



Ephesians 2
Saved and
Unified



We learned last week that because of a rebellion in Heaven led by Satan, where he tried to steal God's glory by getting the other angels to worship him, a division was created between Heaven and earth.

See Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

VV 1-2: “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.”

VV 3-4: Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”





The Serpent is another name for Satan (See Rev 20:2)

- He had the audacity to sit on the Throne of God, and while sitting there, he proclaimed himself to be God.
- This act began the rebellion which still rages, and which **WILL IMPACT YOUR LIFE.**
- Paul says this rebellion is still going on and you must be ready to engage in it when it gets hot in your territory.
- Part of the objective of Ephesians is to get you ready



Each of the letters/books of the Bible has a specific target at which it is aiming.

- 1 & 2 Timothy, are the Administrative Guide for the church
- Romans is the Theological Guide
- Ephesians serves as the Spiritual Guide



The Holy Spirit must be at the core of our faith walk.

- St. Paul, St. John, and St. Luke all emphasize the Holy Spirit, and they do this through the teachings of Jesus.
- Jesus spent the bulk of His final teaching with the Disciples talking about the role of the Holy Spirit and the fact that He will not just be with you, like the Hebrew Scriptures show us, but **WILL BE IN YOU**.
- You must become intimate with the Holy Spirit.



There are three major themes we are going to cover in Chapter 2:

- 1) Our Walk Before Christ
- 2) How we are saved
- 3) The importance of unity



I. Our Walk Before Christ

Ephesians 2:1-4: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

1. Paul through the Holy Spirit wants us to know the exact state of our spiritual condition before the cross and the **spilled blood** of Jesus.
 - The Human Condition: Human beings are not born innocent. We are self-centered, I-focused, people from the start.
 - Ever since we decided to listen to Satan in the Garden, we have carried the death sentence and passed it on to our prodigy.



Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

1. We walked according to the world.
 - Not every evil thing we do has its cause in the devil. Sometimes, we just do bad things because it is our nature to do bad things.
2. We walked in obedience to the prince of the power of the air.
 - Who is this prince?
 - ❖ He is a spirit-being that remains at work in the occupants of the world known as the children of disobedience.
 - How do we know he is still active?
 - ❖ See 1 John 5:19
 - ❖ Until we belong to Father God as inheritors in His family, we belong to the devil.





Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

- Until we belong to Father God as inheritors in His family, we belong to the devil.
- Jesus laid the foundation for this understanding. (See **John 8:42-44**)
 - ❖ In this passage, Jesus not only says we are the devil's, but He also tells us how we can know if someone belongs to the devil.



Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

John 8:43-44 "...You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies..."



Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

John 8:43-44 "...You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies..."

- Jesus says habitual liars are the purest indicator of the family in which we reside.



Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

John 8:43-44 "...You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies..."

- Jesus says habitual liars are the purest indicator of the family in which we reside.
- A child of God will know when they have lied and will do something about it. A child of the devil will also know they have lied, but they will double down on the lie.



Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

3. Children of the devil are controlled by His spirit and that control starts with the mind.

- The mind must constantly be renewed. This is the message of Romans 12:1-2.
 - ❖ Sin starts with an evil desire in the mind, that is then carried out by the flesh.
 - ❖ When these desires become addictions, they are called strongholds.
 - ❖ Paul says we must tear down the strongholds in our life.
 - ❖ To get a clearer picture of this, read Galatians 5:19-24. There you will find two catalogues: one giving the works of the flesh, and one giving the Fruit of the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:1-4

Our Walk Before Christ:

3. Children of the devil are controlled by his spirit and that control starts with the mind.

- Put another way, before Christ, we were living as God haters.

Jesus said in John 7:7, “***The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.***”

- We didn't decide to love God and then God responded in love. NO!! God first loved us! (1 John 4:7-21)
- What is more, while we are all made in the image of God, only those saved by grace are children of God.





II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

:



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

The first two words in
Ephesians 2:4 says it all:



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

The first two words in
Ephesians 2:4 says it all:

But GOD...!



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

The first two words in Ephesians 2:4 says it all:

- It was all God
- We had thrown our lot in with the devil, and were therefore, powerless to free ourselves, and powerless to love Father God.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

- When we were hopelessly beset in a death spiral created by our sins, Father God in His mercy reached down, snatched us from cords of death, raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places.

II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

- When we were hopelessly beset in a death spiral created by our trespasses, Father God in His mercy reached down, snatched us from cords of death, raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places.
 - You are not only seated where you are, but also in Heaven





II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

- When we were hopelessly beset in a death spiral created by our trespasses, Father God in His mercy reached down, snatched us from cords of death, raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places.
 - You are not only seated where you are, but also in Heaven
 - We are seated in Heaven when we accept the Gift of Grace.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

Does this seem strange to you? Isn't it this life that is real and the next ethereal?



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

Does this seem strange to you?
Isn't it this life that is real and
the next ethereal?

- NO! Drive through any deserted areas. There is nothing but crumbling structures.
- It is this life that is ethereal.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

Does this seem strange to you?
Isn't it this life that is real and
the next ethereal?

- NO! Drive through deserted towns in the west. There is nothing but crumbling structures.
- It is this life that is ethereal.

2 Corinthians 4:18- ***“For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”***



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?

- God did it by coming Himself in the person of His Son, Christ Jesus.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?

- God did it by coming Himself in the person of His Son, Christ Jesus.

Why did God do it?



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?

- God did it by coming Himself in the person of His Son, Christ Jesus.

Why did God do it?

- God did it so that we might be empowered to walk in a different manner from this moment forward until the Return of Jesus.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?

- God did it by coming Himself in the person of His Son, Christ Jesus.

Why did God do it?

- God did it so that we might be empowered to walk in a different manner from this moment forward until the Return of Jesus.
- God also did it so the Heavenly Host could see Satan defeated by a human being trusting in God.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

What did God do to accomplish this great feat of making us alive again?

- God did it by coming Himself in the person of His Son, Christ Jesus.

Why did God do it?

- God did it so that we might be empowered to walk in a different manner from this moment forward until the Return of Jesus.
- God also did it so the Heavenly Host could see Satan defeated by a human being trusting in God.
- The only human being who would be able to defeat Satan would be the Second Adam, God Himself coming as a human being.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:4-7

God did it **AALLL!!!!**



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

- When you trust in the saving work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit takes over to enable us to accept it...
IF WE WILL ACCEPT IT.
- Why is salvation by faith ALONE so important?





II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

- When you trust in the saving work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit takes over to enable us to accept it...
IF WE WILL ACCEPT IT.
- Why is salvation by faith ALONE so important?
 - To remove “alone” would have been a denial of the truth of Scripture.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

- When you trust in the saving work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit takes over to enable us to accept it...
IF WE WILL ACCEPT IT.
- Why is salvation by faith ALONE so important?
 - To remove “alone” would have been a denial of the truth of Scripture.

You are saved by grace through faith alone!



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:9

“And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:9

“And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- Sanctification, is a word that means growing more and more like Jesus, and therefore, becoming cleansed from our sin, is a *process* that will not be complete until our death.



II. How We Are Saved

Ephesians 2:9

“And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- Sanctification, is a word that means growing more and more like Jesus, and therefore, becoming cleansed from our sin, is a *process* that will not be complete until our death.
- Because of that, the old Adam seeps to the surface bringing back the old ways
 - Therefore, it was a forgone conclusion that if we had to contribute anything to our salvation, it would not be long before we took credit for it



II. How We Are Saved

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.”



II. How We Are Saved

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.”

- I do good works, NOT to earn the gift of grace already given to me, but instead, to give thanks to Almighty God that I have been saved.



II. How We Are Saved

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.”

- I do good works, NOT to earn the gift of grace already given to me, but instead, to give thanks to Almighty God that I have been saved.
- When I do good works, it is because God by His Grace, has put my selfish, self-centered ways at bay so I can care for my neighbor, and continue to do so as a walk of faith, and not as a desire for accolades.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without hope.”



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—”

- The two words that might jump out to you, are the uncircumcision and the circumcision.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—”

- The two words that might jump out to you, are the uncircumcision and the circumcision.
- To carry this mark of the covenant, meant that you and your family were set apart from all others in that, you had a relationship with Yahweh.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—”

- The two words that might jump out to you, are the uncircumcision and the circumcision.
- To carry this mark of the covenant, meant that you and your family were set apart from all others in that, you had a relationship with Yahweh.
- This was a very sacred privilege



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—”

- Therefore, if the Gentiles were to be brought into relationship with Father God, and into the ranks of spiritual warriors, they needed to understand the extent of the privilege they were being granted.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—”

- Therefore, if the Gentiles were to be brought into relationship with Father God, and into the ranks of spiritual warriors, they needed to understand the extent of the privilege they were being granted.
- Paul made it clear that as Gentiles, we were separated from God, alienated from God and His people, and without hope.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without hope.”

- The definition of “commonwealth” is a nation or state with a government based upon the sovereignty of the people united for the common good.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:11-12

“...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without hope.”

- The definition of “commonwealth” is a nation or state with a government based upon the sovereignty of the people united for the common good.
- Thus, Paul is telling the Gentiles they were completely out of the loop, of little or no concern to the Common Good of the people of Israel and the care of God.

III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

- The big “but,” in Verse 13 is of course the coming of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus the Messiah





III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

- The big “but,” in verse 13 is of course the coming of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus the Messiah
- Next. Paul says you must have a relationship with Christ to enter the commonwealth.

III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

- Jesus says the same thing in John 14:6

➤ What I say to people of other faiths:

“If there are other roads to Heaven, I do not know what they are. Therefore, for you to stay on your road, you are taking a huge gamble with your spiritual life’s savings, in fact an eternal gamble. But if you choose to stay where you are, I will continue to love you and care about you.”





III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

The dividing wall of hostility

- There once was an insurmountable wall between God and humanity. (This included the Chosen People as even the Law began to wage war against them.)
- When Jesus came, He did two things;
 - 1) He broke down the wall of hostility built up by the ordinances that had been added to the Law
 - 2) He demolished the wall of hostility that existed between the Gentiles and God, AND, the Gentiles and the Jewish people.
- “Jesus killed the hostility.”



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

The dividing wall of hostility

- “Jesus killed the hostility.”
 - In other words, the retribution promised by God, has been removed by God Himself.
 - The requirements of the Law were satisfied through the spilled blood of His Son



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

The War is over!!!



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:13-16

The War is over!!!

- Jesus did not come to declare war, Jesus came to declare the war is OVER!!

John 3:17, ***“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”***

John 12:47, ***“If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.***

- Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished...i.e., everything is totally taken care of for Jew and Gentile alike.

III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:18-21

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”





III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:18-21

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

- Two important benefits available to Jew and Gentile believer alike:

Benefit #1: If we have a relationship with Jesus, we also have the Holy Spirit residing in us, and therefore we ALL now have access to the Father.

Benefit #2 We are now ALL citizens of Heaven.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:18-21

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

- Paul says, everything I have said stands **SOLIDLY**, on the prophets of old, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.: and, on the foundation of the teachings of the prophets and the teachings of the Disciples of Jesus, also called Apostles



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:22

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Last week: “...in Him we are redeemed,” “...in Him we are made a part of the predestined plan,” and “...in Him we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.”

This week: “IN HIM, we are being built into a new tabernacle for God, with the Holy Spirit as the construction manager.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:22

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

This week: “IN HIM, we are being built into a new tabernacle for God, with the Holy Spirit as the construction manager.

Importance of the New Tabernacle:

1. (From last week) The Tabernacle of Heaven was stained by the rebellion. Thus, a new tabernacle is being built.
2. The bricks of this Tabernacle will be made of Gentile and Jewish believers in Christ, being held together in unity by the mortar of love.



III. The Importance of Unity

Ephesians 2:22

The effects of unity on our everyday lives

This week: “IN HIM, we are being built into a new tabernacle for God, with the Holy Spirit as the construction manager.

Two things will be different in the new Tabernacle:

1. This time, the cornerstone is the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ on the cross.
2. This time, there will be a new construction manager: the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.



III. The Importance of Unity

- What the sacrifice of Jesus did for us, was to empower us to overcome brokenness and bring things together. (Ex: The Keys to the Kingdom – Matt 18)
- Know this: unity is absolutely critical, because unity is the very heart of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
- The Trinity exists because of unity: One in Three and Three in One.



Ephesians 1 & 2 Summary

Our Assignment until the Second Coming, or our death, whichever comes first:

1. Engage in the spiritual war still raging around us
2. Be an agent of fulfillment of the Great Commission by introducing as many people to Christ as you possibly can



Ephesians 1 & 2 Summary

Our Assignment until the Second Coming, or our death, whichever comes first:

PROCLAIM THE VICTORY!!!

And

LIVE THE VICTORY!!!