

Ephesians

Chapter 2

Let's open with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Again we come to you and we submit ourselves to the ministry of your word. Help us to understand what we are studying, not just as a textbook understanding, but a spiritual understanding that can only come through the ministry of your Spirit revealing the truth of your word to us. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen!

We begin with this section entitled the process of salvation as we continue the doctrine of the new life in Christ, this resurrection power that Paul prayed that we would be enlightened to understand.

Now in the morning before I have my breakfast, I don't feel very strong. I go from meal to meal, and after each meal I begin to feel strong again.

But God wants me to understand that 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our time, I am filled with the power of God, the same power that raised

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Him from the dead and ascended Him up and sat Him at the right hand of the throne of God, the same power that has all things under Christ's feet.

So he carries that over into the explanation of salvation in Chapter 2.

C.O.

Ephesians 2:1-10
The Process of Salvation

Chapter 2 Verses 1 through 10 is the process of salvation. Now what is interesting is that Verse 1 through 10 is the process of salvation, and Verses 11 through 22 is the purpose of salvation.

And in each one of these sections, they come in three parts, and it's the same three parts for each section. Each section has our condition, our provision, and our position. In other words, the before, during, and after.

First of all, Verses 1 through 3, in order to emphasize, and catch the emphasis here, our condition before being saved.

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

And you hath he quickened, or made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

That was our condition. We're dead in trespasses and sins.

M.V.

Ephesians 2:2

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, and secondly, according to the prince of the power of the air, which is Satan,

the spirit that is now working, or energizing in the children of "the" disobedience:

There's a definite article with the word obedience. It is the specific disobedience, the disobedience to God. So the prince and power of the air is energizing the children of disobedience, the same way it did us.

M.V.

Ephesians 2:3

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Among whom also we all had our conversation, and that's lifestyle. We had our lifestyle in times past (it's not now), in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;

A non-believer is being energized by Satan to fulfill the human appetites of the flesh and of the mind. They generally can't just sit there. Even on a day off, the flesh just has to go out and do something.

And were by nature the children of wrath, even as the others.

These children of disobedience to God are also the children of wrath. They are children who are reserved for God's judgment of wrath. We used to be by nature like them!

But then our provision. And some believe these are the two most important words in the bible. You can read about who we were, but listen to this in Verse 4.

**4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
But God!**

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We are dead in our trespasses and sins. We're fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. Satan is energizing us to go by the course of this world and to follow his lead. And we were born into this life as children of wrath, those who are reserved for the judgment of God.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Even when we were dead in sins,

Do you see the contrast?

God is very, very wealthy in His mercy and in His love. While we were dead in our trespasses and sins, He did three things:

He hath quickened us together with Christ. Quickened means made alive. (For by grace you are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Secondly: And hath raised us up together.

That's resurrection talk. Do you see why the physical resurrection, when Jesus came and He raised those from the dead, it wasn't to say "Look what you can do. You can keep yourselves from dying."

That's not what He was saying. He was physically performing a miracle that demonstrated His spiritual ministry.

You are dead in your trespasses and sins. And when a person is saved, they are raised up from out of the spiritual dead.

First we are made alive. Then we are raised from out of the spiritual dead. And thirdly, He has made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The purpose:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We're reading about it right here. How merciful is God? Well, we're reading the history of God having mercy on people with His rich grace. How do you earn salvation when you're dead? You can't. We're strictly at God's mercy!

And He raises us up and saves us to demonstrate for the world about how rich in grace He is.

And then our position in Verses 8 to 10:

M.V.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

M.V.

Ephesians 2:9

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

No one can boast about doing anything. If someone says to me "I am saved because I prayed the sinner's prayer," I would have to respond by saying no you weren't!

You might have prayed the "sinner's prayer," but that's not what saved you. Jesus saved you. It's a gift!

M.V.

Ephesians 2:10

Here's the position:

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, literally upon the basis of good works, which God has before ordained, or planned, that we should walk in them.

My new position is in Christ. I am the result of His workmanship. And I'm walking in the life that He created for me even before I was even saved.

C.O.

Ephesians 2:11-22
The Purpose of Salvation

Secondly, Verses 11 to 22, the purpose of salvation, and again, all three sections parallel Verses 1 to 10. Verses 11 and 12 is our condition. Again, this is before we were saved.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

Wherefore remember, like he has to keep reminding us right? But you got to understand that he's showing the contrast.

Here's who we were. And here's who God was at the time we were saved. How do you put dead things together with God? That's the whole point!

Wherefore remember, number one, that you being in times past were Gentiles in the flesh, that is, you were called Uncircumcision by that which is called Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

In other words, the Jews, they're the circumcision in the flesh made by hands. They called us Gentiles. So we're outside the covenant of God. He's emphasizing "Remember, you were Gentiles."

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Secondly, that at that time ye were without Christ,

Thirdly, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. We had nothing to do with the covenants.

Fourthly, and we were strangers from the covenants of promise.

Fifthly, having no hope.

Sixthly, and being without God in the world:

That phrase "without God" by the way in the Greek is Atheos where we get the word atheist from. Every person that's not saved is an atheist. They're without God!

It's kind of interesting how people get all pompous about some of their non-believing conditions. They say "I'm an atheist." Yeah, you're without God!

Or they say "I'm an agnostic." That comes from the word Ignoramus. But people use it like they're a professor somewhere. "I'm an agnostic!" What they are literally saying is "I'm without knowledge!" I'm an ignoramus. What do you think about that?

Our provision:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

But now, the contrast, in Christ Jesus you who sometimes were afar, and understand the terminology here. Afar off refers to Gentiles, and those who are near is a terminology that belongs to Jews.

The Gentiles were far off from covenants and citizenship, and the Jews are near.

You who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

M.V.

Ephesians 2:14

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

For he is our peace, and it is interesting that the word peace here has the definite article. He is the peace. Peace is a person not a feeling.

The word itself, Eirene, pronounced A-Ray-Nay, it means to be united. When you're at peace with somebody, you're at one with them.

Now let's see how this works:

Who has made both one, and who are the both? Afar and near. He made them one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

In the synagogue, in the temple, they had a wall or a partition where the Jews could worship inside, but the Gentiles had to worship outside in the court of the gentiles. They couldn't go into the temple sanctuary area.

In fact, there was a sign up that said anybody other than a Jew that passes by this partition will be put to death.

Though the Gentiles were welcome to come in and proselyte and become part of Judaism, they could never go into the sanctuary.

That's the language that's used here. What Jesus did was He tore down that middle wall of partition and made the two one!

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, which means hostility, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances;

He fulfilled all of them on the cross.

For to make in himself of twain (and that's two) one new man, so making peace;

You see, the definition of peace means united. You take the two and make them into one and there's now peace.

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, having slain the hostility thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

And He came and He preached peace to you which are afar off, Gentiles, and to them that were nigh, or near, Jews.

M.V.

Ephesians 2:18

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Every Jew and Gentile that believes, we have direct access to God through His Spirit that He has given to us. There's no waiting. You don't have to take a number. Direct access!

And then the conclusion, the position that we're in:

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but you are fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

If you didn't catch it, we saw in the provision that Jesus is going to reconcile both Jew and Gentile in one body to God.

That's not Judaism, and it's not Israel. When the Jews believe, they have to come out of Judaism. When the Gentiles believe, they have to come out of the world. They become one, called the church. The church is not Israel.

So when he says you're no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God, he's talking about the body of Christ!

M.V.

Ephesians 2:20

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

And you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

And this description is then given to us:

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

In whom you also are being built together for a habitation, or dwelling of God in the Spirit.

What he's picturing for us is that individually we know that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Collectively, we are being shaped according to Peter in 1 Peter Chapter 1, that we are living stones being shaped and formed to fit in.

And we will eventually be a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. That is, God's presence and His glory will be in the midst of us, radiating out in us, to us, and through us throughout eternity.

It will be in the shape of a habitation, or dwelling. And that's what we're being prepared for, to fit into this habitation.

Let's close with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Thank you for this time. We thank you for your word and for your Spirit that makes it alive and real. Lord, we pray for an awakening within us, that we will learn the difference between the physical and spirit realms, and that they are not one. They are opposites.

Teach us about our inheritance and our position in Christ in the Spirit realm and teach us to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Help us to recognize the physical and the flesh for what it is.

Teach us to not get so obsessed with things in the physical realm that Satan has access to. We pray that we will be strengthened in the inner man where Christ dwells.

May we prioritize our lives to grow in the grace and knowledge of our lord and savior Jesus Christ and be able to function in the Spirit realm in Christ as we fulfill this pilgrimage here on the earth. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen!