

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2.1-10

-Paul talks about the salvation of the Ephesian Christians - He gives 5 characteristics of the Ephesians before they obeyed the gospel.

V1 – 1. They were dead in their trespasses and sin

-**How is Paul using the word “dead” here?** Spiritual death (separation from God)

V2 – 2. They formerly walked according to the course of the world – in other words, they pursued the life that everyone else pursued – they "kept up with the Jones"

- 3. They walked according to prince of the power of the air

-The world has a god = the devil

-Paul: Satan is now working among people and produces disobedience

V3 – 4. They formerly lived in the lusts of their flesh (fulfilling the desires of the flesh)

Too bad - lust has a high price

-Notice prices on windows of any local liquor store

- 5. They were children of wrath

-Sin produces hatred, anger, and bitterness

-That is why church get-togethers are so much fun – the attitudes of hatred and wrath are gone

-**Those Ephesus Christians must have been pretty bad before they were converted, don't you imagine?** But we all have experienced these things

V4 – “*Being rich in mercy*” – God is more than willing for us to be saved!

-**Why did he extend so much mercy to us?** Because he loved us so much as his children

-He is not stingy with his mercy

-Remember that the apostle Paul referred to himself as the chief of sinners, yet he received forgiveness (*1 Timothy 1.15*)

V5 – Just as Jesus was resurrected from the dead, we too are raised up from deadness to sin and are made alive together with Christ

-We are saved by the grace of God (maybe given to show the Jewish converts that they should not glory in works of flesh)

V6 – We are in “*heavenly places*” – **Any ideas?** Paul seems to be referring the fact that we are represented before the throne of God by our savior Jesus Christ

-The church is a special kingdom, and in Christ we are given opportunity to be in church

V7 – **Why did God put us in heavenly places?** So future generations would know of his love for us

-Notice “*the surpassing riches*” – the extravagance of God's love

V8 – **How are we saved?** We are saved by grace through our faith

- We cannot save ourselves
- Why?** We cannot be perfect
- Salvation is a gift
- Are we saved only by grace?** No.
- There might be a sign out on road: "Free kittens" – but we must accept the offer; we have to go to the house and get a kitten
- We must also accept God's offer
- Some groups today are saying that we are saved by grace only, but that is just not true
- The truth: Salvation = grace + a working faith (*James 2.17*)
- We have to make a response to the offer of grace from God
- In other words, we must do something to receive grace
- Example: *1 Peter 3.21* – We are saved by being baptized

V 9 – If we build a hospital for children, can we boast of that? No

- Why?** It is not good enough to save us

V 10 – What a summary of the Christian life!

- What reasons do we have for living good and faithful lives?** We are his workmanship and were created for good works – God wants us to walk in his ways
- To those who say we are saved wholly by grace, Paul added *v 10* – we also are expected to live the Christian life
- We are covered by grace, but we cannot just do what we want and expect to be forgiven

Ephesians 2.11-16

- Paul continues to lay the foundation for Christian living

V 11 – What group in the church at Ephesus does he address? Gentiles (not circumcised)

V 12 – What problems did they have before being converted?

1. Separated from Christ
 2. Not in commonwealth of Israel
 3. Strangers to the covenant of promise
 4. No hope
 5. Without God in the world
- They faced a hopeless future
 - This explains the great despair of modern writers and movie makers and poets, etc.
 - They have no hope

V 13 – Interesting verse – **Read John 10.16**

- Mormons say this is a reference to Jesus visiting North America in the First Century, but Paul was referring to the Gentiles
- Paul: Live the Christian life in gratitude at being given salvation

V 14 – What did Christ do for Gentiles and Jews? Made peace between them!

- Do we have problems like this today?** Race problems, Armenians and Turks, Greeks and

Turks, Jews and Palestinians, Chinese and Japanese, etc.
-The answer is for them to have Christianity in their hearts

V 15 – **How did Christ make peace between Jews and Gentiles?** Abolished the Law of commandments.

-So Ten Commandments are not binding on us today

-The Old Law was nailed to the cross (the ordinances also)

-**Read Colossians 2.14** – The Old Law was nailed to the cross and died when Jesus died on the cross

-**Peace?** No more special privileges for the Jews

V 16 – **Are Jews and Gentiles able to worship together?** Yes

Ephesians 2.17-22

V 17 – Again a reference to the Gentiles

V 18 – There is one Spirit – all may approach God through that one Spirit

V 19 – **Explain "you":** Gentiles (they now have the same rights as Jews)

V 20 – **Upon whom was the church built?** Apostles and prophets (they had had divine revelations)

-The cornerstone was Christ

-**Where do the teachings of humans come in?** No-where

V 21 – **Read 1 Peter 2.5** – We are also stones in that building

-Eating in the church building is a human problem, not a problem for God

-**Why?** Because the temple is spiritual in nature (the people, not the building)

V 22 – The church is where God dwells

Revised 2012-12-21