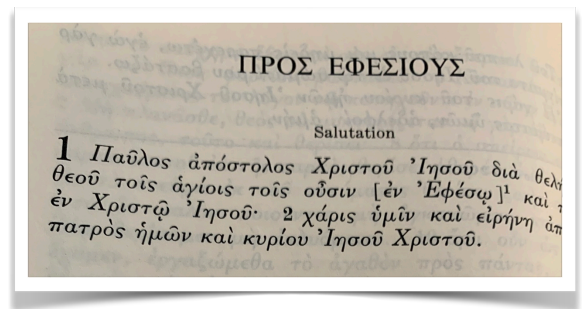


Paul's Letter to the CHURCH AT EPHESUS



Ephesians 3

(EPHESIANS 2:1-22)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

THE CONDITION OF THE JEWS

- The word “and” is a connective word, to what idea is “and” connecting chapter 2?
 - Meaning?
 - Obviously, we weren’t physically dead; what does Paul mean that we were dead in trespasses and sin?
 - Is there a difference between trespasses and sins?
- What is...
 - the “course of this world”?
 - the “prince of the power of the air”?
 - the "spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience"?
- Does anyone have any room to boast about their righteousness?
 - Who do you think Paul meant when he referred to “even as the rest”?

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called

- Who do think Paul was mainly addressing in these first few verses?
- Why does Paul mention here that God was “rich” in mercy?
- Compare the idea of being “made alive together with Christ” with Romans 6:1-6.
 - Why would Paul emphasize “by grace you have been saved” to Jewish Christians?
 - Who are we to be seated with?
 - How are we to be seated there?
- Is being seated with God in the heavenly places the end of the reward?
 - What are the “ages to come”?
 - What is meant by “surpassing riches of His grace in kindness”?
- How have we been saved here?
 - Through what?
 - Not as a result of what?
 - When faith and works are contrasted this way by Paul, what is the usual meaning of “works”?
- What is the meaning “workmanship”?
 - How are we God’s workmanship?
- Who is Paul obviously addressing in vv. 11,12?
 - What was the significance of circumcision?
 - What would be logical significance of “uncircumcision”?
 - Why does Paul mention “by human hands”? Is there another circumcision not done by human hands?

“Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands--

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

- How dire was the Gentile condition?
 - _____ from Christ
 - _____ from commonwealth of Israel (so what?)
 - _____ to the covenants of promise (what were these?)
 - having no _____
 - without _____ in the world
- How have Gentiles been brought near?
 - Explain the idea of covenant and the role of blood...
- What is the dividing wall that Paul alludes to?
 - What is the meaning of breaking down this wall?
 - How receptive were Jews to this idea of the wall being broken down?
 - How did Jesus do this?
 - What does this say about the old Mosaic law?
 - What does he mean when he talks about us becoming “one new man”?
- What is this one body into which we have been reconciled?
 - What is the church called in Eph. 1:22?
- Why does Paul feel he needs to quote from the OT (Isa. 57:19)?
 - Do you think that the Jews were aware that this had been God’s plan from the beginning?

17 AND HE CAME AND
PREACHED PEACE TO YOU
WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND
PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE
NEAR;

18 for through Him we both
have our access in one Spirit to
the Father.

19 So then you are no longer
strangers and aliens, but you are
fellow citizens with the saints,
and are of God's household,
20 having been built on the
foundation of the apostles and
prophets, Christ Jesus Himself
being the corner stone,
21 in whom the whole building,
being fitted together, is growing
into a holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being
built together into a dwelling of
God in the Spirit.

- How does the Spirit help Paul's argument for Jew/Gentile reconciliation in the church?

- What do Jews and Gentiles now have in common (v. 19)?
 - fellow _____ with the saints

 - of God's _____ (meaning?)

- What does v. 21 tell us that we are being built into?
 - What's the foundation?

 - Who is the cornerstone?
 - What do cornerstones do?

 - Who dwells in this Temple?