

EPHESIANS SESSION 2

Review: Last time we went through the first chapter of which Paul spoke about salvation in eternity before the world was. He told us that we were chosen in Christ and predestinated unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to God Himself. He spoke about the purpose of God which is, at the end of all dispensations of time, He will gather everything that is redeemed by Christ and unite it all in glory to Him. All this will be to the praise of the glory of His grace. Paul wrote about the sealing of the Holy Spirit of believers and how that it is the earnest of what we shall receive. He then shares a prayer that he is praying for them, a prayer for wisdom and divine revelation – to know the hope of His calling, to know what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, to know the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward.

The first chapter looks at our salvation from God's perspective in eternity past.

Chapter 2 looks at salvation from God's perspective in the present time.

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 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: *We were made alive by the new birth, who were spiritually dead in violations of God's law and coming short of His glory. Before we were saved, our conduct was like the rest of the world, we lived for our glory...not God's and Satan worked his will in us.*

Ephesians 2:3 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. *Our manner of life was to satisfy the lusts of our flesh and minds and live in rebellion to God, deserving and destined for His wrath.*

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) *Notice that our salvation started with God, not us. God is rich in mercy because it is a byproduct of His love for us. God loved us before we were made righteous - John 3:16* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *God has made us alive with Christ – when a person is saved, they are so joined to Christ in the gospel...they are crucified with Him, they are buried with Him in baptism, and they are raised up together with Him. We are saved by grace, not by chance...meaning it's a gift that we must receive and not owed to us by any means.*

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: *Not only are we raised up with Him, but we're seated with Him in heavenly places...this is how we access our spiritual blessings that Paul wrote about in chapter 1. Christ has all power and authority and as believers who are seated with Him, we can access that power and operate in His authority. We access these by faith and by being submitted to Him. We learn this by what the centurion said to Jesus - Matthew 8:8-10* The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. *The centurion revealed how authority works, by obedience! He knew how to be under authority, so he was placed in authority over others. The key to operating in spiritual authority is to be under the authority of Christ.*

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. *In the eternal ages, we will be trophies of His grace and kindness made possible by Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Not saved by works or effort of any kind...but by grace through faith. God dealt with us when He didn't have to and drew us to Himself; we believed Him and responded in obedience.*

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. *What we are now and what we will be is the direct result of God's work. We are His craft created in Jesus Christ unto good works – not saved by works but saved for good works. God determined before that this should be our lifestyle. Good works include the fruit of the Spirit being produced in us, our obedience to scripture in everyday situations and knowing the personal will of God for us and living that out.*

Ephesians 2:11-12 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; 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: *Good works are only good when they are motivated by love. The best motivation to serve God in love is to remember back to where He brought you from. Paul calls to the Ephesians to remember where you were before Jesus Christ saved you. You were cut off*

from God, aliens to the Israelites which had the covenants of promise, you had no hope of any kind.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. *Being in Christ has changed all of that. His blood brought you near to God and put you in covenant with Him.*

Ephesians 2:14-18 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 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; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. *Jesus Christ not only made peace between us and the Father, but He is the peace between Jew and Gentile. He put them on common ground which hadn't been since Jews existed. At Herod's temple, there was a large outer court for Gentiles to gather, but it was the farthest away from the sanctuary and separated from the Jews by a stone wall. There was a warning on the stone wall that stated if any Gentile entered the inner courtyard, it was punishable by death. Jesus Christ has broken down the middle wall of partition between the Jew and Gentile and in the body of Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. *God's presence was upon mount Horeb when Moses first encountered Him. It was called the mount of God. When the law was given, God ordered a tabernacle to be constructed, and He moved into that tent when everything was in order. Later after the kingdom was established, Solomon built the first temple and moved the contents of the tabernacle into it. The presence of God moved into the temple in the holy of holies where the ark of the covenant was. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn in two because God's presence left that house and now at this present time God dwells in people, not in buildings. The church is the New Testament habitation of God!*