

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19



PRISON EPISTLES BIBLE STUDY

WEEK 5

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

RECAP AND HANDOUT

The first part of Ephesians Chapter 2 addresses our condition before we were saved. Have you ever thought about who you were before Jesus came in your life? Some of us just simply shudder at the memory! We do not have it within us to make ourselves right with God, as Psalm 51:5 states that we were conceived in iniquity. Ephesians 2:2 states that we walked according to the course of this world, and to the prince of the power of the air, who is Satan. While Satan is neither omnipresent nor omniscient, he does have demons under his command and a structured organization in place to tempt, distract, divide and make us doubt God and everything that He has done for us. (We'll learn more about this hierarchy of demons, in Ephesians Chapter 6).

In verse 4, however, everything changes with just two words - But God. Those have to be among the sweetest words in the Bible - But God. We were sinners, "going with the flow" straight to hell, but God...loved us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8).

Not only did God love and save us while we were yet sinners, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4, 6).

What a good, good Father we have! We have been saved by grace, through faith, and not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Have you thought about that verse in depth? We should be so thankful that we are not saved by our works, because none of us would be in heaven. On the other hand, have you ever considered if we were saved by our works? We would be filled with so much pride and arrogance "Look what I did for the Lord" one would say; and the next guy or gal would say: "Oh, that's nothing - look at what I did"....and on and on it would go!

Thank God that Jesus Christ has given us all spiritual blessings. We were created as His workmanship - which in the original language is *poiema*, where we get our word poem. Did you know that you are God's beautiful poem? The verse goes on to say that God prepared beforehand - before the foundation of the earth - which again, should give us great comfort that nothing we've done, are doing, or will do can keep us from God's salvation - the only thing that will keep us from it is our own hearts and whether we accept this gift or not.

Our pastor taught a great message this past Sunday titled "I Must Decrease" (available on the website). One of his points is in order for us to decrease, and Jesus to increase in our lives - we must take out the trash in our minds, i.e. all the negativity that we face every day. We must replace the negative with the message of Jesus Christ; His resurrection, and the blessings that His resurrection power has given us.

So, the question is obvious: What trash do you need to take out this week? What are you going to replace that stinkin' thinking with?

I will be praying Philippians 4:8 for everyone reading this: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things."

If you are reading this or listening to Pastor Alan's message, and have any questions about God's gift of salvation; please feel free to call/text the church office at 484.601.2215.

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PRISON EPISTLES BIBLE STUDY EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Please read Ephesians 2:11-22 and choose a verse or two for your SOAP study. Then according to the SOAP method elaborate on what God has shown you through His word. If you want to, discuss how this scripture applies to you at our next meeting!

Scripture:

Observation:

Application

Prayer:

Here are some scripture cross-references to assist you in your study:

Col, 2:13, Col 1:21, Phil 3:3, Gal 4:8-9, 1 Thess 4:13, Ezekiel 37:26, John 15:5, Col 1:13-14, 2 Cor 5:17, 20-21, Heb 13:20, Micah 5:5, John 16:33, Col 3:10, Col 1:21-22, Heb 9:23, 2 Cor 5:18-21, Gal 2:20, Psalm 85:10, Gal 4:6, 1 John 3:1, Isaiah 28:16, 1 Cor 3:9, John 17:21-23,

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SOAP STUDY SHEET

DATE: _____

SCRIPTURE:

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:
