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.”

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ

00
30
60
90
0
20
40
70
100

the Acts of the Apostles

33
62

40
44-47
Matthew
James
Galatians
49
51
51
56
56
56-57

Luke
Acts
Mark
60
57-58
60-62 60s

Romans
Ephesians
Philemon
Colossians
Philippians
1 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians

61
61
62
62
62
64
64

1 Peter
2 Peter
Titus
Hebrews
Jude
1 John
2 John
3 John
Revelation

48 AD · Acts 13-14 · 1st missionary journey
49 AD · Acts 15 · Jerusalem counsel
50-53 · Acts 16-18 · 2nd missionary journey
53-57 · Acts 18-21 · 3rd missionary journey
57-62 · Acts 22-28 · Roman prison #1
62-67 · release and ministry
67-75 · Roman prison #2
# Ephesians

## the Church of Jesus Christ

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### the ministry of salvation

**salutation**
1-2

**doxology**
3-6 Father
7-12 Christ
13-14 Holy Spirit

**prayer**
15-23

### the life in Christ

Jews & Gentiles

- individual
- new life
- past life

Jews & Gentiles

- corporate
- church life
- past life
- present life

God’s revelation

- 1-7 the mystery of Christ
- 8-13 the ministry of the mystery of Christ

**prayer**
14-19

Christ may dwell in your hearts

**benediction**
20-21

### the ministry to Gentiles

### the walk in Christ

**general**

- the Christian walk
  - 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

### the stand in Christ

**specific**

- family walk
  - wives 5:22-24
  - husbands 5:25-33
  - children 6:1-3
  - fathers 6:4
  - work walk
    - servants 6:5-8
    - masters 6:9

- spiritual warfare
  - strength 10-11
  - enemies 12
  - armor 13-17
  - prayer 18-20

- final word
  - 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 (Matthew15:9)
- 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