

# **Knowing Christ**

*A Study of Ephesians*

## **The Church and the Sinner**

**Lesson 2**

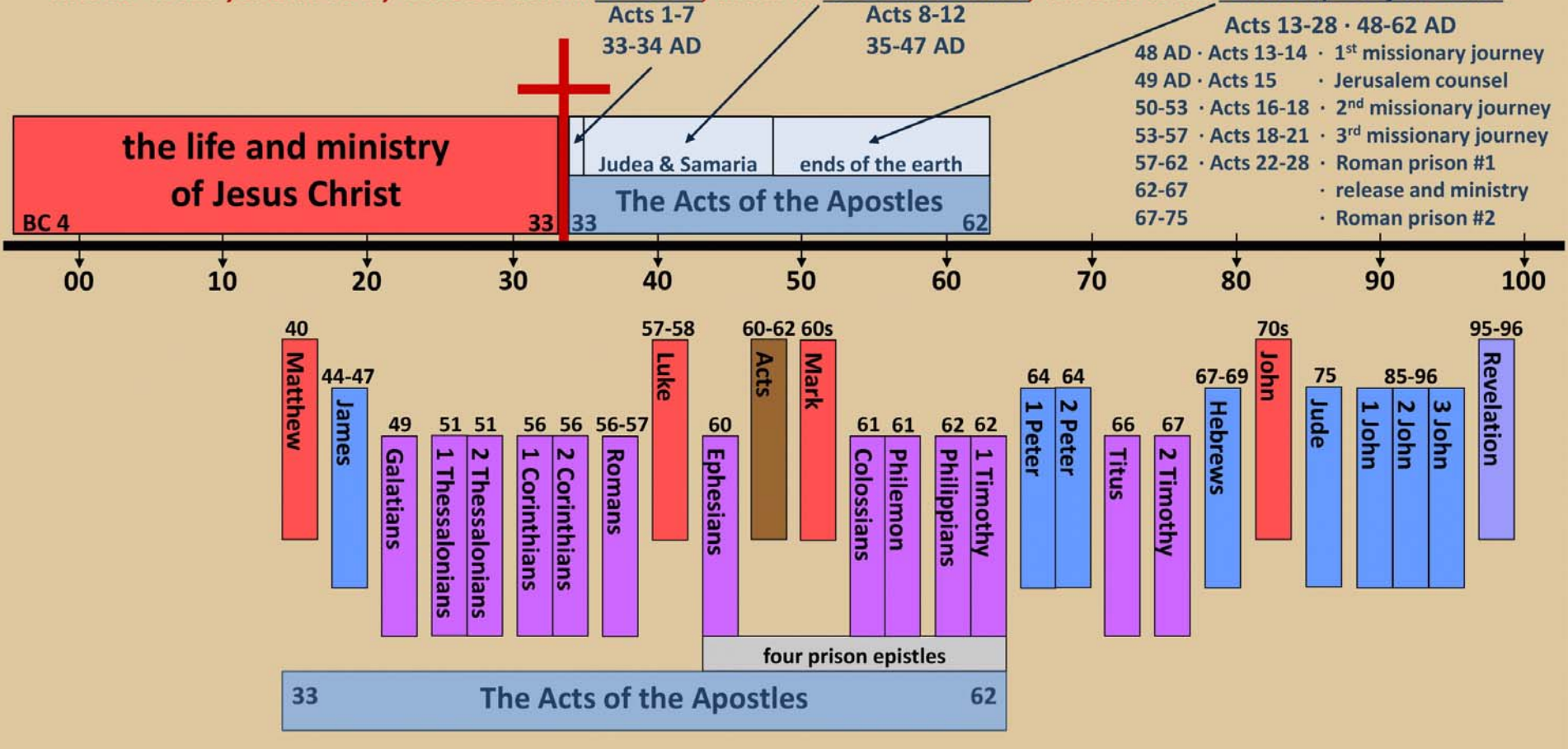
**Ephesians 2**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*January 12, 2020*

# The Development of the New Testament

Acts 1:8 "... and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."



# Ephesians

the Church of Jesus Christ			prison epistle 60		
1	2	3	4	5	6
the foundation of the Church			the function of the Church		
the ministry of salvation	the life in Christ	the ministry to Gentiles	the walk in Christ		the stand in Christ
<u>salutation</u> 1-2  <u>doxology</u> 3-6 Father 7-12 Christ 13-14 Holy Spirit  <u>prayer</u> 15-23	<u>Jews &amp; Gentiles</u> <u>individual new life</u> 1-3 past life 4-10 present life  <u>Jews &amp; Gentiles</u> <u>corporate church life</u> 11-12 past life 13-22 present life	<u>God's revelation</u> 1-7 the mystery of Christ 8-13 the ministry of the mystery of Christ  <u>prayer</u> 14-19 Christ may dwell in your hearts  <u>benediction</u> 20-21	<u>general</u> <u>the Christian walk</u> 4:1-16 the worthy walk 4:17-19 the no longer walk 4:20-32 the old and new walk 5:1-6 the walk in love 5:7-14 the walk in truth 5:15-21 the walk in wisdom	<u>specific</u> <u>family walk</u> wives 5:22-24 husbands 5:25-33 children 6:1-3 fathers 6:4 <u>work walk</u> servants 6:5-8 masters 6:9	<u>spiritual warfare</u> strength 10-11 enemies 12 armor 13-17 prayer 18-20 <u>final word</u> 21-24

# Lesson 1: The Church and the Trinity

## Ephesians 1

- ▶ Father:
  - Chosen in Christ before creation to be holy and blameless
  - Predestined to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ
  - The cause: the kindness of His will and the glory of His grace
- ▶ Son (Beloved of the Father):
  - Redemption through His blood (forgiveness of sins)
  - Revelation of the mystery of His will – summing up all things in Christ
  - Predestined to an inheritance in Him
  - The cause: His sovereign grace, wisdom
- ▶ Holy Spirit:
  - Seals us as a pledge of our inheritance
- ▶ The Divine Purpose: the praise of His glory
- ▶ The Apostle's prayer: to know the exalted Christ through the Church

# Lesson 2: The Church and the Sinner

## Ephesians 2

- ▶ Blessed with every spiritual blessing – the Divine plan seen in chapter 1
- ▶ The individual experience of salvation – the saint
  - Pre – Our personal condition – dead in trespasses and sins (2:1-3)
  - Post – Our personal salvation (2:4-10)
- ▶ The corporate experience of salvation – the Church
  - Pre – Two separate communities (2:11-12)
  - Post – A single community of believers – a dwelling of God in the Spirit (2:13-22)

# The Personal Work of Salvation (2:1-10)

- ▶ The natural state of man (2:1-3)
  - Dead
  - Dead in trespasses and sins
  - A manner of living in the course (age) of this world
    - Directed by the prince of the power of the air
    - Guided by the flesh and the mind
    - World system directed by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)
  - Children of wrath by nature
  - Romans 8:6-8 – mind set on death; hostile toward God; unable to please God

# The Personal Work of Salvation (2:1-10)

- ▶ The Divine intervention (2:4-10)
  - “But God . . .”
  - The attributes of God highlighted – a display of blessedness (2:4-8)
    - Rich in mercy
    - Great love
    - Grace
    - Sovereign power
    - Kindness
  - Emphasis on our union with Christ
  - The gift of salvation – by grace through faith (John 3:16; Hebrews 12:2)
  - For good works – to be “holy and blameless: (1:4)

# The Community of the Saints (2:11-22)

- ▶ The friction between Jew and Gentile – Is it an issue for our generation?
- ▶ The special role for the nation Israel revealed in all the Old Testament
  - Deuteronomy 4:7-8 – what nation has a god so near to is as YHWH?
  - Psalm 147:19-20 – He has not dealt so with any nation like Israel
  - Matthew 10:5-6 – “Do not go to the Gentiles”
  - Matthew 15:24 – “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”
- ▶ The distinguishing feature of the great nation: circumcision of flesh or heart?
  - Deuteronomy 10:12-16 and 30:1-6 – circumcision of the heart
  - The emphasis is upon Israel in the Old Testament
  - The Jews mistook the sign for the reality and added the precepts of men (Matthew 15:9)
- ▶ The place of the nation Israel (i.e. the Law) was the Church’s first controversy
- ▶ In reality, both groups were uncircumcised – the physical sign had lost its meaning



# The Community of the Saints (2:11-22)

- ▶ Remember your condition of uncircumcision (2:11-12)
  - Separate from Christ
  - Excluded from the commonwealth (citizenship) of Israel
  - Strangers to the covenants of promise
  - Without God
  - Without hope
- ▶ Unrelated to circumcision of the flesh – “so-called” – a human work

# The Community of the Saints (2:11-22)

- ▶ The new reality in the believing community (2:13-22)
  - The fullness of the times – the mystery of His will made known
  - An administration suitable to the fullness of the times (1:10)
  - The fullness of the times – Gal 4:4 – time for Christ to complete the work of salvation
  - The fullness of the times – Eph 1:10 – the summing up of all things in Christ
  - The coming of Christ inaugurated a new age where Christ is central in all aspects
- ▶ The cross of Jesus Christ changes everything
  - Salvation secured for all ages from the beginning
  - The specific role of Christ was largely concealed until after His ascension (“mystery”)
  - The barrier between God and man and between families of the earth is broken down
  - Reconciliation brings peace with God and “one new man”
- ▶ One Gospel – “far and near” – Jew and Gentile

# The Community of the Saints (2:11-22)

- ▶ Every spiritual blessing comes in one Body – through our union with Christ
  - There is only one Body
  - There is only one access to God through Christ and in one Spirit
  - No longer strangers and aliens
  - Fellow citizens with the saints (all saints) – “one nation under God” (still future)
  - All believers are of God’s household
  - There is only one foundation
    - Built on the foundation of apostles and prophets
    - Could be the OT prophets, but context refers to the New Testament prophets (3:5; 4:11)
  - There is only one cornerstone – Jesus Christ
    - Whole building fitted together in Him
    - Whole building built together for a dwelling of God in the Spirit

# Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ

- ▶ A common, insolvable dilemma for all men – dead in trespasses and sins
- ▶ “But God . . .” Blessing from God of all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places
- ▶ A single people of God
- ▶ Blessings of salvation are equal for Jews and Gentiles of all ages
- ▶ In age to come the nation Israel restored in a more blessed age
- ▶ A division of duties in the ages to come is not a different salvation or inheritance