

PART 4 – EPHESIANS 2

“Therefore, just as through one man, sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Romans 5:12 NKJV

The Greek word for ‘workmanship’ is ‘POIEMA’, which means ‘beautiful poem’. You are God’s work of art [if you are in him]. Remember there are only two categories, if you are in him, God looks at you as his work of art. Wow!

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 2 tell us?
2. Interpretation – The word of God
3. Application - How do apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 2?
4. Key Messages from this preaching

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 2 tell us?

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.””

John 3:3 NKJV

- We were born spiritually dead because of the sin of Adam
- We are seated with Jesus right now, we’re physically here on earth, but we are seated spiritually with him. That means all the spiritual blessings that are explained in Ephesians 1, are ours
- It’s by grace that we are saved [none of us deserve it] and none of us can earn it
- So now that we have been included into the family of God, there is no separation between Jew and Gentile anymore. We’re all one
- The only circumcision that is required now, is a circumcision of the heart - you understand that you get a revelation of what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross and it changes you from the inside out. It doesn’t make you a good person, it changes your state from dead to alive
- we have access to an everlasting covenant with God now, through the blood of Jesus, one and for all through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus and we are sealed [not by circumcision] but we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. He is the deposit of what guarantees our inheritance of what’s to come for us

2. Interpretation – The word of God

Ephesians 2: Chapter Outline

- Verse 1-3 Our state before we put our faith in Jesus
- Verse 4-10 What God did to save us and bring us alive
- Verse 11-13 The heritage of the Gentiles
- Verse 14-18 The union of Jews & Gentiles in Christ
- Verse 19-22 Our standing as a result of salvation in Jesus

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Verses 1-3	<i>Our state before we put our faith in Jesus</i>
<p><i>“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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, 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.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV</i></p>	
Verses 1-3	<i>Commentary</i>
<p>There are two types of people in this world. There are people who are in the kingdom of darkness and those who are in the kingdom of light. I used to think we are ALL children of God, that’s actually NOT true, we are not all children of God. The bible tells us very clearly, we are either children of the devil, or children of God.</p> <p>Which one are you? How do I know which one I am?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You must be born again, your spirit must be made alive to God ▪ Have you received Jesus by faith, have you accepted the work of the cross? <p>We all need the resurrection power of Jesus, it says here ‘and you he made alive, we were all dead in trespasses and sins, how did he make you alive? We heard the good news, we heard that Jesus paid the price for our sin, he died in our place, and when we put our faith in him, we surrender our lives to him, we are made righteous, because God doesn’t look at your sin anymore, he doesn’t look at your spiritual dead state anymore, you’ve become born again. Jesus says in [John 3:3]</p> <p>You must be born again, your spirit must be made alive to God, and Jesus is the only way that happens, we’ve been made alive. In our dead state, we are all under the wrath of God, the judgment for our sin, is an eternity, absent from Him, that’s what we have been saved from; so that’s why when you see us - with the flags, and people dancing and singing in the aisles, they know ‘what’ they had been saved from.</p>	
Verses 4-10	<i>What God did to save us and bring us alive</i>
<p><i>“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV</i></p>	
Verses 4-5	<i>Commentary</i>
<p>The resurrection power is the same in us all; He is rich in mercy, because we would spend an eternity without God’s love for us. God is still in this world through creation, when you wake-up and see something beautiful [like a sunset]. Therefore, man is without excuse, because God has made himself known through creation.</p> <p>Hell is the absence of anything good, its complete darkness, complete death, it’s not only for a small period of time - it’s for eternity. You wonder why we are so happy and appreciative?</p>	

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Verses 6-7	<i>What God did to save us and bring us alive</i>
<p><i>“and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:6-7 NKJV</i></p>	
Verses 6-7	<i>Commentary</i>
<p>You as a Christian, if you desire, if you want, you lack nothing in the spiritual realm. You have everything you have access to everything; it is available to you by faith.</p> <p>This verse talks about a future reference, because it's talking about the 'ages to come'. What I think that means is that only when we get to heaven, are we going to realise the grace and the kindness and the love of God. We can understand it now and it leads us to salvation [when we realise that God did that for us], but only when we get to heaven, will we will fully understand what that actually means - His grace and his love and kindness towards us who didn't deserve it.</p>	
Verse 8-10	<i>What God did to save us and bring us alive</i>
<p><i>“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV</i></p>	
Verse 8-10	<i>Commentary</i>
<p>God looks at you, you are His work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them. God's got good works for us to do. We're not like - <i>'we've heard the good news, we're saved from eternity, you're our God, hallelujah, let's sit on our hands and wait for Jesus to come back'</i>. it happens in seasons, and we are all at different times and we're all in different types of seasons and we should never compare those seasons and the works that God has for our ministry.</p>	
Verse 11-13	<i>The heritage of the Gentiles</i>
<p><i>“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—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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV</i></p>	
Verse 11-13	<i>Commentary</i>
<p>Their Ephesians church mainly consisted of gentiles, that's why Paul is addressing them. What on earth is he talking about there?</p> <p>God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, and it was through faith, that he was made righteous. Only Israel as a nation were known as God's chosen people and everyone else were</p>	

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known as gentiles. They were excluded from God’s chosen people, only if they became Jews could they be known as God’s chosen. The circumcision was God’s way of sealing His chosen people. We are out of the Abrahamic covenant, and then through years of the nation of Israel rejecting God, God brought the mosaic law [the law through Moses] and that included the 10 commandments and the requirement for sin atonement, but us being gentiles, it says that we are ‘aliens from the commonwealth, ..

God has made a way for a certain dispensation [he hasn’t forgotten the nation of Israel] because he will deal with them again during the Tribulation period, but it’s the dispensation of grace, where God’s now offered to the gentiles Romans 11 [speaks a lot about this]-

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

Romans 2:28-29 NKJV

Verse 14-18	The union of Jews & Gentiles in Christ
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“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 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, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV

Verse 14-18	Commentary
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In the temple there was a dividing wall, the gentiles were not permitted to go past this wall, only the Jews were allowed to enter, so when Paul was in Rome, he was accused of bringing a gentile into that section of the temple and that’s why he was imprisoned. The point is that there was separation between Jew and gentile.

Jesus made us all into one family - the church; we are the body; He is the head. The early Christians called themselves ‘the third race’ - a new race, because it was a combination of Jews and Gentiles that were all believing in Jesus - that was their common faith, there was no longer the laws and regulations of the mosaic law. It was now in Jesus, through his blood, is what makes them ONE.

Verse 19-22	Our standing as a result of salvation in Jesus
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“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

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Verse 19-22	Commentary
	<p>We have been adopted into the family of God, proving my point before, that we are not all children of God, because when you are adopted into a family Is not your natural family is it? That's why you are adopted into that family. So, we have gone from being children of the devil to being adopted by God, and we build that foundation on the word of God.</p> <p>The Old Testament prophets pointed to Jesus. Over a hundred messianic prophecies regarding where Jesus would be born, how he would die, how he would live, they all point to Jesus. The Old Testament points to Jesus. The New Testament gives instruction on how to live, it points to Jesus as well. That's our foundation, that's what we build our Christian faith on; the word of God.</p>

3. Application - How do we apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 2?

What is God saying to you out of the book of Ephesians Chapter 2

- **ACTION:** What do we do?
 - We stand on the word of God.
 - We speak the word of God over situations that seem impossible.
 - We speak the name of Jesus, which is the name above every name, over situations that seem impossible, because that's the kingdom we are part of; that is the citizenship that we have, and Jesus is our King.
- **ACTION:** Share the love of Jesus to those who are lost in sin. You don't have to tell them about their sin, they know about their sin, share the love of Jesus to them, share the truth to them - that's our job, listen to the Holy Spirit.
- **ACTION:** Spend time in the word, spend time in the spirit; out of that place, the overflow takes place; in your workplace, wherever you are and that's how you make a difference.
- People wonder - why aren't I effective as a Christian? How much time are you spending in the word, how much times are you spending at his feet?
- Not to bring conviction upon you, but If you want change, you need to make change. ***'If I want to go to the gym and I want to be a body builder, and I never physically step into the gym and lift a weight, I'm mad to think anything is going to change in my life'***. You as a Christian, you are mad to think that anything is going to change in your life if you don't put in the work. It's not rocket science, God made it simple for a reason - it's about 'what' we have been saved from.

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4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
You can be both spiritually dead and good morally	You can be physically alive but spiritually dead. What was our spiritual state before we put our faith in Jesus?
A lot of God people are going to be in hell	Do you stand with who Jesus stands with? Do you stand for Jesus?
We don't need to resuscitate dead people; we need to resurrect them	The only difference between dead people is how dead they are. The levels of decay. Whether someone has been dead five minutes or 50 days is how rotten their bodies are, that is the level of 'deadness' but they still all need the resurrection power of Jesus
Be faithful in the season you are in – don't compare to others	Our works are not based on comparing to one another, we all have different functions, and all our functions are equally important, as long as we are doing what god has called us to do, so don't compare your function, if God has called you to disciple five people on Instagram, do that, but do it well. If God has called you to lead a church of whatever, do it well, and do it faithfully
God has good works for us to do	It's about getting before him and getting out there and sharing the love of Jesus
There is no Jew and gentile anymore - now we would say 'SAVED' OR 'UNSAVED'	We are either a child of the Devil or child of GOD. How did he do it? Through the blood of Jesus. Back in the day we had to sacrifice animals to atone for sin, Jesus's blood was the atoning sacrifice for all sin. Once and for all
We have direct access to God now; we have peace through reconciliation	We don't have to kill lambs and sheep and pigeons, anymore. So much turmoil going on, so much suffering and madness, we need peace and we need to preach the peace that only comes through Jesus
This is not our home, we're not citizens of earth, we are citizens of heaven, we are just passing through here	The way we do life is different from the world, the way that we see death, the way we see trials and tribulations is different from the world
It's in the overflow that we operate	The Holy Spirit dwells on the inside of you [it's a habitation]. G As we build this foundation, we grow and operate in the flow and the power of the Holy Spirit and it changes us. The Holy Spirit is dwelling, [it's a habitation] on the inside of you; you feed the spirit through the word, you drink through spending time with God and it's the overflow that we operate