

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) **22 Sept Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled**
- 5) 29 Sept Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed
- 6) 06 Oct Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence
- 7) 13 Oct Ephesians 4:1-10..... Walking Together
- 8) 20 Oct Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov Ephesians 6:5-20..... Walking to Battle

INTRODUCTION

- We were once dead to our sins, but Christ brought us near to Him, & made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one body → His Church

Passage	Comments
Eph 2:11-12	<p>Remember the Past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once upon a time, Gentiles were without Christ, without hope, and heading for Hell. • To be called “uncircumcised” was derogatory name calling by those (Israel) who had little reason or justification since they were circumcised by hands, when they needed spiritual circumcision) • We Gentiles, however, do need the following <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be included into Israel’s family (spiritual adoption).....Rom 8:15 2. To receive the promised covenants (inherited blessings) 3. We need hope of a better future (Heaven) 4. We need God in this world we live in
2:13-14	<p>Christ is our Bridge to God’s Riches for Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “blood” or the death, burial, resurrection of Christ made it possible for us to be adopted into Israel’s family, to inherit all the special promised blessings (covenants), to be guaranteed Heaven, and to have God lead us through this tough life • Christ reconciled or brought peace to former enemies (Jews & Gentiles) – we are now ONE body in Christ • Should we also be ONE with other nationalities?
2:15-17	<p>The Law of Commandments is Abolished</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ replaced the Law’s legalistic practices which showed the weakness of man to reach God’s perfect standards – with a reconciliatory approach – The Cross was God’s perfect standard for reconciliation. • The Cross of Peace was made available to Jews and to Gentiles – those near and those far away • BUT WAIT! Do we have a contradiction? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jn 14:15. If you love Me, keep my commandments ♦ 1Cor 7:19. Circumcision & uncircumcision are nothing. What matters in life is keeping God’s commandments ♦ The question to ask is which commandments are we to keep? All of them? Some of them? Which ones? ♦ The answer is we need to keep the timeless moral commands and not the ceremonial & dietary laws. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circumcision is no longer required, but we still need to love our neighbors as ourselves ▪ We can now eat lobster, but still avoid murder ▪ We no longer need to make animal sacrifices, but we still need to avoid adultery

Passage	Comments
2:18	<p>Christ gave us Direct Access to God the Father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...and the Holy Spirit is the one who is our guarantee to the Father’s access1Cor 12:13 • ...and we can come boldly to the throne of grace to seek help in time of needHeb 4:16 • ...and we can access God as heirs, as sons & daughters, and as joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17); as friends of Christ (John 15:15); and as brothers and sisters of Christ (Mark 3:35) • ...so, what is keeping us timid about praying boldly?
2:19	<p>We are no Longer Outsiders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers and aliens cannot inherit an estate • Strangers/Aliens cannot be disciplinedHeb 12:7
2:20	<p>The Corner Stone and Foundation are in Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundation of the church, which is God’s household of saints, is the teachings of Christ and of His Apostles and Prophets of the 1st century • We no longer need to look for “New” revelation • Peter says we have something of more value than experiences – and that is God’s Word2Pet 1:19
2:21-22	<p>The Church Revolves around Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we can truly grasp this concept of Christ being the epitome of our faith, of our walk, of our talk, of our entire essence we would avoid sin like the plague and we would be totally focused on glorifying God in everything we do, say, or think. • Each of us plays a unique part in the building of Christ’s church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Are we a <input type="checkbox"/> sharp tool or a <input type="checkbox"/> dull tool? Are we <input type="checkbox"/> building, or <input type="checkbox"/> destroying, or <input type="checkbox"/> doing nothing?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- For us 21st Century American Christians being one with Christ with other like-minded believers still brings its challenges
 - ♦ For example, Sunday morning, 11:00 hour is the most segregated time in our society. Whites go to their church; Blacks go to their church; and Asians go to their church. Few are truly integrated.
 - ♦ But one day Egyptian, Iraqi, and Iranian believers will go with their Jewish brethren to worship God together Zech 8:23

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

- Rom 8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption.
- 1Cor 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- Zech 8:23** Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 3:1-13. The mystery of Christ is fully revealed – Gentiles are fellow heirs through the Gospel

