

EPHESIANS 3

1. 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.

2. What is our greatest gift in all of eternity?

-Our faith in God.

3. What are the three steps to believe or have faith?

-Hearing the truth.

-Thinking about the truth.

-Swallowing or owning the truth.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. What does the Holy Spirit do in us?

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

8. 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 God has given to us.

9. What is this hope to which God has called us?

-Of blessing and joy in Christ, beginning now and lasting throughout eternity.

10. 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.

11. 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.

-In the second chapter of Ephesians, God and Paul continue their letter to all Christians.

-First, we are reminded of our past before believing in Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 2:1

1-As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

-Before we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, how were our lives?

-We were all dead to God.

-How are all people on earth born?

-We are all born dead to God.

-Why are all people born dead to God?

-Because we were all born into sin.

-When Adam sinned, we all sinned because all people are born from Adam and descend from Adam.

-As we learned from Romans 5:12:

-“Sin entered the world through one man [Adam] and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

-What does the Word of God mean when it says that we were dead?

-Even though our bodies were alive, we were dead to God or separated from God, unable to know Him.

-Even though we were alive physically, we were dead spiritually.

-Paul writes that we were dead to God because of “transgressions.”

-What is the meaning of “transgressions?”

-It means turning away from God’s way and going our

own way.

-Here is an illustration:

-You and your son are in the forest, a long distance from home.

-You send your son home, telling him to follow the path back to the village.

-Your son, however, decides to try a different path.

-He turned away from the path his father told him to follow and went down a different path on his own.

-What happened to the boy?

-He got lost.

-All people are born dead, lost, and separated from God because Adam turned away from the path God told him to follow.

-Paul also writes that we were dead to God because of “sins.”

-What is the meaning of “sins”?

-It means to miss the mark which God has given us in His Word.

-Here is illustration:

-When a boy shoots at a bird and misses, he is missing the mark.

-As we learned in Romans 3:23:

-“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

-What is the mark for which God has created us?

-That we would be perfect without sin.

-Has anyone ever lived a perfect life without sin?

-No one except the Lord Jesus Christ.

-If we believe in Christ, we are no longer dead.

-Yet all who do not believe in Christ are still dead, walking on earth, alive on the outside, yet dead on the inside.

-This is why people cannot believe in Christ unless they have God’s help.

-This is because people are born dead to God, and without God’s help, they will not be able to understand.

-This is why we pray to God when we share Christ with others, that God would help the dead people to understand.

Let’s read Ephesians 2:2

2-In which you used to live when you followed the

ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

-Before we were believed in Christ, we followed the ways of this world.

-What are the ways of the world?

-The ways of the world are like a pig living in the mud, and enjoying it.

-People do not care about sin.

-People do not care about God.

-People have no problem with sin.

-People have no time for God.

-People do whatever they want.

-People have no God except themselves.

-People are their own gods.

-Before we believed in Christ, we also followed the ruler of the kingdom of the air.

-Who is the ruler of the kingdom of the air?

-Satan.

-Satan and his demons move around in their kingdom of the air, working to control the people who do not believe in Christ.

-Yet, as Christians, we know that Satan and his demons can do nothing except that which God allows.

-What do God and Paul call the people whom Satan controls?

-Those who are disobedient or the children of disobedience.

-If we do not believe in Christ, we are children of disobedience, controlled by Satan and living in rebellion to God.

Let's read Ephesians 2:3

3-All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

-Before believing in Christ, is it only the world and Satan who guide us in rebellion to God?

-No.

-People are also guided by our flesh, that is, our own evil desires and a hatred for God.

-Why were all people born with evil desires and a sinful heart?

-Because we are all the children of Adam.

-In Romans, we learned about the evil desires that control

everyone who does not believe in Christ.

Let's read Romans 8:5-8

5-Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

6-The mind of the sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

7-The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

8-Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

-This was our past condition before we were born again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

-People who do not believe in Christ are not only "children of disobedience," but also "children of wrath."

-Whose wrath or anger is it?

-The wrath or anger of God.

-Why is God angry about?

-God is angry about sin.

-Why is God angry about sin?

-Because God created a world without sin, and now, the world is full of sin.

-Because God created people without sin, and now, people are full of sin.

-Why are people by nature “children of wrath”?

-Because God must punish sin, or He will lose His holiness.

-Because God must punish sin so that we can finally live in a world with no sin, no hurt, and no death.

-We read this in John 3:36:

-“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

-What would it be like if we were to remain under God’s wrath?

-We would have an eternity of God against us and us against God.

-We would have an eternity of living in sin, and all of its hurt.

-We would have an eternity of not knowing the God who is love.

-We would have an eternity of hating ourselves and trying to destroy ourselves for having rejected God.

Let's read Ephesians 2:4-5

4-But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5-made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

-Because of God's great love for us, even though we were dead and without hope, God has given us life.

-Here is an illustration:

-One day, a man quit breathing and died.

-The man could do nothing for himself to live again because he had died.

-But a doctor came, breathed life back into him, and the man became alive again.

-If we believe in Christ, God has given us life even though we were dead.

-And it is because of God's love for us that He has saved us by His grace alone.

-As Christians, what is our present condition in Jesus?

-We have been saved from the power of Satan, sin, and death.

-We have been raised from the dead with the Lord Jesus.

-We have all that we need because God has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.

-What about our future?

Let's read Ephesians 2:6-7

6-And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7-In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

-If we believe in Christ, not only has God saved us, yet what also has He done for us?

-God has raised us up with Christ, and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms.

-Even though we live here on earth, God has already provided a place for us Christians in heaven.

-Because of Christ, we already have a place in heaven with Christ waiting for us.

-While we are on earth, we cannot enjoy all that the Lord Jesus has prepared for us in heaven.

-Yet, when Christ returns to take us to heaven or when we go to Him, then we will have all that Christ has

prepared for us.

-Here is an illustration:

-One rainy season, the rain was so much that people's houses and gardens were destroyed.

-A husband told his wife that he was going to look for a new place to live.

-In the new place, he would build a new house and prepare a new garden.

-And when he was finished, he would return to take his wife to their new home.

-While her husband was away, the woman was still living in their old home ruined by the rain.

-A stranger came by and said, "Look at your old house! It is broken down! And look at your garden! You can never grow anything there!"

-The woman answered, "My husband is building for me a new home and preparing for me a new garden. Soon, I will go there and be with him."

-This is what Jesus told His disciples and all Christians in John 14:2-3:

-“My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so,

would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

-In heaven, what will God show us who believe?

-The incomparable riches of his grace.

-The riches of God’s grace are like the sand in all of the deserts in the world which cannot be counted.

-The riches of God’s grace are like the drops of water in all of the seas in the world which cannot be counted.

-The riches of God’s grace are like the stars in all of the skies in the heavens which cannot be counted.

-In heaven, there will never be an end to the riches of God’s grace.

-How are the riches of God’s grace shown?

-Through the kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-As Romans 2:4 tells us:

-It is God’s kindness that leads us to repentance and eternal life.

-Everything that we will receive in heaven will be because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s read Ephesians 2:8-9

8-For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –
9-not by works, so that no one can boast.

-How is anyone saved?

-By the grace of God through faith in Christ.

-How do we acquire our faith in Christ?

-It is a gift from God.

-What is the meaning of “grace”?

-In the Hebrew language, the meaning of “grace” is a chief or a king bowing before one of his servants.

-Simply, “grace” is God giving us blessings when we rather deserve punishment.

-Grace is giving us life when we deserve death.

-Grace is giving us heaven when we deserve hell.

-Grace is giving us Christ when we deserve Satan.

-It is the grace of God alone which saves us so that no man can brag or boast.

-Should we boast that it was something that we did to be saved?

-No.

-If someone is boasting that it was something that he did to be saved, then he is not saved.

-Salvation is only and completely a free gift from God.

-As Romans 6:23 says, “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Let’s read Ephesians 2:10

10-For we are God’s [workmanship], created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

-Why are we called God’s workmanship?

-Not only did God plan to save us and make us like His Son before the creation of the world, but God continues to make us like Christ every day of our lives.

-Here are two illustrations:

-A person takes a lump of clay and the lump of clay looks like nothing.

-But the person spends much time with the clay, and finally, makes it into a nice pot.

-Another person cuts down a tree and the tree looks like nothing.

-But the person spends much time with the tree, and finally, makes it into a nice canoe.

-So it is with each of us.

-Before God saved us, we were like a lump of clay or a dead tree, and we looked like nothing.

-But God spends much time with us, and finally, makes us to be like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-We are God's workmanship and God is working on us every day to make us to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.

-As we read in Romans 8:29:

-“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.”

-One day, we will be like Christ, except for His deity.