



Ephesians Lesson 2 Chapter 2

In chapter one we learned that God had chosen, predestined, and adopted us before the foundation of the world for the purpose of us being the “praise of the glory of His grace.” The pledge of the inheritance we now have in Christ is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

This is the guarantee of our redemption and the promise of our position in heaven. Paul gives the Ephesians these promises in Chapter 1, and then goes on in Chapter 2 to remind them of who they were before Christ.

READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2

1. *From vs. 1-6, contrast our position without Christ to our position in Christ.*

Position without Christ

Position in Christ

2. *What accomplishes this positional change? v. 8*

Let's cross-reference Ephesians 2:1-6. Fill in the missing words of the following verses and explain what they mean in light of the Ephesians verses.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if any man is _____ Christ he is a _____;
the _____ things passed away; behold _____ things have
_____." NAS

Galatians 2:20

"I have been _____ with Christ; and it is _____ longer _____ who live,
but _____ in me; and the life I now _____ in the
_____ I live by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and
_____ Himself up _____." NAS

Explain: _____

3. Why do you think we sometimes feel we have to do work of some kind for salvation?
What does Romans 4:1-12 have to say about this?

For additional study, watch or listen to this sermon on Romans 4 at:
<http://www.crpc.org/media/sermon/-romans---part-5>

Notes: _____

4. Paul described our general state of fallenness in Ephesians 2:1-3, but how does he further explain our dilemma in vs. 11-12?



Word Study

Ephesians 2:4

Mercy- eleos-kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them. God is rich in mercy which means his people should be also. We have been lavished with mercy, and therefore, we are free to enrich others lives with it.

5. According to v. 4, God's great mercy in providing salvation is motivated by His great love for us. How does v. 5 reveal the uniqueness of that love?



Make it practical:

List 2 people (or situations) to whom you could be rich in mercy toward this week.



Paul is speaking to a mixed audience of converted Jews and Gentiles. The idea of grace would have been foreign to both of these people groups. Though the Jews had a history of God and assumed His reality in their life, their relationship with Him was founded on Laws and requirements that were to be obeyed. Their sin was always evident and always displeasing to God. They understood the mercy of God in His willingness to forgive if the right requirements were met, but the idea of grace through faith was a stumbling block to them.

The Gentiles also were familiar with religious ceremonies to appease the gods they served. If they offered the correct sacrifice, the god may or may not accept them. Most of the requirements to serve their gods were flesh-driven laws constituted by superstition or traditions. These pagan rituals were loathsome to the Jews whose traditions were based on moral purity due to the holiness of God. Also, much of the Jews tragic history was due to their compromise in following these false deities. Because of this vast difference in worldviews, Jew and Gentile were very much alienated from each other. This was the immensely difficult and seemingly impossible job that Paul faced. These two factions were to become spiritually one. Christ had made that possible, but the thought was so foreign and unimaginable to them that it would have seemed an insurmountable task. Although the original vision of Gentile inclusion with the Jews in creating the church was given to Peter, the daunting task of proclaiming and teaching this message became Paul’s calling.

Additional reading: Read Acts 10-11:18

6. In light of the above information, explain how Paul’s statements in Ephesians 2:8-10 would have effected Jews and Gentiles differently.

**I think to the Jew these statements would have meant:*

**I think to the Gentiles these statements would have meant:*

*7. In vs. 15, how was the Law “enmity” (NAS) or “hostility” (NIV) to us?
See Rom.7:5-11; Gal. 3:10-11, 5:1-4.*

8. *How did Christ bring peace where there was once hostility? Rom. 8:1-4; Acts 13:38-39*

9. *How should we respond to this truth? Gal. 5:1, 13, 16; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:14-21.*

10. *We have been united with Christ individually through salvation, what should this look like corporately for the Church? Vs. 19-22*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
