

In the heavenly realm (Series)

Lesson # 2 “Building on the foundation of Christ” Ephesians Chapter 2

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASU

Introduction:

Lesson:

I. Before Christ, Jews and Gentiles were both dead by the power of the world.

Ephesians 2:1-3

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

A. Before Christ they were dead in their sins when they tried walking according to the powers (Ability) of this world.

1. Steeped in selfish desires of the flesh, & mind

2. By nature children of wrath

-Nature here has to do with growth or the germination process.
When a person walks by the power of this world the conditions are perfect for sin to have its beginning and grow.

3. Really no different from the world

B. Shall we subject ourselves to surrounding that can kill us spiritually.

II. After Christ, both Jew and Gentile made alive together

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, NASU

- A. But God is rich in mercy because of His great love
 - Mercy here means compassion
 - God reached out to us

- B. While we were dead in our sins
 - Made us alive together with Christ
 - Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

- C. Raised us up with Him and seated us in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - We have no seat of our own in the spiritual realm only in Christ

III. SO THAT GOD’S GRACE MIGHT BE SHOWN IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:7-9

7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. NASU

- A. Grace is what saves us through the avenue of faith (conviction)
 - We have almost run from this concept because we believe baptism is essential for salvation.
 - But let us not forget that baptism comes only by God’s grace.
 - It is only by God’s gift that our salvation is possible.

- B. Salvation is not a work.
 - If you were baptized into Christ with a legalistic view that this was a work that had to be done...you better rethink your position.
 - Baptism into Christ should be a faithful obedience of devotion to God.

- C. The point here is that by any power of your own or the world around you can not be saved....only by God’s power through Christ.
 - Not anything you have done

IV. Created in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

- A. We are God’s workmanship
 - He is the potter and we are the clay
- B. Created in Christ Jesus
 - Created is the word fabricated or founded
 - This creation is not physical birth as a child, but God is talking about spiritual birth as a Christian.
 - This is where we take shape by his molding.
- C. For good works prepared in advance (planned) for us to do.

V. THEREFORE remember your former condition without Christ

Ephesians 2:11-13

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called " Uncircumcision" by the so-called " Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands — 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. NASU

- A. Therefore (Remember) what you were before
 - In Rev 2:5 this is repeated to the Ephesian church
 - They had a forgetting problem
 - You think God might want us to remember our former condition
 - Remembering helps us understand our current position
- B. As gentiles you were:
 - Separate from Christ
 - Excluded from the community of Israel
 - No part of God’s promises
 - No hope
 - Without God
 - *DEAD
- C. Brought to God through Jesus’ blood
 - Verse 11 points out that the Jews were calling the Gentiles uncircumcised

indicating that they were not members of God's household.

-The Gentiles who had put Christ on in baptism needed to remember that they had clothed themselves with Christ (Gal. 3:27), that is their robes have been washed white in the blood of the lamb (Rev. 7:14) and that they had received a circumcision done by the hands of God at baptism (Col. 2:11-12). The life is in the blood. (Genesis 9:4)

-While the Jews had only been physically circumcised with a circumcision done with human hands....

-You were at a distance, but now you have been brought near by the power of Christ's blood.

VI. Christ is our peace

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. NASU

A. Jesus is our peace.

-Peace offerings of the OT sought peace between God and Man

-Jesus was our offering/sacrifice of peace

*Peace between Jew and Gentile

-Between God and man

B. Jesus removed the dividing wall of separation

-Abolishing the hostility of the LAW of commandments in ordinances

-The Our indicates unity

C. Jesus made the two into one new man.

-If you were to make a Christian how would you do it.

-One part Jew (obedience stressed)

-One part Gentile (grace stressed)

D. God never intended for his people to be an exclusive club...members only

-His intent was that all men everywhere come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

E. The Sacrifice at the cross wasn't meant for one group but it was to make

reconciliation for all mankind possible.

F. Thru Christ both Jew and Gentile have access to the father.

VII. In Christ, we are:

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

A. Fellow citizens

- You are no longer strangers and aliens
- But, fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household
 - You belong
- There is no Jew or Greek Gal. 3:28

B. On a firm foundation

- Both Jew and Gentile now make up the building materials used to make God's house.
- Which is being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
 - The Church was established by Christ through apostolic pattern
 - Phil 3:17
 - With Christ as the corner stone
 - Upon this Rock (Christ) I will build my church
 - In which every part is aligned
 - Having its beginning and ending point with Christ

C. God's holy temple

- We are a temple of God (1 Cor 3:16)
- Temple has now taken the spiritual shape which fills God's intention
- Together we make a dwelling place for God

Conclusion:

