

Ephesians Chapter 2

Introduction: *In this chapter Paul continues to expound on the outworking of God's amazing plan to produce the masterpiece of His plan, "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:10), made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers, who become one body in Christ Jesus. Where chapter one focused on our possessions in Christ, this chapter looks at our position in Christ. Throughout chapter 2, Paul is developing what he means in Ephesians 1:23 by "His body," He is speaking of the family of God, newly formed, made up of both Jew and Gentile, both reconciled to God and to each other.*

Words to define:

1. dead(2288); *thanatos*, that separation (whether natural or violent) of the soul from the body by which life on earth has ended.
2. trespasses(3900); *paraptoma*, transgressions which are unintentional and committed out of ignorance (Matt.6:14). Transgressions which are deliberate, intentional, see Romans 5:12-19, results is imputed sin, position in Adam.
3. sins(266); *hamartia*, to error, miss the mark, swerve from the truth.

The Blessings of Our Position in Christ (vs.1-10)

I. What We Were without Christ (vs.1-3).

1. Dead in trespasses and sins. Note the pronoun, *you*, refers to Gentiles (v.1).
See Romans 5:12; 1Cor. 15:22, Rom. 6:19-21.
2. Could only live according to the course of this world (v.2).
See John 3:19; 1 John 2:15-17, Col. 1:13).
3. Jewish unbelievers, with all their devotion to the law, were just as lost as Gentiles and destined to the wrath of God. Note Paul switches from "you" to "we"(v.3). See John 3:18, 36).

Summary: Five Spiritual Characteristics of the Unsaved:

1. They are spiritually dead in the realm of sin.
2. They live life on a course to eternal destruction.
3. They are unconsciously slaves under the rule of Satan.
4. They are under the influence of the spirit of rebellion against God.
5. They are by their fallen nature children of Adam, condemned to wrath.

II. What We Become by Faith in Christ (vs. 4-10).

1. The contrast between the lost and the saved, But God (v.4).
2. Three things God does for those who believe in Christ.
 1. He makes them alive with Christ(v.5).
 2. He raises them up with Christ (v.6).
 3. He causes them to sit with Christ in the heavenly realm (v.6).
3. The Church will shine throughout all eternity (Millennial Kingdom and Eternity Future) as evidence of His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (v.7).
4. For by grace you have been saved (v.8).
5. Not of works (v.9).
6. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand (v.10).

Summary: What We Become in Christ by Grace through Faith:

1. We are made spiritually and eternally alive.
2. We share in His resurrection life.
3. We are seated with Him in victory and power.
4. We are His masterpiece in time and His trophy in eternity.
5. We are a new creation designed for good works that He planned for each of us.

The Blessings of One Body in Christ (vs.11-22).

In verse 1-10, Paul has clarified what God has done for each believer as an individual. Now in verses 11-22, he shows how God is building the Church corporately into a spiritual temple, indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He is expounding on Jesus' statement, "*on this rock, I will build My church*" (Matt.16:18).

I. Time Past (vs.11-12).

1. In Time past Gentiles, who were called the uncircumcision, were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world (vs.11-12).

II. But Now (vs.13-16).

1. By faith both Jew and Gentile are now One in Christ(vs.13-16).

III. The Body of Christ is the Temple of the Spirit (vs.17-22).

Summary:

In the book of Genesis, God walked with His people(Gen.5:22, 24, 6:9), but in Exodus, He decided to dwell with His people (Ex.25:8). God dwelt in the tabernacle (Ex.25:8) until Israel's sins caused "the glory to depart"(1Sam.4). Then God dwelt in the temple (1Kings 8:1-11), but again, Israel sinned and the glory departed (Ezek. 10:18-19). God's next dwelling was the body of Christ in His earthly ministry (John 1:14), which men took and nailed to a cross. Since the day of Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit permanently indwells those who have believed in Christ (1 Cori. 6:19-20) and is building us together into the body of Christ (Eph. 2:20-22).