

The Book of Ephesians

Chapter 2

Review

- Written by Paul around 60 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome (see Acts 28:30-31)
- Can be divided into two sections
 - The Blessings for Christians – Doctrinal – Chapters 1-3
 - The Behavior of Christians – Practical – Chapters 4-6
- In Chapter 1 we saw the blessings of God in our salvation (1:3-14) and Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (1:15-23)

Chapter 2

- I. The Blessings of the New Creation – vs. 1-10
 - In Chapter 1 we saw God's work of salvation *externally* from God's perspective (*He* forgave us, *He* adopted us, etc.) but in this section we *internally* by focusing on the effects of salvation in a believer.
 - The chapter opens continuing the thoughts from the previous chapter, probably back to 1:19-20 speaking of God's mighty power displayed in the Resurrection of Christ.
 - vs. 1 – we *were dead* because God has made us alive.
 - vs. 1-3 – the Past Tense of the believer, what we used to be in our sin nature
 - Dead – James 1:15
 - Course of this world – James 4:4
 - Prince – Satan – John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
 - Lusts and desires – the carnal cravings of our sin nature
 - Nature – not just that we sin, but that we *are* sinners. Our evil actions are an expression of the evil within – Matthew 15:18-19
 - vs. 4 – the Love of God – John 3:16, Romans 5:8
 - vs. 5-7 – these verses parallel 1:20-23. We are made partakers in the glory and exaltation of Christ.
 - vs. 8-10 – I recommend marking these verses because they are one of the clearest expressions of the work of the Gospel.
 - Faith is the conduit, Grace is the vehicle, Salvation is the cargo. Since it is the gift of God, we see that saving grace flows from God with nothing from us preceding or returning to Him. God's salvation comes down a one-way street from Heaven.
 - Salvation is not a result of good works, but good works should be a result of salvation.

II. The Blessing of the New Unity – vs. 11-22

- We revisit the topic foreshadowed in 1:11-14.
- vs. 11 – Circumcision was a sign for Abraham and his descendants of the covenant with God in Genesis 17:1-14. It can represent both the Jewish people and the Jewish faith. Paul highlights this is an act by human hands and not representative of a spiritual nature.
- vs. 13 – There are examples of Gentiles finding faith in the true God in the Old Testament (Rahab, Ruth, etc.) but they are rare. They needed to have contact with the Jews to learn of God. This made a great gulf between the Gentiles and Jews because of practical and Providential reasons. But through Christ that great difficulty is removed, and Salvation is proclaimed to all the world.
- vs. 14 – the barrier is the ceremonial law and its prohibitions and commandments that widened the gap between Jew and Gentile.
- vs. 15-16 – One Savior died to bring one salvation to one people – *all* people.
- vs. 17-18 – the unity of the Gospel message, compare to Romans 3
- vs. 20 – B.H. Carroll highlights three foundations
 - Real foundation = Christ (I Corinthians 3:10-15; I Peter 2:6,7)
 - Teaching foundation = the apostles and prophets (here)
 - Doctrinal foundation = what they preached (Hebrews 6:1)
- vs. 22 – Note that it is God who plans and builds