

# Our New Life With Christ

## Introduction

- 1. The book of Ephesians is one of the 4 prison epistles written by Paul while in prison in Rome.**
- 2. Ephesus was famous for the temple of the heathen goddess Diana, and the pagan worship of that idol.**
- 3. It was the elders of this church that Paul requested to come to Miletus on his return trip to Jerusalem to warn them that some among them would depart from the truth. He cautioned them to:**

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

- 4. The book of Ephesians is designed to help us to appreciate God's eternal plan in Christ.**
- 5. The first 3 chapters are a call to the believers. Chapter one shows that all spiritual blessings are only in Christ Jesus. To receive these spiritual blessings one must first get "into" Christ.**

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For **as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

## **Our New Life with Christ**

### **Ephesians 2:1-22**

- 1. Paul begins by describing the power of God in redemption (delivering us from sin and its penalties) by contrasting the Ephesians' former deadness with their present spiritual life in Christ.**
- 2. Their past spiritual deadness (2:1-3)**
  - A. Spiritual death (Separation from God) (2:1)**

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- 1) We need to understand how wretched we were in sin because this helps us appreciate the consequences of sin and the wonderfulness of Jesus that came to resurrect us from sin!**
- 2) Physical death separates the body from the spirit. (Luke 8:55)**
- 3) Spiritual death is the eternal absence of spiritual union with God.**
  - a. Spiritual death results from trespasses and sins (1 John 3:4) and each one must bear their own responsibility for sin (Ezekiel 18:20).**
  - b. When one dies a spiritual death it is because one determines to do his own will and not the will of God (Matthew 7:21).**

**B. Subjection to Satan (2:2)**

- 1) **Walking according to the ways of the world. Enemies of the cross of Christ (Philippians 3:18).**
- 2) **Satan is the father of all evil power, the prince or god of this world (John 12:31; 14:30).**

**C. Flesh-bound Affections (2:3a)**

- 1) **Carried away with our lusts which are passionate longings; earnest desires. Flesh bound Affections include those things of Galatians 5:16-21.**

**D. Under divine Condemnation (2:3b)**

- 1) **This was because of what they did, living in the lusts of the flesh. They became children of wrath (orneriness)**

**3. Their present spiritual life in Christ (2:4-10)**

- **Paul pictures man's complete ruin and now shows the glorious richness of God!**

Romans 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**A. Made alive (2:4-5)**

- 1) **We are made alive in Christ. We can only live in Him through obedience (Hebrews 5:9).**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

**2) We are saved by grace which is "undeserved blessing."**

**B. Raised to a higher form of life (2:6a)**

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**C. In the heavens (unseen sphere above the senses) (2:6b)**

**1) No longer wanting to serve sin, we are blessed with spiritual life. We are figuratively enthroned, sharing Christ's dignity in the spiritual realm.**

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

**D. We are the objects of His greatest favor (2:7)**

**1) God's love reaches out to man and man must then respond in love toward God. (Obedience)**

4. **This Salvation is by divine grace, not human merit (2:8-10)**
  - A. **Man sometimes becomes proud when they should be thankful. Humility is a precious virtue. Man has not originated works, nor done enough works to merit our own salvation. We are saved by grace and therefore it is not possible to be saved on our own advice or ability.**
  - B. **We should be able to see that salvation is by grace exhibited by our faith which causes us to DO as a result of our faith.**
    - 1) **The errors of Salvation by grace alone and Salvation by works alone are extremes and not taught by the word of God.**

## **The Household of God**

1. **(2:11-22) Our new relation in Christ. The church of Christ is a spiritual body embracing all believers in Christ.**
  - A. **Those that have submitted to Him in full obedience.**

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily **those who were being saved.**
2. **Now there is a contrast between the new condition and what they were before:**
  - A. **(2:11-12) At that time you were....(Five tragic things: Without Christ; Aliens; Strangers; No Hope; Without God)**
    - 1) **This is the condition that you are in this morning if you have not yet obeyed the gospel of Christ.**

**B. (2:13-18) But now in Christ Jesus.....(Five barriers He destroyed to save all of man, Jew and Gentile: Distance; Disunion; Division; Dissension; Distinction)**

**1) Christ's blood cleanses us from our sin (Vs 13)**

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**2) Only Jesus could break down the walls and establish peace (Vs 14).**

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**3) Jesus nailed the Law to His cross (Vs 15)**

Colossians 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

**4) Jesus came to reconcile us to God (Vs 16)  
Reconciliation is the restoration of harmonious relationship between separated persons.**

**C. (2:19-22) Now therefore you are....(Five points in the new relationship: Fellow-citizens; In the Heavenly household; On one foundation; Stones in the building; Indwelt by the One God)**

- 1) **We are the temple of God. God used us, who were once separated from Him, now built into one new man.**
  - a. **Vs 19 - We are his workmanship, the material for the Temple**
  - b. **Vs 20 - We are built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone in which is the primary foundation stone.**

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- c. **Vs 21 - As each new person of faith is fitted together with the others, the temple grows, building His house.**
- d. **Vs 22 - The purpose of this great continuous building program of God is to provide him a dwelling place among men.**

Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

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## Conclusion

If our greatest need had been **information**, God would have sent us an **educator**; If our greatest need had been **technology**, God would have sent us a **scientist**; If our greatest need had been **money**, God would have sent us an **economist**; If our greatest need had been **pleasure**, God would have sent us an **entertainer**; But our greatest need was **forgiveness**, so God sent us a **Savior**.

- 1. Won't you let Christ dwell in your heart?**
- 2. Put off the old self and put on the new.**
- 3. Be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**



