

## Lesson 4

### Christian life in evidence. Eph. 1:15-23

1. What two things had Paul heard about the Ephesians?

Their faith in Christ & their love for all the saints

2. Consider both I John 2:9-11 and I John 3:14. What does their love for the saints confirm?

"Whoever loves his brother lives in the light"  
"Passed from death to life" SALVATION

3. How did this knowledge affect Paul? (Ephesians 1:16)

He gave thanks for them and prayed for them

4. What was Paul's prayer for them? (vs. 17 - 19)

1. That God would give them the spirit of wisdom & revelation so that they would know Him better
2. That the eyes of their hearts would be opened so that they would know the hope to which they were called and the riches of His glorious inheritance & His incomparable great power

Paul wanted them to GROW spiritually. He wanted them to understand all that their salvation involved and what they had inherited in Christ.

5. This power that works in believers is the same type of power that God used to do what? (vs.20 & 21)

Raise Christ from the dead & seat Him at His right hand

6. How complete is this power in the life of a believer? (see 2 Peter 1:3)

It gives us everything we need for life & godliness through our knowledge of Him

7. Believers have great advantage in understanding spiritual truths because we have the Spirit to teach us. (I Cor. 2:9-13)

No eye has seen..... Spirit searches all things.....

8. What relationship did God create between Christ and the church? (Ephesians 1:22 & 23)

Christ is the head of the church.  
The church is His body, the fullness of Him

**Our lives before salvation. Read Ephesians chapter two.**

9. What is the state of every person before salvation? (2:1 & 2)

Dead in transgressions & sins - following the ways of the world and the ruler of this world

10. Is this a problem common to all people? (compare 2:3 with Romans 3:10 & 11) Yes

11. What is **everyone's** relationship to God while in this state? (Eph. 2:3b, Romans 8:7 & 8, Titus 3:3)

All of us also lived.....  
Sinful mind is hostile to God; doesn't submit to God's law  
At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, enslaved by passions & pleasures  
Lived in malice, envy, being hated and hating one another

12. What characteristics of God brought hope to this dismal picture? (Ephesians 2:4)

He had great love for us & He is rich in mercy

13. Even though we were dead (unable to do anything for ourselves, unresponsive to anything spiritual), God did these things for us: made us alive with Christ; raised us up with Christ, & seated us with Him in the heavenly realms. (vs. 5 & 6)

14. According to Romans 5:8 & 9, we have been justified by His (Christ's) blood and we will be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

15. Why did God chose to do this great act of mercy? (Ephesians 2:7 and also Ro. 9:23)

So that in the ages to come He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us.....to make the riches of His glory known to us

## Our salvation

17. Read verse 8 again. Where does the faith come from? (see also 2 Peter 1:1)

It is a gift from God ---we received it through the righteousness of God and our Savior.

18. If we could be saved by works, what might we also do? (vs. 9)

Boast about it

19. Why would boasting or taking credit for our salvation be offensive to God? (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Because it is a gift. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ

20. What is God's desire for those whom He has saved by grace? (vs. 10)

To do good works which He prepared in advance for us to do

21. What desire does God put into the hearts of His children? (Phil. 2:13)

The desire to do and act according to His good purpose

## Our new relationship

*In the Old Testament, God made a covenant (contract) with the nation of Israel. God gave them many laws which included moral, legal, civil and even dietary rules. God told Israel, as a nation, that if they would live by His rules He would in turn bless them as a nation. They would prosper so much that the nations around them would be astonished and be drawn to find out why they were so blessed. (Ex. 19:5-8)*

*What God intended and what they assumed were unfortunately, not the same. The Israelites eagerly agreed, thinking that they could easily live up to God's perfect standard and thus gain individual salvation. God intended that His law would lead them to see their individual failures and sinfulness.*

*God made temporary provision for them through the use of sacrifices. Those Jews who confessed their sin and relied on the grace of God to forgive them, made the animal sacrifices in faith. Heb. 11:6 reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 10:4 tells us that it is impossible for the blood*

*of bulls and goats to take away sin. God did accept their sacrifices when they were offered by faith, as a temporary covering for sin, until He provided the perfect sacrifice, His own Son, the perfect lamb of God.. To the others it was only ritualistic dogma. They thought they could obtain salvation by doing good works. This has never been true. In Psalm 14: 1-3 and again in Romans 3:10, we are told that there is no one who does good, not even one. God's holy law was intended to "lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith." (Gal 3:24)*

*Because of the Jew's misunderstanding about why God chose them to receive the law, much hatred and misunderstanding developed between the Jews and the Gentiles. The Jews developed a self-righteous attitude and there was nothing to draw the Gentiles to them or to their God. When Christ came to earth, He broke down the wall between Jews and Gentiles. He made the law obsolete (Hebrews 8:13) by instituting a new covenant of grace. This opened the way for all people to come directly to God through faith in Christ. This is what is being addressed in Ephesians 2:11-22. Please read that passage now.*

22. Find at least three references to Gentiles in verses 11-13. In what different ways are they described? (Since all Jewish males were circumcised, the Gentiles were sometimes referred to as the "uncircumcision".) For further insight, read Gen. 17:1-14.

Uncircumcised, separated from Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, foreigners to the covenant, without hope & without God, far away

23. What great change is described in verses 13-16?

We were brought near through the blood of Christ & reconciled to God and became one with Jewish believers

24. What did Christ remove that also brought peace and reconciliation for both Jews and Gentiles? (vs. 14 & 15)

The law with its' commandments & regulations

25. What was His stated purpose in doing this? (vs. 15b)

To create one new man, thus making peace

26. What is exactly the same for both Jew and Gentile? (vs. 18) compare also John 14:6

We both have access to the Father through the Spirit. We must all come to God through Christ.

27. According to verse 19, we are no longer foreigners & aliens, but are now fellow citizens with the saints and are part of God's household.

28. In Paul's analogy of a building in verses 20-22, who is the cornerstone? Who is the foundation? Who makes up the building materials? (see also I Peter 2:4 & 5)

Christ = cornerstone    Foundation = prophets & apostles  
Building blocks = believers

***Have you put your faith in Christ alone for salvation? Have you become one of the living stones described in I Peter 2:5?***