



Sunday September 04, 2016
Ephesians ch 2 : Seated in Heavenly Places

Quick review of last week

In Chapter 1, Paul introduces us to the amazing spiritual inheritance we have as believers in Christ.

- ✓ We are called saints
- ✓ We are blessed with every spiritual blessing
- ✓ We are chosen in Him
- ✓ We are holy and without blame, always covered with His love
- ✓ We are redeemed
- ✓ We have an inheritance (abundant blessings)
- ✓ We are accepted in the Beloved
- ✓ We are recipients of His abundant grace and glory
- ✓ We are sealed by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ We have the guarantee of future inheritance and redemption
- ✓ We belong to the One who is above all, and hence we draw our authority from Him
- ✓ We are filled with Himself

We learn what to pray for believers, four important revelation that we need to keep growing in.

CHAPTER 2

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
Ephesians 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

These three verses talk about each of us in our unsaved spiritual condition.

We were dead in sins

We lived according to the ways of this world

We were actually under the influence of powers of darkness

We lived to satisfy the ungodly cravings of our flesh and mind

Our very nature was corrupt



Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Consider what language Paul uses to capture God's heart towards us, while we were still in our depraved condition: rich in mercy, great love, exceeding riches of His grace, His kindness.

He made us alive with Christ

He raised us up together

He made us sit together in Christ

This is our life in Christ - we are alive, we are seated at the Father's right hand in Christ.

This is our position in the spiritual realm

God did this so that in all of eternity future this will stand as a testimony of His abundant grace and kindness to us in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Ephesians 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

All that we experience in our life in Christ, beginning with salvation is by grace through faith.

This also tells us that if we are to experience here on earth, all that Paul has been revealing to us in Chapters 1 on till now, it will be by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We are what God is doing.

We are in Christ Jesus - our life is in Him and we live out of that life in Him. He is the Vine we are the branches and we bear the fruit of being in Him.

God has "good works" that he planned ahead of time for us to walk in them.

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Paul reminds us that as Gentiles (non Jewish people) we were not in covenant with God, had no understanding of a relationship with God. But now, because we are in Christ, we are "in", we are Covenant people, we are made God's own people through the blood of Jesus Christ.



Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Paul shares with us what the Lord Jesus has done for us - both Jews and Gentiles: He has made us one - in Jesus there is neither Greek nor Jew (Galatians 3:28). The "middle wall of separation", "the law of commandments contained in ordinances" has been abolished. We, both Jews and Gentiles are now "one new man", following the Lord Jesus and His Word for us. This has been made possible through the what Jesus accomplished on the Cross.

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

The Lord Jesus came to bring the message of peace, reconciliation to all. All of us now have access through Jesus to the Father, by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

We now belong. We are in the family of God.

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

God used the apostles and prophets to lay the foundation. Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone and we are being built in a holy temple - the dwelling place of God, by His Spirit.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Know your position because of being in Christ
- ✓ Live out of this life in Christ by grace through faith.
- ✓ Know that you are His workmanship - God is at work in you
- ✓ Walk into the things God has prepared for you
- ✓ Know that you belong - you are in Covenant with God, you have access to the Father, you are part of the family of God
- ✓ We are a dwelling place of God. God wants to dwell among us, walk among us as a community of believers. Let us "host" God's presence.