

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Sep Eph 1:1-14 God's Plan is Eternal
- 2) 12 Sep Eph 1:15-23 God's Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept Eph 2:1-10 God's Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep Eph 2:11-22 **God's Power Changes Relationships**
- 5) 03 Oct Eph 3:1-13 God's Power Comes by Grace
- 6) 10 Oct Eph 3:14-21 God's Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct Eph 4:1-16 Being in Step
- 8) 24 Oct Eph 4:17-32 Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct Eph 5:1-14 Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov Eph 5:15-21 Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov Eph 5:22-33 Being Married
- 12) 21 Nov Eph 6:1-9 Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov Eph 6:10-24 Being Prepared

INTRODUCTION

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

Passage	Comments
Eph 2:11-12	<p>Remember the Past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once upon a time, we Gentiles were without Christ, without hope and heading for Hell • To be called “uncircumcised” was a derogatory name calling by those who had little reason or justification since they were circumcised by hands (Israel needed spiritual circumcision) • We need the following <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be included into Israel’s family (spiritual adoption – Eph 1:5; 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
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 • The Cross of Peace was made available to Jews and to Gentiles – those near and those far away
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 access 1Cor 12:13
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 disciplined...Heb 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 Word 2Pet 1:19

Passage	Comments
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

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
 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."

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

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



Lacking an understanding of sin & the curse, some people credit Satan with creating these things.