

LESSON 27: EPHESIANS 2-3
JUNE 21, 2017

OVERVIEW

- . The believers personal position in grace – Ephesians 2:1-10
- . The believers relationship to the church – Ephesians 2:11-22

THE BELIEVER'S PERSONAL POSITION IN GRACE – EPHESIANS 2:1-10

- . These verses describe the power of Christ's resurrection in regard to the body of Christ of which he is the head
 - . The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the grave now operates by quickening the members of the body and exalting them to the place the Head already is
 - . A believer, as a member of the body, has the power to receive the fullness of Christ and be set apart, sanctified, and be as Holy as God calls us to be
- . Paul mentions four things regarding the grave from which the believer has been raised – Ephesians 2:1-3
 - . God saw the unregenerate person as spiritually dead
 - . One sin alone results in spiritual death in God's eyes
 - . The soul who sins will die – Ezekiel 18:4,20
 - . The wages of sin is death – Romans 6:23
 - . When you eat of it you will surely die – Genesis 2:17
 - . In this way death came to all sinned – Romans 5:12
 - . Jesus said that until a person has passed from death into life God considers that person spiritually dead – John 5:24
 - . The ruler behind ones former being and behavior Paul refers to as ruler of the kingdom of air
 - . Christ calls this spirit the prince of the world – John 14:30
 - . Although invisible, he is real
 - . Personality includes an ability to reason, knowledge, desires
 - . Has an invisible but powerful kingdom – Luke 11:18
 - . His influence permeates the moral, intellectual and emotional atmosphere of the world
 - . Although God's spirit also is at work in this world, for the time being, He is allowing the force of evil to also be at work in the world
 - . For us to choose to disobey God (sin) we are choosing to obey and yield to this force

- . Standards of the spiritually dead person
 - . Before the Holy Spirit created a new, supernatural life within us, we all lived following the desires of self
 - . Everything we did before was based on what we as fallen humanity desired, instead of being based upon God's mind and will
- . We were by nature deserving the wrath of God
 - . Because we belonged to a fallen race we became children of wrath
 - . The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all godlessness and wickedness of men – Romans 1:18
- . God's love in raising the believer in Christ – Ephesians 2:4-5
 - . Despite our previous condition God never stopped loving us
 - . So great was His love that he gave His only Son to suffer the weight of the punishment of sin in our place
 - . Although we were dead in transgressions, He made us alive again in Christ
- . The believer's present position – Ephesians 2:6
 - . Those who are in Christ by God's grace through faith are raised with Him
 - . We live by His life, enjoying His presence, a part of His body, which is seated at the right hand of our Father
 - . We continue to live on earth, in the presence of evil, yet we have a new dimension
 - . Sin is still all around us and continues to be in us, but we have the power to defeat it
 - . To say that sin is in us means that the knowledge of evil still resides in our mind, still wants to take control over us
- . The believer's position in the ages to come – Ephesians 2:7-10
 - . In this coming age God will display the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to His redeemed people
 - . Our minds will know nothing but the love of God
 - . Absent will be the presence of evil, always lurking behind the next thought
 - . Absent will be the many ways that evil manifests itself everyday all around us
 - . The body will be one, in all ways, in the presence of God

THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH – EPHESIANS 2:11-22

- . The gentiles past position – Ephesians 2:11-13
 - . Uncircumcised
 - . Circumcision symbolized a cutting off of the sins of the flesh, as well as an outward seal of belonging to God by faith in the promises of the Old Testament- Genesis 17
 - . The circumcised person knew God's law and was pledged to try to

- live according to it
 - . The uncircumcised gentile didn't follow the God of Abraham or the laws laid down
- . Aliens
 - . The gentile had no knowledge of God's spiritual wealth
- . Lived without the promise of a Messiah (savior)
 - . The concept of Messiah didn't enter their very being because they didn't think they were lost and needed saving
- . Without any real eternal purpose
 - . Life was simply the here and now without any bigger than life purpose
 - . "We live, we die" explanation of all things seems meaningless
 - . "Everything is the result of random chance:" rings of hopelessness
- . No feeling of oneness that transcends the earthly order of things
- . The believers present position in the church – Ephesians 2:13-20
 - . Christian baptism replaces the old law of circumcision as the new outwardly sign of committing oneself to the "new" covenant
 - . Under the "new" order God wants an inward circumcision of the heart which can only happen through a personal choice of committing oneself completely to being sanctified by allowing the Holy Spirit to be at the center of every decision and every action
 - . Oneness with fellow believers
 - . Gentile and Jew are now One in Christ, removing the barriers that once separated them
 - . There is now a universal Oneness that transcends human borders and human circumstances
 - . Access by one Spirit to the Father – Ephesians 2:18
- . The believer's future position in the church – Ephesians 2:21-22
 - . Corporately, the whole building – the new humanity- is moving toward its eternal destiny
 - . As a member of the Church, we need to embrace our role, our place in this new order
 - . Like a brick that has taken its place in the new cathedral, we too, have taken our rightful place in the new Church

NEXT LESSON: JULY 5, 2017 – EPHESIANS 4:1-6:9

**** I WOULD LIKE TO FLIP FLOP JULY 12 AND JULY 19. I WILL TAKE JULY 12 AND MOVE THE OTHER STUDY TO JULY 19. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SWITCH JULY 26 AND AUGUST 2. I WILL TAKE JULY 26 AND THE OTHER STUDY WOULD MOVE TO AUGUST 2. THEN WE WOULD GO BACK TO NORMAL SCHEDULE WITH MY STUDY ON AUGUST 16.**