

A Study of Ephesians 2

I. Outline.

1. ALIVE through the saving grace of God (2:1-10).
 - 1) Before the gospel, these Christians and we were walking according to the spirit of disobedience (1-3).
 - 2) BUT, God made them/us alive together with Christ by grace (4-7).
 - 3) It is by grace through THE FAITH that we are saved (8-9).
 - 4) We are His workmanship (10).
2. Both Jew and Gentile are reconciled together in ONE BODY (2:11-22).
 - 1) The terrible description of separation from God (11-12).
 - 2) BUT, now IN CHRIST, the middle wall of partition is broken down, granting ACCESS (13-18).
 - 3) No more strangers, but fellow-citizens (19).
 - 4) The habitation of God (20-22).

II. Summary.

From: Roy C. Deaver, "The Church of Christ—And the Book of Ephesians," in *The Church of Christ—Essential, All-Sufficient, Indestructible, Perpetually Relevant*, edited by Thomas B. Warren, pp. 306ff].

FROM CHAPTER TWO, we learn the following about the church: It is composed of those who have been MADE ALIVE—who have been RAISED from the dead. It is a marvelous demonstration of God's power. It is composed of those who have made the proper response to God's love and grace. It is a marvelous demonstration of God's love. It is God's workmanship. It is His creation. It is God's means of accomplishing 'good works'—His works. It is composed of people whose lives in it are in marvelous contrast to their lives outside. It is the sacred realm of purity. It is spiritual Israel. It is the realm of nearness to God. It is the realm of sacred peace. It is the realm of blessed unity. It is the area of heavenly citizenship. It is God's household—God's family. It is God's dwelling place—God's holy temple.

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here: <http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW>

IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- Chapter 2... "Paul's theme in this chapter continues to be the glorious blessings of the saved 'in Christ,' as contrasted with their former state of being without any hope whatever. Those who were once 'dead in sins' are now alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-10); and those who were once 'aliens and strangers separated from God' are now members of God's family (Eph. 2:11-22)." [Coffman].
- Ephesians 2.1... **DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS**—"These citizens of Ephesus were dead in sin; and by repentance they died to sin; and then these doubly dead men were buried in a watery grave, baptism (Rom. 6.3-5) and resurrected to walk in newness of life. In this way, God made them alive when they were dead in their trespasses and sins [(2014-08-01). *Prison Epistles: The 5th Annual Brown Trail Alumni Lectures* (Kindle Locations 412-414). Hopkins Publishing, Inc.. Kindle Edition].
- Ephesians 2.2... "**THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR**. Called elsewhere the prince of this world, Satan. Why he is called "prince of the power of the air" is not certain; various explanations are given. Probably his subtle influences and whisperings pervade the air, and come upon us as unconsciously as the vital fluid we breathe. The Jews held that the atmosphere was the abode of evil angels." [B.W. Johnson, *The People's New Testament*].

- Ephesians 2:3... **BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH**—“Prior to yielding to Christ, all men lived according to their fleshly desires and thoughts. Wicked ways were followed until they became second nature. Such living for self makes one a child of the devil, because he takes on his characteristics, and calls for God's wrath (Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 1:18-32). Sinful man, then, faces inevitable destruction if his position is not altered (2:3” [Gary C. Hampton, *Walking in the Lord's Way*, an e-Sword Module].
- Ephesians 2:4... **BUT GOD** “God took the initiative. Many people remain optimistic that man can deliver himself. A common belief is that mankind with his technology, education, and resources will one day solve all his social problems. Such is naive optimism, the same type of attitude that motivates the devil to keep on working, even though he is involved in a hopeless cause. “Neither education nor legislation can rescue human beings from spiritual death, captivity, or condemnation” (Stott p. 79). **RICH IN MERCY...** Enough mercy exists for all and forgiveness is available for every sin that man will forsake. This view of God is frequent in the Old Testament where it is said that He "abounds in mercy" (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8; Jonah 4:2). “The fact that we became the victims of our own bad choices does not prevent God from having mercy” (Boles p. 223)” [Mark Dunagan Commentaries, an e-Sword Module].
- Ephesians 2:5... **EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS**—“The person who is a sinner is DEAD as far as God is concerned. In the Bible death does NOT imply unconsciousness, or annihilation, or going out of existence. Both the good and evil are still conscious after physical death (Rev 6:9-10; Luke 16:22-24; Isa 14:9-10). Death is simply a COMPLETE CHANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS, or a SEPARATION from former relationships. ... Now when a person is dead in sins, he can still walk around among us. But he is as cut off from God as a man in the grave is cut off from us” [Wilbur Fields, *The Glorious Church*, p. 56].
- Ephesians 2:6... **...AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS**—“He calls the church its principles, services, promises, all of which are enjoyed in Christ, heavenly places. The church of God is the reign of heaven on earth. The truth, services, and hopes are all heavenly. The temper to be cultivated is heavenly” [David Lipscomb, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles*, Volume IV, p. 42].
- Ephesians 2:7... **SHEW THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US**—“‘The boundless wealth of His loving-kindness’ (TCNT). ‘The tremendous generosity of the grace’ (Phi). ‘How immense are the resources of His grace’ (NEB). Bruce put it well when he said, ‘It implies one age supervening on another like successive waves of the sea, as far into the future as thought can reach. Throughout time and in eternity, the church, this society of pardoned rebels, is designed by God to be the masterpiece of His goodness’ (p. 288). Our present salvation is just the tip of the iceberg. God, in the ages to come, desires to demonstrate the generosity of His kindness. God will never tire of us. Even in heaven Christians will continue to experience the wealth of God's kindness. ‘While manmade religions have men trying to appease the wrath of their angry gods, this text shows how eager God is to display His lovingkindness. It must be noted, however, that God's eternal kindness is available only in Christ Jesus’ (Boles pp. 225-226). We need to remember that God's kindness has always been conditional (Genesis 6:8-9; Lamentations 3:25; Isaiah 64:4). ‘It excels men's kindness. Men tend to sulk and withdraw from those who violate their trust, but God offers grace out of His kindness’ (Caldwell p. 80)” [Mark Dunagan].
- Ephesians 2:8... **FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH**—“THE FAITH. God's grace is revealed in the gospel (the faith – Galatians 1:11, 23). We are saved by grace through the faith. The grace of God teaches (Titus 2:11-12). When we hear the word of his grace Acts 20:32), and obey it (Rom 6:17-18), we are his children” [Harold Littrell, *English Study Bible*, footnote, p. 313]. The Textus Receptus does have the definite article before pisteos, “faith.”
- Ephesians 2:10... **FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP**--“One who is a Christian works under the same imperative compulsion as that which rested upon the Christ who said, We must work the works of

him that sent me (John 9:4). Any theory which divorces the works a Christian must do from having any connection with his salvation is a false theory. It is true, to be sure, that even the good works of Christians are in no sense adequate grounds of God's justification lavished upon them in Christ; but they are conditions antecedent to eternal life, which may indeed, for cause, be waived by the Father in love, but which may not, under any circumstances, be rejected with impunity by arrogant man who simply decide they will do it 'by faith alone' [Coffman].

- Ephesians 2:11-12... “There is a progression in these two verses describing the pre-Christian state of Gentile Christians. Physically they lacked the ancient sign of the covenant; politically they had no part in Israel's national or religious life, and spiritually they had no knowledge of the true God” [Coffman].
- Ephesians 2.13... **MADE NIGH BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST**—“But since the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached to them, and they had believed it, these Gentiles who were far from God, far from the people of God, have been made nigh by the blood of Christ. [Jesus Christ came to break down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile and to make peace between them. He came to bring all nigh to God and to one another. The way to unite people to one another is to unite them all to God. Jesus brought them to God by shedding his blood for them to reconcile them to God.] Jesus said: **“I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd.”** (John 10:15-16). There were those among both Jews and Gentiles who would hear his voice, these he would call into the one fold by his bloodshed, his life laid down for them, that they might be one fold” [David Lipscomb, An e-Sword Module].
- Ephesians 2:14... **FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION**—“This is a picture from the Temple. The Temple consisted of a series of courts, each one a little higher than the one that went before, with the Temple itself in the inmost of the courts. First there was the Court of the Gentiles; then the Court of the Women; then the Court of the Israelites; then the Court of the Priests; and finally the Holy Place itself. Only into the first of them could a Gentile come. Between it and the Court of the Women there was a wall, or rather a kind of screen of marble, beautifully wrought, and let into it at intervals were tablets which announced that if a Gentile proceeded any farther he was liable to instant death. Josephus, in his description of the Temple, says: ‘When you went through these first cloisters unto the second court of the Temple, there was a partition made of stone all round, whose height was three cubits. Its construction was very elegant; upon it stood pillars at equal distances from one another, declaring the law of purity, some in Greek and some in Roman letters that no foreigner should go within the sanctuary’ (The Wars of the Jews, 5, 5, 2). In another description he says of the second court of the Temple: ‘This was encompassed by a stone wall for a partition, with an inscription which forbade any foreigner to go in under pain of death’ (The Antiquities of the Jews, 15, 11, 5). In 1871 one of these prohibiting tablets was actually discovered, and the inscription on it reads: ‘Let no one of any other nation come within the fence and barrier around the Holy Place. Whosoever will be taken doing so will himself be responsible for the fact that his death will ensue’” [William Barclay, Daily Study Bible].
- Ephesians 2.15... **HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY**—“Jesus became a man so that the law of Moses with all its commands and ordinances could be put out of the way. This was done by causing it to cease being a law in force. Thus, where there had been two bodies of people, Jew and Gentile, there would now be only one. The two were able to be at peace (Ephesians 2:15)” [Gary C. Hampton].
- Ephesians 2.16... **THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE**—“Man's sin stood between him and God, actually making him an enemy of the Father (Isaiah 59:1-2). Jesus came to make an offering for sin so that Jew and Gentile would have a way to again be friends with God, or reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:19). This reconciliation takes place in the one body, which Paul has already identified as the church, by Christ's death and blood shed on the cross (Acts 20:28). Christ's resurrection was the

means of destroying the reason for man's being an enemy, sin, and ridding him of its consequences, death (Ephesians 2:16; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)" [Gary C. Hampton].

- Ephesians 2.17... **AND CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU**—"The coming was subsequent to the transactions of the cross. It cannot denote what Christ did personally, but what he did by sending the Holy Spirit to the apostles and other early preachers of the gospel. It was only after the cross and after the resurrection that peace could be proclaimed on the footing of faith in a Savior who had died and that God had raised him from the dead. And only in the sense of having sent Paul and other proclaimers of the gospel could Jesus be said to have preached to the Ephesians.]" [J.W. Shepherd, David Lipscomb Commentary Series, an e-Sword Module].
- Ephesians 2.20... **BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS**—"The church is a building with individual Christians laid as its stones on the foundation of Christ (1 Peter 2:5). The apostles and prophets of the first century were the ones who proclaimed Jesus as the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:13-20). There are two different thoughts on the cornerstone. Lipscomb describes it as a massive stone off of which two lines of the building are formed. It being perfectly square would be imperative to a well-formed structure. However, others believed it to refer to the stone which holds together the roof or a supporting arch. In any case, this stone is a key part of the structure without which the building could not take form. Such a stone perfectly represents Christ (Ephesians 2:20)" [Gary C. Hampton].
- Ephesians 2.21... **FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER**—"Christ is indispensable to the unity of the church. This means, that when congregations divide someone is no longer listening to Christ. Only Jesus Christ can bring us altogether, even if we are from diverse backgrounds (like Jew and Gentile). If we can all agree that Jesus has the final say in all religious matters (Matthew 28:18), that He is the sole Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and that the Church must be subject to Him in everything (Ephesians 5:24), then we can be united. What unites Christians is not some humanly devised system of 'how we can agree to disagree.' What unites Christians is a mindset that says Christ is in charge and we all agree to obey Him (1 Corinthians 1:10). If we can have the attitudes which Christ commanded us (Ephesians 4:1-3), and if we can believe the truths that Christ has commanded us (Ephesians 4:4-6), then we will have unity" [Mark Dunagan].
- Ephesians 2:22... **IN WHOM YE ALSO ARE BUILDED TOGETHER FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT**—"In Christ all the building (or each several building) is fitly framed together. (This same expression is used in 4:16 to describe the church as the body of Christ.) Truly the enmity between Jews and Gentiles, and the enmity between all men and God is broken down in the church, and thus every part is FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER into one structure. It is necessary for it to be FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER before it will grow" [Wilbur Fields, The Glorious Church, p. 74].

V. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Ephesians 2.3... CHILDREN OF WRATH** (2:3)—"The fact that we were BY NATURE children of wrath does not imply that we were born into the world with God's wrath upon us because of some guilt we inherited from Adam. NATURE here refers to conduct practiced so long and habitually that it has become our natural way of living. The apostle speaks of men being by nature children of wrath as the effect (rather than the cause) of our trespasses and sins. The quibble advanced by some theologians that, 'We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners,' lays all the blame for our sins upon Adam (or upon GOD) instead of upon ourselves where it belongs. Numerous passages teach that children are NOT BORN CONDEMNED and subject to God's wrath (Matthew 19:14; Romans 5:18, etc.)" [Fields, p. 58].
2. **Ephesians 2.10... FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP**--"We were created by God through Christ Jesus for good works. This CREATION refers to our spiritual creation, which took place at conversion (2 Cor 5:17). If we do not do good works, we defeat God's purpose in giving us His favor. God

made many preparations (such as sending Christ, the Holy Spirit, etc.) that all whom He would save should live doing good works” [Fields, p. 62].

3. **Ephesians 2.14... FOR HE IS OUR PEACE**--“For Christ is the author of the peace that we have with one another and with God. He has made both Jew and Gentile to be one people of God, and He has abolished the law of Moses which served as a partition between Jews and Gentiles for centuries” [Fields, p. 67].
4. **Ephesians 2.14-16 Abrogation of the Law of Moses.**
 - 1) Two aspects of reconciliation: Man to God; Jew to Gentile.
 - 2) The WHAT—Enmity, Law of Commandments...
 - 3) The WHERE—At the Cross (Ephesians 2.16).
 - 4) The WHY—To make ONE from two: Jew and Gentile.
 - 5) In verse 15, the one new man is the church.
5. **The Essentiality of Being in the Church** (Eph 2:16 + Eph 1:22-23).
 - 1) Singular in number.
 - 2) Essential in membership.
6. **The church pictured in Ephesians 2.**
 - 1) The body (Ephesians 2.16).
 - 2) The temple (Ephesians 2.22).
 - 3) The building (Ephesians 2.20-21).
 - 4) The kingdom (Ephesians 2.19).
 - 5) The church (Ephesians 2.19).
 - 6) The household or family (Ephesians 2.19).
7. **What we WERE is not as important as what we ARE.**

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. ____ Reconciliation of Jew and Gentile is accomplished in one body.
02. ____ Gentiles were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.
03. ____ The word CONVERSATION in this chapter means talking to someone.
04. ____ There is nothing in this chapter about spiritual growth.
05. ____ The word ONLY is used in this chapter to modify GRACE.

MATCHING

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Fellowcitizens | F. Quickened with Christ |
| B. Abolished | G. Christ’s blood |
| C. Boast | H. Works |
| D. Save ourselves | I. Still in effect |
| E. Dead by sins | J. Acquainted |
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06. ____ Were dead in sins, but now,
 07. ____ No more strangers and foreigners, but
 08. ____ If saved by meritorious works, we could
 09. ____ The law of commandments

10. _____ We are able to draw nigh because of

Fill in the Blanks

11. How thankful we need to be that our God is rich in _____.

12. In the Old Testament, Solomon built a temple for the Lord; in Ephesians, Paul told Christians they were the _____ of God through the _____.

13. God raised us up to sit together in _____ places in _____.

14. _____ is the frightening position of those who are outside of Christ.

15. Paul tells us that Jesus came and preached _____ to the Gentiles.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Ephesians 1 Questions... **01**—True (16); **02**—True (10); **03**—False (13); **04**—True (15); **05**—True (22-23); **06**—B (3); **07**—A (7); **08**—E (13); **09**—C (18); **10**—D (22); **11**—above, dominion, name (21); **12**—praise, grace (6); **13**—saints, Ephesus (1); **14**—an, inheritance (11); **15**—cease, thanks (16).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL

B O T H K F U C S E K A T
 A L O V E V L G V B H H R
 C Q G M A K E R P E A C E
 C U E B S T R A N G E R S
 O I T U F R I C H V H M P
 R C H I L D R E N I G H A
 D K E L E C H R I S T N S
 I E R D S A A I J E S U S
 N N E E H L V T S M A D E
 G E V D J L I I P S I N S
 I D E A D E N M I T Y W A
 B T N F D D G E R M T A V
 H N G M O K B E I N G L E
 A L S O M N M Q T Y A K D

ACCORDING	ALSO	BEING	BOTH	BUILD
CALL	CHILDREN	CHRIST	DEAD	ENMITY
EVEN	FLESH	GRACE	HAVING	JESUS
LOVE	MADE	MAKE	NIGHT	PEACE
QUICKENED	RICH	SAVED	SINS	SPIRIT
STRANGERS	TIME	TOGETHER	TRESPASSES	WALK

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.

Ephesians 2 (KJV)															
1															
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11															
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			13						14						
15															

<u>ACROSS</u>	<u>DOWN</u>
01) We are saved by grace through it.	01) Christians are no more strangers and foreigners, but ____.
04) God ____ us together with Christ.	02) It makes living people dead.
05) Abolished in His flesh.	03) God is rich in it.
07) Used to describe grace.	06) Gentile Christians became this.
10) Christians are this for God.	08) A wall was broken down to ____ Jews & Gentiles unto God.
11) From this came one new man.	09) Result of breaking down the wall.
14) Gentiles, before becoming Christians, were this.	12) We are saved by it.
15) ____ from the covenants of promise.	13) Ephesian Christians were ____ in trespasses.

IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...

Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!

W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?

W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...

W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...