jews (Acts 15:1, 5-11).

This ancestral spiritual heritage was completed with Jesus Christ. We become part of it the moment we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; John 1:12-13).

2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit places every Church Age Believer into union with the same ancestral spiritual heritage in Christ Jesus as Paul.

"For you are all sons of God (Luke 3:38) through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man,

there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." (Gal.3:26-29; Rom.9:6-8)

"Therefore if (1cc / true) any man is in Christ (positional truth / union with Christ), **he is a new creature** (kainos ktisis) [act of creating or creature], **the old things** (ta archaios) **are passed away** (parerchomai / a.a.ind.3ps); **behold, new things** (Kainos) [in form and quality] **have come** (ginomai / perf.a.ind.3ps)." (2 Cor.5:17)

3. As a Spiritually Mature Believer, Paul has become active in the same type of priestly service as performed by the spiritual ancestry in Christ Jesus. "I thank God, Whom I serve with a clear conscience." (2 Tim.1:3).

The Greek word for **serve** is latreuo (p.a.ind). Latreuo literally means to work for hire as a job or career.

This word was used for the Levitical priesthood service of shadow Christology of the Old Covenant (Heb.8:5; 13:10; Rom.9:4).

"Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship (latreuo) and the earthly sanctuary." (Heb.9:1)
"Now when these things have been thus prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship (latreuo)." (Heb.9:6)

4. In the New Covenant, latreuo is used with the Royal Priesthood Service of historical Christology by means of the filling of The Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.6:19; Eph.5:18).

"You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet.2:5)

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the Excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Pet.2:9)

"For God, Whom I serve (latreuo) in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you." (Rom.1:9) [Paul to the Romans] (Rom.1:14-17)

"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve (latreuo) the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets." (Acts 24:14) [Paul to the governor Felix]

"How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience to serve (latreuo) the living God?" (Heb.9:14)

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service (latreuo) with reverence and awe." (Heb.12:28)

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service (latreuo) of worship." (Rom.12:1)