

## Lesson 2      14 February, 2021

### “Quickened . . . Together With Christ”

#### **Lesson Scope:** [Ephesians 2](#)

*References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise*

#### **Lesson Focus:**

Chapter 1 reveals God’s plan of salvation—redemption, forgiveness, and inheritance. Chapter 2 shows the plan enacted and what man was before salvation; but he is “quickened . . . together with Christ” and becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. This chapter also brings in the universal offer of salvation. People of every blood and nation are welcomed into the “household of God.” God in His mercy has provided salvation for mankind, who are “by nature the children of wrath.” Through faith in Christ, those who had been dead in sins are quickened to a new life of obedience in Him.

This lesson should inspire us with the wonder of salvation as God’s provision for lost humanity. This lesson should help to keep alive the spirit of evangelism. Sometimes in an effort to shield our families from society’s corruptions, we close our hearts to God’s great grace that is available to all. The apostle Paul worked much among the Gentiles and knew the needs of the lost as well as the great change that could result when a sinner was converted.

We want to be balanced in our evangelistic efforts, open to calls for help from searching souls in our communities and abroad, yet not recklessly exposing ourselves and our families to the corruptions of society.

#### **Lesson Aim:**

To discover principles related to salvation “by grace . . . through faith.”

#### **Theme Verse:**

[Colossians 3:1](#). If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

## Lesson Text:

### “Dead in . . . Sins”

**Ephesians 2:1-3**<sup>(KJV)</sup> And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>3</sup>Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

### “Made Nigh by the Blood”

**Ephesians 2:4-13**<sup>(KJV)</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, <sup>5</sup>Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup>And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: <sup>7</sup>That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. <sup>11</sup>Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; <sup>12</sup>That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

### “Built Together”

**Ephesians 2:14-22**<sup>(KJV)</sup> For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; <sup>15</sup>Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; <sup>16</sup>And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: <sup>17</sup>And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. <sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup>And are built upon the foundation

of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;<sup>21</sup> In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:<sup>22</sup> In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

## **Questions for Study**

### **“Dead in . . . Sins”**

1. What is “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”?
2. From What sins is the youth from a Christian home spared? What is the nature of his conversion?

### **“Made Nigh by the Blood”**

3. What is the Christian’s attitude toward the blood of Jesus Christ for salvation?
4. How does faith link us to the gift of God?
5. What is the church’s calling in evangelizing all nations?

### **“Builded Together”**

6. How was the Old Testament Law “enmity”?
7. How do the apostles and prophets constitute the foundation of our church today?
8. How am I personally responsible to contribute to the desired harmony in the body of Christ?

## **Analysing the Passage**

You (2:1) addresses the Gentile believers specifically. They are quickened, or made alive, and no longer ruled by “the prince of the power of the air.” A companion verse is Colossians 2:13.

The ages to come (2:7) gives the idea of Christ revealing in eternity the unfolding of the riches of His grace more fully. It also points to the church age, which was just beginning and will continue all through the ages of time until Christ comes again.

We are his workmanship (2:10). A fruitful, virtuous life shows that God has worked a new work in us. We are the same persons but made new in Christ Jesus. The Old Testament Law was called the enmity (2:15) because it barred Gentiles and those of other backgrounds from becoming part of the household of God. The only way a non-Jew could join the people of God was to become a proselyte. Jesus slew the enmity when He died upon the cross. Now the way unto God is open to all mankind.

## **Principles and Applications**

### **“Dead in . . . Sins”**

1. Salvation results in a totally new life (2:1-3). The apostle Paul himself is an example of one who had a zeal, but not according to knowledge, and God transformed his life. May we also testify that God has transformed us?

### **“Made Nigh by the Blood”**

2. The power for salvation is from God through His mercy and grace (2:4-5). The power to change a sinner into the workmanship of Christ only comes through the grace of God. We must fall before Him with a broken spirit to find His grace to work a change in our lives.

3. The life saved from sin will be an eternal testimony to the glory of God (2:6-7). What does God do for the repentant sinner? He raises him up to sit “in heavenly places.” He gives him a place in His church, with His people, and finally in His eternal kingdom above.

4. Man does not merit salvation; it is alone by God’s grace (2:8-9). Salvation is a gift from God to those who seek it by faith. The man who boasts of his own works will hardly find God’s salvation. The “least” of sinners is still hopelessly lost outside of Christ.

### **“Quickened . . . Together With Christ”**

5. Those whom God saves have a power within to act in a way that is pleasing to God (2:10). The Holy Spirit dwells within to illuminate, to guide, and to empower. By the instruction of older Christians, the new Christian learns the works that are becoming to the children of God.

6. All men, regardless of race or religion, can be saved through Christ (2:11-13). Many have come from dark and hopeless circumstances to find the blessing of Christ’s salvation. We should not judge men by race or religious background, but should present the Gospel to anyone who will hear. There may be seeking hearts longing for freedom from their dark and hopeless circumstances. The blood of Jesus Christ atones for them.

### **“Builded Together”**

7. In Christ all men can be in harmony with God and with one another (2:14-17). The only acceptable approach to salvation is through a broken spirit, a seeking by faith, and a receiving the gift of God by grace. This approach leaves no room for personal agenda. The wall of partition between men is broken down. We greet one another with the kiss of charity and build each other up in the Lord.

8. The indwelling Spirit is given to all men who are reconciled to God (2:18). No matter whether we were born in a Christian home or whether we were a convert off the street, those who seek God by faith receive the Holy Spirit, through whom we have access to the Father.

9. All who are saved are a part of God's special building, the church (2:19-22). "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Note that the church is a continuing household, not limited to our generation. We become part of a line of the faithful which began with Jesus Christ and the apostles and prophets and continues to grow today. Blessed be His name!

### **Important Teachings**

1. Salvation results in a totally new life (2:1-3).

2. The power for salvation is from God through His mercy and grace (2:4-5).

3. The life saved from sin will be an eternal testimony to the glory of God (2:6-7).

4. Man does not merit salvation; it is alone by God's grace (2:8-9).

5. Those whom God saves have a power within to act in a way that is pleasing to God (2:10).

6. All men, regardless of race or religion, can be saved through Christ (2:11-13).

7. In Christ all men can be in harmony with God and with one another (2:14-17).

8. The indwelling Spirit is given to all men who are reconciled to God (2:18).

9. All who are saved are a part of God's special building, the church (2:19-22).

### **Answers to Questions:**

1. What is "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"? Satan works in the lives of the lost, bringing them into bondage. "The lusts of [the] flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind," binds men in darkness and despair. From this stem evil words, theft, murder, dishonesty, and all the curses of society.

2. From what sins is the youth from a Christian home spared? What is the nature of his conversion? The Christian home protects youth from the deep vices and moral degradation as well as the darkness and despair of general society. Yet youth ought to be aware of some of the sad situations around us. The conversion of a youth in a Christian home is often linked to some personal failure in relating to his parents and his siblings. There is also the awakening of accountability to God for all his actions and thoughts, and his conversion is a choice to be God's servant.

3. What is the Christian's attitude toward the blood of Jesus Christ for salvation? Jesus' shed blood is proof of His great love. We recognize that Christ died for us; we deserved to die. Out of His shed blood issues abundant grace, grace to live a new life in Christ Jesus. We should respond in deep gratitude and total consecration.

4. How does faith link us to the gift of God? Only those who pursue salvation by faith find the gift of salvation. Because salvation is not based on works, without faith we would lose hope of receiving the gift of God. Faith alone reaches out for the gift of salvation when all other hope has perished.

5. What is the church's calling in evangelizing all nations? We as a church send workers and establish churches where there is a request for spiritual help. Christ's command to go and teach all nations is the basis for establishing a witness in countries that have no consistent Christian witness. Christian literature is able to reach far beyond where we can physically go.

6. How was the Old Testament Law "enmity"? Under the Old Testament Law, in order to join the people of God, any person outside of the Jewish religion had to become a proselyte and keep the commandments and ordinances of the sacrificial system. Now the church is established in any nation and tongue.

7. How do the apostles and prophets constitute the foundation of our church today? The study of history will reveal the searching and sifting that occurred in the early church and in the time of the Reformation to establish clear doctrinal teaching based on the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Principles that make up our church discipline come from the history of those who searched diligently for "a right way for us, and for our little ones."

8. How am I personally responsible to contribute to the desired harmony in the body of Christ? We must break down any walls of prejudice that tend to rise in our minds: race, background, occupation, talent, success, or failure. Participation in Communion and feet washing with a genuine heart enhances harmony in the body.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

#### **Such Love, Such Wondrous Love**

That God should love a sinner such as I,  
Should yearn to change my sorrow into bliss,  
Nor rest till He had planned to bring me nigh, ‘  
How wonderful is love like this!

That Christ should join so freely in the scheme,  
Although it meant His death on Calvary,  
Did ever human tongue find nobler theme  
Then love divine that ransomed me?

That for a wilful outcast such as I,  
The Father planned, the Saviour bled and died  
Redemption for a worthless slave to buy,  
Who long had law and grace defied.

And now He takes me to His heart—a son,  
He asks me not to fill a servant’s place;  
The “far-off country” wanderings all are done,  
Wide open are His arms of grace.

Such love, such wondrous love,  
Such love, such wondrous love,  
That God should love a sinner such as I,  
How wonderful is love like this!

—*C. Bishop*

**Research Guide:**

For a deeper study in the Book of Ephesians, read the book “Exploring the Epistle to the Ephesians” published by Rod and Staff Publishers, Inc.