

EPHESIANS 2

1. Just as God alone chose Paul to be an apostle, who alone chooses us to believe in Christ?

-God alone.

2. If God has chosen us to believe, can Satan or demons or anyone else take us away from God?

-No.

3. Can anyone make themselves holy?

-No. It is God alone who makes us holy.

4. What does our acceptance by God depend on?

-Our acceptance by God depends on belief in Christ alone.

5. If Jesus is God, why is God called His Father?

-While Jesus will always be God, He humbled Himself to be born as a man as an example to teach us that God is our Father.

6. Why should we praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

-Because He has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.

7. Because God has already “blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ,” what should we do?

-Understand these blessings, and then, use them.

8. If we believe in Christ, when did God choose us?

-Before the creation of the world.

9. Did God choose us because we were holy or good?

-No.

-God chose us so that He could make us holy and good.

10. What is God's plan for those whom He has chosen?

-That we would be holy and blameless in His sight.

-That we would be set apart only for God and His use.

11. Why does God accept us Christians?

-Because He has clothed us with the righteousness of Christ.

12. What do we learn when we understand that God takes away our sin not just for our sake, but for His sake as well?

-We learn how much sin hurts God and us, and how much God wants to completely destroy sin in our lives.

13. How is the Holy Spirit a mark of ownership?

-The Holy Spirit shows everyone that God owns us.

-The Holy Spirit also shows Satan that he can no longer own us.

14. If God is in control, then why are Satan and his demons still on earth?

-Because God is not finished using them.

-Because God is using them to bring people to Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 1:15-16

15-For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,

16-I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

-Why had Paul not stopped giving thanks for the Ephesian believers?

-Because he heard about their faith in Jesus, and their love for all of God's people.

-To not believe in God and His promises is evil.

-To not believe in God is to call God a liar.

-How did we become children of God?

-By faith.

-How must we live every day?

-By faith.

-What is our greatest gift in all of eternity?

-Our faith in God.

-What is a definition of faith?

-Believing or trusting in truth.

-In the Bible, "belief," "trust," and "faith" all have the same approximate meaning.

-Belief is not having faith in something you do not know.

-Can you believe in something you do not know?

-No. Why not?

-Because people can only believe in that which they know.

-Belief is that of which you have been convinced, and by which you live your life.

-Can you live your life differently from your beliefs?

-No. Why not?

-Because no one lives differently from what he believes.

-Because we only do that which we believe in.

-How do we believe or have faith?

-To believe or have faith needs to happen in three steps.

-The first step to believe is hearing.

-We must hear in order to believe.

-Can people believe without hearing?

-No.

-Jesus taught that there are two types of hearing:

-The first type of hearing is a physical hearing when people hear only with their ears.

-In Matthew 13:13, Jesus said that some people hear, but do not really hear.

-The second type is hearing is a spiritual hearing when people hear with both their ears and their heart.

-In John 8:47, Jesus said, “He who belongs to God hears what God says.”

-Jesus also said that the reason that people do not hear is because they do not belong to God.

-The second step to believe is thinking.

-Can people believe without thinking?

-No.

-If people do not think about what they have heard, what will their belief be?

-Nothing.

-In Mark 7:14, Jesus said this, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.”

-Jesus wanted the people to hear and understand.

-People need to have time to think about that which they have heard.

-The more time people think about what they have heard, the more they can believe.

-The third step to believe is swallowing or owning.

-After hearing and thinking, people must swallow or own

the truths of God.

-Here is an example:

-A man was sick and went to the doctor.

-The doctor gave him medicine, but the man put the medicine in his pocket, and did not swallow it.

-Will the man be healed?

-No.

-Why will the man not be healed?

-Because he did not swallow the medicine.

-Belief cannot be pushed in from the outside, but must come after hearing and thinking.

-In John 6:66, we read that some of Jesus' disciples no longer followed Him.

-Why did some of Jesus' disciples no longer follow Him?

-Because they were disciples only on the outside, and not on the inside.

-Because they may have heard and thought, but they never swallowed or owned the truths of God.

-To believe, we must own the truth and make it our own.

-In summary, what are the three steps to believe or have

faith?

-Hearing the truth.

-Thinking about the truth.

-Swallowing or owning the truth.

-Paul also thanked God for the Christians' love for all believers.

-They loved one another with God's love.

-Is there a difference between God's love and people's love?

-Yes.

-What is the difference between people's love and God's love?

-People's love is based on selfishness.

-God's love is based on selflessness.

-People's love is impure.

-God's love is pure.

-People's love desires to gain.

-God's love desires to give.

-People do not love others when they are not loved.

-God loves people even when they do not love Him.

-God loves people even when they do evil.

-How could the believers at Ephesus love one another

with the love of God?

-They asked God.

-They asked God the Holy Spirit living in them.

-They asked God for His love which is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

-While Paul was thanking God for the faith of the Ephesians and their love for God's people, what is the example for us?

-We can also thank God for our faith and for the love for other Christians.

-After thanking God, Paul now tells the Ephesians that he is asking something.

Let's read Ephesians 1:17

17-I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the [spirit] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

-In Ephesians 1:17, what is Paul asking?

-That God would give the Ephesians wisdom and revelation.

-Why was Paul asking God to give the Ephesians and all Christians wisdom and revelation?

-So that all of us would know God better and use all of the blessings that He has already given us.

-As we learned in the last lesson from Ephesians 1:3, God has already blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

-While we do ask God for our specific physical and spiritual needs, why should we not ask God for more of Himself and more of His blessings?

-Because God has already given us all of Himself and all of His blessings.

-God cannot give us more because He has already given us everything.

-God gave us life and placed His image in our souls when we were born.

-Christ gave His life for us on the cross so that we now have eternal life, and do not have to die.

-Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to walk alongside of us and never abandon us.

-Is there any blessing that God has withheld from us Christians?

-No.

-Where, then, is the problem?

-The problem is not with God, but with us Christians.

-First, we need to know or understand all that God has

already given us and then secondly, put it to use.

-If God has already given us every spiritual blessing in Christ, but we do not know this, can we use them?

-No.

-Some Christians think that they are missing something from God, but this is not true.

-Some Christians compare themselves with other Christians, and think that they are missing something from God, but this is not true.

-God keeps nothing back from us.

-God's blessings are so great that it is difficult for us to understand them all.

-Yet, we pray that God would give us wisdom and revelation so that we may know Him better.

-As we will learn in Ephesians 3:18, Paul prayed that the Ephesians would be able to understand to "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

-God wants us to know Him better.

-Even though God made us sons and daughters when we believed in Christ, we could not live like mature members immediately.

-Even though God gave us all of His spiritual blessings

when we were born into His family, we could not enjoy them immediately.

-We were like babies in our spiritual understanding.

-What must children do before they can do what adults do?

-They must grow in their understanding.

-As God's children, how will we grow in our understanding of God?

-The Holy Spirit will teach us so that we can better know God and all that He want us to be.

-Even if we study the Word of God, we will not grow in our understanding unless the Holy Spirit teaches us.

-This is why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in us.

Let's read John 14:16-17 & 26

16-[Jesus said] "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—
17-the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

26-But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

-In these three verses, Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

-In the following three verses, Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.

Let's read John 16:12-14

12-[Jesus said] "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

13-But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14-He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."

-Because God wants us to know Him better, He has given us the Holy Spirit.

-What does the Holy Spirit do in us?

-Teaches us all things and guides us into all truth.

-As Paul asked God to give to the Ephesians wisdom and revelation to understand what God has given us, this is our God's prayer for us all.

-God also prays that all of His children would understand what He has already given us.

-After asking God for wisdom and revelation to

understand what God has given us, Paul now tells us of one of his prayers.

Let's read Ephesians 1:18

18-I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

-For the Christians in Ephesus and for all Christians, what are God and Paul praying for?

-That the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened that we would know the hope that He has given us.

-What are the "eyes" of our hearts?

-They are our spiritual eyes, that is, our inner person or the real us.

-To know God better, God must open our spiritual eyes more and more.

-And for God to open our spiritual eyes more and more, we must ask God to do so.

-This is why people do not believe in God, as their spiritual eyes are closed and our blind.

-Of unbelievers, Jesus said this in Matthew 13:13, "Though seeing, they do not see."

-Of unbelievers, 2 Corinthians 4:4 says this:

-“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

-For us as Christians, as our spiritual eyes are opened more and more, we will understand more and more the hope to which God has called us.

-When we first believed in Christ, our hope was just beginning to start.

-But God wants our hope to grow and become stronger.

-It is God alone who has called us to this hope.

-Because it is God alone who has called us to this hope, what does this teach us?

-This hope is sure, and no one can take it away from us.

-What is this hope to which God has called us?

-The riches of the blessings and joys in Christ, beginning now and lasting throughout eternity.

-If Christ has saved us, He has given us an eternal value that is the highest in eternity.

-If Christ has saved us, He has given us an eternal purpose that is the highest in eternity.

-If Christ has saved us, He has given us all of His riches and we will share in His glory.

-What is the importance of knowing this hope?

-So that we might live here on earth as citizens of heaven who are God's holy people, separate from this evil world.

-Paul calls our hope "the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."

-The Word of God teaches us that we have an inheritance in Christ, and that Jesus has an inheritance in us.

-What is the inheritance of Jesus?

-His children whom He bought with His own blood.

-We are now Jesus' inheritance and are very valuable to Him.

-Because we are Jesus' inheritance, we do not belong to ourselves, and we should live only for Christ.

-The prayer of Paul for the Ephesians is also the prayer of God for us all.

-That we would know the hope that God has already given us.

-If we do not know this hope, then we cannot use it.

-Paul continues:

Let's read Ephesians 1:18a & 19-21

18-I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know . . .

19-his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

20-he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

21-far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

-For the Christians in Ephesus and for all Christians, what else are God and Paul praying for?

-That the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened that we would know His power that He has given to us.

-Paul did not pray for power to be given to the Ephesians to share the Gospel.

-He prayed that the Ephesians and us all would KNOW the power that God has already given us.

-Paul did not pray for power to be given to the Ephesians to endure suffering.

-He prayed that the Ephesians and us all would KNOW

the power that God has already given us.

-Paul did not pray for power to be given to the Ephesians to do God's will.

-He prayed that the Ephesians and us all would KNOW the power that God has already given us.

-What incomparably great power is working in every child of God?

-God's mighty power which created the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, and all of the earth just by speaking.

-God's mighty power which gave sight to the blind and healed cripples who had never walked just by speaking.

-God's mighty power which raised Jesus from the dead and defeated Satan and his demons..

-All that we do as Christians is with the power that God has already given to us.

-As Paul wrote in Colossians 1:29:

-“For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

-The power with which God the Father raised the Lord Jesus from the dead is this same power that Paul is praying that the Ephesians would know.

-The prayer of Paul for the Ephesians is also the prayer of God for us all.

-That we would know the power with which God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, and that He has already given us.

-Not only did God the Father raise the Lord Jesus from the dead, but He also seated Him at His right hand in heaven.

-God the Father exalted Jesus above Satan, above all demons, above all angels, and above all people forever and ever.

-What does it mean that the Father has seated the Lord Jesus at His right hand?

-The right hand of God is of equal position, equal honor, equal power, and equal authority with God the Father.

-God's right hand is the place of highest favor with God the Father.

-And Christ has become the highest of all kings, Lord over all of heaven and earth.

-That Christ has been seated teaches us that Christ's work to save all people is complete.

-We are not waiting for Jesus to begin His reign as king

because His reign has already begun.

-And Christ will continue to reign until He “has put all his enemies under his feet” (1 Corinthians 15:25).

-Christ alone is the ruler over all and all of the kings and presidents of this world rule only according to His sovereign permission.

Let's read Ephesians 1:22-23

22-And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,
23-which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

-In the last two verses of the first chapter of Ephesians, we learn that it was God the Father who appointed Christ as the head of the Church.

-And that all Christians are the body of Christ.

-What does it mean that God appointed Jesus to be head of the Church?

-This means that Jesus is the chief or leader of all Christians, and that He has absolute authority over His Church.

-Can a head function without a body?

-No.

-Can a body function without a head?

-No.

-A head must have a body, and a body must have a head.

-Just as a head must have a body, so Christ as the head of the Church must have the body of Christ, that is, all Christians.

-To be called the body of Christ teaches us that Christ has joined all Christians to Himself.

-To be called the body of Christ teaches us that Christ is not complete without His Church, nor are we complete without Christ.

-To be called the body of Christ teaches us that God has chosen us to continue the work of Christ on earth.