

Joyful Life Bible Studies

EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO "OLD LIFE/NEW LIFE"

Lesson 3

The book of Ephesians is teaching us what it means to be *in* Christ and to be one *with* Christ; also, what it means to be a part of His body, the Church, and how He has appointed us to be a part of His body before the world began. In chapter one, Paul presents the master plan of God. He prays that we would really understand what it means to be *in* Christ, to be a part of His eternal plan, and what it means to be elected, redeemed, and granted an eternal inheritance. Paul tells us of the wonders and riches we possess because of our position in Christ. The plan for the riches in operation is in Chapter 2. Verses 1-10 show the contrast between the old nature and the new nature of the Christian and verses 11-22 describe the reconciliation of the Gentiles to God and the Gentiles to the Jews.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 several times. Underline the verses that minister to you.

DAY ONE

In Ephesians 2:1-3, Paul gives a clear description of the old nature.

1. How does Paul describe the nature of the spiritually dead in the following verses?
 - a. What is their spiritual condition?
 - (1.) Ephesians 2:1
 - (2.) Romans 6:23
 - (3.) Romans 8:6
 - (4.) James 1:15
 - b. What influences their lives?
 - (1.) Ephesians 2:2
 - (2.) Genesis 3:4
 - (3.) John 14:30
 - (4.) II Corinthians 4:4
 - c. What are their goals?
 - (1.) Ephesians 2:3
 - (2.) I Peter 4:3

Note: Paul said that people without Christ were dead-that is, spiritually dead-because there is no life without God.

Every sinner is born with a nature inherently hostile to God, and is therefore a child of wrath (see Psalm 51:5).

(3.) I John 2:16

d. What is the result of their lives?

(1.) Ephesians 2:3

(2.) John 3:18-20

(3.) Colossians 3:6-7

2. The first two words of Ephesians 2:4 have changed the course of history, and hopefully have changed the course of your life. What are they?

Now, complete the remainder of the verse:

Who is . . . _____ in _____

for His _____

wherewith _____

3. According to the following verses, what did God do for us?

Ephesians: 2:1,5 _____

Ephesians: 2:6 _____

Ephesians 2:6 _____

4. Why did God do this for us?

Ephesians 2:7 _____

DAY TWO

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Paul now returns to his favorite theme- grace. Salvation is of necessity a gracious gift from God. Write out these verses and memorize them. These verses prove conclusively that we are not saved by our works.

1. What are you saved by? _____
2. What are you saved through? _____
3. Where does this faith come from?
 - a. Ephesians 2:8
 - b. Romans 10:17
4. What does *not* save you? _____
5. According to Ephesians 2:10, what is our nature and purpose?
6. If our good works do not earn God's love or blessing for us, what is their purpose?

Matthew 5:16 _____

John 15:8 _____

Titus 3:8 _____
7. What does it mean to be "His workmanship"? (Isaiah 64:8) What does it mean to you?

DAY THREE
SUMMARY OF EPHESIANS 2:1-10

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does this passage make you respond to God for His gift of salvation?
2. Read Colossians 3:5-15. Note the characteristics of the old man and new man. In the column on the left, write down the characteristics of the old nature and on the right, the new nature.

OLD MAN	NEW MAN

3. What specific changes have taken place in your life since you found Christ?

4. Define the following words using a dictionary or a Bible dictionary.
 - a. quickened
 - b. trespasses
 - c. dead
 - d. course of this world

NOTE: Verse 6 is the key verse of this passage. It reveals we have been reconciled to God through Christ.

5. What does it mean to be seated with Christ in heavenly places?
6. What new insight have you gained from these verses?

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have ceased from my wandering and going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And my sins, which were many, are all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

DAY FOUR

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

1. What are you created for?
2. Why is it important to have good works in your life? (James 2:17-18)
3. Write down anything you find in the following passages that are some of the "good works" God has prepared for you to do?

To the world:

Matthew 25:34-40

James 1:27

James 5:20

I Peter 2:12

To your enemies:

Luke 6:35

Romans 12:20

To the brethren:

Titus 2:7

Hebrews 10:24

To your family:

Titus 2:4-5

I Peter 3:1-8

To unsaved relatives and friends:

John 1:41

John 1:45

4. According to John 15:4-8 how are we enabled to do good works?

5. What does "abiding in Christ" mean to you?

In chapter 2:1-10 we see how we as individual believers have been reconciled to God through Christ. Now in 2:11-22 we see how Jews and Gentiles have been made one body, the church, through Christ.

DAY FIVE

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 *slowly and carefully*.

Before Christ, only Jews were among those with whom God had begun a relationship. This relationship was His covenants with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Judah and Levi. They believed because of these covenants of promise that Jews were "close" to God and the Messiah and Gentiles were "far away".

BEFORE CHRIST: ENEMIES

1. How are the Gentiles (anyone who is not a Jew) described in verses 11-12.

a.

d.

b.

e.

c.

f.

NOTE: Circumcision-a ritual cutting away of the foreskin, signifying that a man is a Jew. Paul agreed with Moses' teaching that true circumcision is not "of the flesh" but "of the heart", that is, obedience in faith. (Deuteronomy 10:16; Romans 2:28-29).

2. Read verse 13. What is the new relationship of the Gentiles to God?
 - a. How has it been established?
 - b. Write verse 13 in your own words.
3. In verse 14, Paul says there was a "barrier", "partition", or "wall of division" between the Jews and Gentiles. What was this barrier that separated them? (verse 15).

DAY SIX

Read Ephesians 2:13-22

IN CHRIST: RECONCILED

1. How did Jesus accomplish the reconciliation of the Jews and Gentiles? (verses 13-16).
2. What is the "peace" that Jesus preached in verse 17? (Compare with verse 14).
3. What is the result of the work of Christ? (verse 18)

Not only have the Jews and Gentiles been made one, now we are all one in the body of Christ. There are no more partitions or barriers. Paul summarizes this truth in verses 19-22.

4. Read verse 19. According to this verse what were we and what have we become in Christ?
5. What foundation are we built upon? (verse 20).
 - a. Who is the Cornerstone?

b. What do these verses say about our foundation and the cornerstone?

(1.) Psalm 118:22

(2.) Isaiah 28:16

(3.) Matthew 21:42

(4.) Mark 12:10,11

(5.) Luke 20:17

(6.) Acts 4:11

(7.) I Corinthians 3:10,11

(8.) I Peter 2:6,7

Meditate on this. Notice how these verses are emphasized by the number of times they are repeated. What does this say to you?

We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit, and are part of this dwelling place of God. - Ephesians 2:21-22 TLB

6. From the above verses answer the questions below.

a. Whom are we joined together with?

b. Who is the temple (church) for?

c. Who joins us together?

d. What should this temple (church) constantly be doing?

7. What does I Corinthians 3:16,17 say about this temple of God?

8. In John 17:20-23 what did Jesus pray concerning unity among the believers?

Reflect on this song:

*"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred ties
Is like to that above."*