

Eph. 2:11-22 "God's Saving Grace Changes Everything!"

July 2, 2023 Pastor Lee Talley

Review: Eph. 2:8-10 (1 Cor. 6:19-20 NLT, 2 Cor. 5:17 NLT)

[#1] The change in your life is so radical and so life changing that you have become a "**SPIRITUALLY BORN CITIZEN**" of a "heavenly country"! (Phil. 3:20 NLT)

[#2] Paul is describing how hopeless and lost the Ephesians were...

- a. "**WITHOUT** Christ." ... (1 Jn. 5:11-12 NLT)
- b. "**ALIENS** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise" ... (Rom. 9:4-5 NIV)
- c. "Having no **HOPE**." ... (John 11:25-26 NLT)
- d. "And **WITHOUT** God in the world." ...

[#3] We have been brought near, not by religion, not by our efforts or merits, but by the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**. (Heb. 4:16 NLT)

[#4] The Cross of Jesus, dissolves every barrier! **JEW** and **GENTILE** become one at the foot of the Cross! (Heb. 11:8-16, Acts 2:42 & 47, 1 Cor. 3:11, 1 Pet. 2:6-8, Matt. 16:16-18)

[#5] The apostles and prophets were given the task and authority by Jesus Christ to lay the true foundation which is **JESUS HIMSELF!**

[#6] He **HAS** created a new man (vs 15). But He **IS** creating a new "building", "a holy temple". Why? Because it's growing, and currently "under construction"! (1 Pet. 2:5 NLT)

[#7] As **LIVING STONES**, we are also individually growing in Christ as we learn to love and trust the Lord more and more. (1 Kings 6:7, 2 Cor. 6:16)

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- a. "_____ Christ." ... (1 Jn. 5:11-12 NLT)
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[#4] The Cross of Jesus, dissolves every barrier! _____ and _____ become one at the foot of the Cross! (Heb. 11:8-16, Acts 2:42 & 47, 1 Cor. 3:11, 1 Pet. 2:6-8, Matt. 16:16-18)

[#5] The apostles and prophets were given the task and authority by Jesus Christ to lay the true foundation which is _____ !

[#6] He _____ created a new man (vs 15). But He _____ creating a new "building", "a holy temple". Why? Because it's growing, and currently "under construction"! (1 Pet. 2:5 NLT)

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Food for Thought for the week of July 2, 2023

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

- 1) This week we learned how Jesus united both Jews and Gentiles together in Himself. What do each of the following passages reveal about God? What do they reveal about Christians?

Hebrews 2:14-18 NLT - "[14] Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. [15] Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. [16] We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. [17] Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. [18] Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested."

This shows that God is...

This shows that Christians...

Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT - "[14] So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. [15] This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. [16] So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

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Hebrews 6:18b-20 NLT - "[18] ...Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. [19] This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. [20] Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek."

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Hebrews 10:19-25 NLT - "[19] And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. [20] By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. [21] And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, [22] let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. [24] Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. [25] And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

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2) What do you most need to remember or apply to your life from this week's message or homework?

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