

# Study Notes For Ephesians

## (Chapter Two)

Ephesians 2:1 –

- In sin, one is spiritually dead (**Luke 15:11-32, Colossians 2:13, and I Timothy 5:6**; cf. **Luke 9:59-60**).
- In Christ, one is spiritually alive (**John 14:6, Romans 6:11, and Galatians 2:20**).
- At the same time, there is a spiritual death and rebirth in Christ (**Romans 6:3-6, Colossians 2:8-12, and Colossians 3:1-4**; cf. **Ephesians 4:22-24**).

Ephesians 2:2 –

- They did things in the past, not the present, implying they had changed some things for the good (**I Corinthians 6:9-11, Colossians 1:21, Colossians 3:6-7, and I Peter 4:3-5**).
- Ephesus had a well-known problem of idolatry (**Acts 19:35**).
- Walking according to something means that you are following that particular thing or person (**I Kings 9:4, Mark 7:5, Galatians 6:15-16, and I John 2:3-6**).
- According to the course of this world (**John 7:7, Romans 12:1-2, James 4:4, and I John 2:15-17**).
- The prince of the power of the air has to be Satan in that the verse establishes this individual to be what works in the children of disobedience (**I John 3:8-10**).
- The spirit that works in the children of disobedience (**Acts 5:1-10 and II Corinthians 4:3-4**).
  - Figuratively (**Matthew 16:21-23 and John 6:70-71**).
  - Literally, in the past (**Job 1:9-12, Matthew 4:1-11, and Luke 22:31-32**), not now (**II Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6, and Revelation 20:10**).
  - Understand that Satan is our adversary (**I Peter 5:8**), but he is/was not making people sin (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Proverbs 1:29-31, Acts 2:40, and Philippians 2:12**).

Ephesians 2:3 –

- Prior to being in Christ, all of us were walking according to Satan (**John 8:42-44**). In conversion, that changes (**Acts 26:18-20**).
- Prior to being in Christ, all of us were of the world (**Galatians 1:3-4**).
  - Being of the world is a distinction between saints and sinners (**John 15:18-19, John 17:14-17, and I John 4:1-6**).
- To come to God you have to willingly admit what you were (**Proverbs 28:13, Daniel 9:5-12, Mark 1:5, and Acts 3:19**) and leave it behind (**Acts 19:18-19, Galatians 2:18, Titus 3:3-8, Hebrews 10:38-39, and II Peter 2:20-22**).
- You cannot act like you never sinned when you were in the world (**I John 1:8**).
- Prior to being in Christ, all of us fulfilled the desires of the flesh/were carnal minded (**Ephesians 4:22 and I Peter 1:18**).
- Christians stop fulfilling the desires of the flesh (**Romans 13:13-14, II Corinthians 7:1, Galatians 5:24, and I Peter 2:11**).

- By nature, that is of the flesh (**Romans 7:18**), we were children of wrath (**Romans 1:18**, **Ephesians 5:5-6**, and **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

Ephesians 2:4 –

- God is rich in mercy (**Numbers 14:18**, **Nehemiah 1:5**, **Psalms 86:5**, **Psalms 86:15**, **Psalms 103:8**, **Psalms 103:11**, **Micah 7:18**, **Romans 9:22-23**, and **I Peter 1:3**).
- God is great in love (**Jeremiah 31:2-3**, **Ephesians 3:19-20**, **Titus 3:4**, and **I John 4:8-10**).
- Just understand that there is a balance in God (**Romans 6:23** and **Romans 11:22**). While merciful and loving, He is not a pushover (**Psalms 7:11**, **Nahum 1:3-6**, **Matthew 25:41; 46**, and **II Corinthians 5:10-11**).

Ephesians 2:5 –

- When dead in sins, you need the grace of God to make you alive (**Romans 5:1-10**).
- That does not mean that grace works to save you if you are continuing to sin (**John 8:1-11**, **Romans 6:1-2**, **Galatians 2:17**, **Galatians 5:4**, and **II Timothy 2:19**).
- Grace saves (**Acts 15:11**, **Romans 6:23**, and **Ephesians 1:6-7**).
- To be clear though, the concept of “grace alone” is false (**Romans 5:2** and **I Timothy 1:14**).
  - We are saved by many things, including grace, that work together for our salvation (**Matthew 13:19**, **Matthew 18:3**, **Matthew 28:18-20**, **Mark 16:15-16**, **Luke 13:3; 5**, **Luke 14:25-33**, **John 3:1-5**, **John 8:23-24**, **John 8:32**, **Acts 2:14-47**, **Acts 3:19**, **Acts 4:10-12**, **Acts 8:12-39**, **Acts 9:1-20**, **Acts 10:44-48**, **Acts 16:13-15**, **Acts 16:25-34**, **Acts 18:8**, **Acts 19:1-9**, **Romans 1:16**, **Romans 5:9-10**, **Romans 8:24**, **Romans 10:9-17**, **I Corinthians 1:18**, **I Corinthians 15:1-4**, **Galatians 3:27**, **Colossians 1:23**, **Colossians 2:12**, **II Thessalonians 2:10**, **Hebrews 11:1; 6**, **James 1:21-25**, **I Peter 2:1-2**, **I Peter 3:20**, **II Peter 3:10-14**, etc.).
  - Noah found grace (**Genesis 6:5-8**), but still had to do things to be saved (**Genesis 6:9-22** and **Hebrews 11:7**).
  - Grace has appeared to all men (**Titus 2:11**), but all are not saved (**Luke 13:23-24**).
  - If grace alone were the truth, why would there be the possibility of falling away (**Luke 8:13** and **I Corinthians 10:12**) and the need to restore the erring (**Galatians 6:1** and **James 5:19-20**)?
  - One could even find that grace is vain (**II Corinthians 6:1**).

Ephesians 2:6 –

- Hath raised us up is not forward looking, but speaking of something that these Christians had already experienced (**Romans 6:3-4**).
- Sitting together in heavenly places refers not to the future, but the fact that we are currently citizens of the heavenly kingdom (**Ephesians 2:19**, **Philippians 3:20**, and **Hebrews 12:22-23**).

#### Ephesians 2:7 –

- Now, in this verse, we see a forward looking as the reference is to “ages to come” (**Ephesians 1:10** and **I Timothy 6:17-19**; cf. **Luke 18:28-30**, **Ephesians 1:21**, **I Timothy 4:8**, and **Hebrews 6:4-6**).
- Looking at the word translated “ages” doesn’t really bring about a clear view of anything. The word is broad and could mean “world” (**Matthew 13:22**), “ever” (**Matthew 21:19**), “began” (**Luke 1:70**), “eternal” (**Ephesians 3:11**), and even “never” (**John 4:14**). There are others too.
- There have been “other ages” (**Ephesians 3:5**) and even ages [as in times or periods of times] within those ages (so to speak), of which I can hardly speak all of assuredly. For example...
  - Before the Law of Moses (**Genesis 1:1 - Exodus 24:12**).
  - The times of the Law of Moses (**Exodus 24:12 - Acts 2:1**).
    - Even during this “age” things were changing (**Matthew 3:1-17**).
    - Then changing more (**John 3:38-36**).
    - Then changing more (**Matthew 5:21-48**).
  - The now present “last days” (**Acts 2:14-17** and **Hebrews 1:1-2**).
    - Even ages within these last days (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**).
    - Even ages wherein the Gospel was limited and then opened to all as intended (**Acts 10:1-11:18**).
- There are “all ages” (**Ephesians 3:21**) which infers times past (**Acts 14:16**), present (**Romans 8:18**), and coming (**I Thessalonians 4:13-17**).
- The exceeding riches of the grace of God and His kindness through Christ are still to be seen in ages to come (**John 14:1-3** and **I Peter 1:3-9**).

#### Ephesians 2:8 –

- As addressed in verse five, we are saved by grace (**Titus 2:11**).
- Now we have the qualifier of grace through faith (**Romans 4:13-16** and **Romans 5:1-2**).
- The humbling factor is that no matter how much we do, we cannot earn the grace of God (**II Timothy 1:8-10**; cf. **Luke 17:7-10**).
- Grace is a gift we have the opportunity to obtain (**Hebrews 4:16**; cf. **John 1:17** and **Hebrews 2:8-9**).

#### Ephesians 2:9 –

- In verse eight, we read “not of yourselves”. Now, “not of works” (**Romans 11:1-6** and **Titus 3:5**).
- That is not to say works do not save (**James 2:14-26**).
- Any reasonable person can see you are not saved by “grace alone” (**Hebrews 11:6** and **James 1:17-27**).
- Grace teaches works (**Titus 2:11-14** and **Hebrews 12:28**).
- Even the next verse teaches us to do good works (**Ephesians 2:10**).
- The purpose of pointing out salvation is by grace is to prevent boasting (**Isaiah 10:5-19**, **Jeremiah 9:23-24**, **I Corinthians 1:29** and **James 4:6-10**).

- For the sake of clarity, it is not grace that we will be rewarded or punished for, but our works (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Romans 2:4-11, II Corinthians 5:10, and Galatians 6:7-9**).

Ephesians 2:10 –

- We are His workmanship [thing made; formed] (**John 3:21, I Corinthians 3:9, Colossians 2:6-7, II Thessalonians 2:15-17, II Timothy 2:19-21, Hebrews 3:1-6, Hebrews 13:20-21, I Peter 2:5-9, and III John 1:11**).
- Created (**II Corinthians 5:17**) in Christ (**John 17:20-23, Romans 8:1, and Galatians 3:26-29**).
- Created in Christ unto good works (**Matthew 5:14-16, Acts 9:36, II Corinthians 9:7-8, Colossians 1:10, I Timothy 2:9-10, I Timothy 5:9-10, I Timothy 6:17-18, II Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 2:7-8, Titus 3:8, Titus 3:14, Hebrews 10:23-25, and Revelation 2:8-11**).
- We have been ordained [prepared] to walk in good works (**Ephesians 5:1-2 and I John 2:3-6**).

Ephesians 2:11 –

- Remember (**Deuteronomy 5:15**) what you once were (**I Corinthians 12:2**), is a great point of motivation (**Deuteronomy 9:7**).
- Circumcision, in the flesh, identified the difference between Jews and Gentiles (**Acts 10:45**).
- It was a fleshly distinction, which is no more valid (**Romans 2:28-29, Galatians 5:6, Philippians 3:3-15, and Colossians 3:10-11**).
- Having said that, Gentiles had the reputation of being vile (**I Corinthians 10:20, Galatians 2:15, Ephesians 4:17-19, I Thessalonians 4:4-5, and I Peter 4:3**).

Ephesians 2:12 –

- Gentiles were, under the Law of Moses, outsiders from the Lord and Israel (**Psalms 147:19-20**).
- Gentiles were not part of the covenants of promise (**Deuteronomy 29:1, Acts 7:1-8, Romans 9:1-5, and Galatians 3:16-17**).
- Gentiles were without hope (**Acts 14:15-16**).
- Gentiles were without God as He was “the God of Israel” (**Exodus 5:1, II Kings 19:15, Psalms 68:35, and Luke 1:68**).

Ephesians 2:13 –

- Now things have changed. Gentiles, who are in Christ (**Galatians 3:26-29**), are no longer afar off because of the blood of Christ (**Colossians 1:12-14, Colossians 1:20-29, and I Peter 1:17-25; cf. John 10:16**).
- The “afar off” can now be saved (**Acts 2:38-39 and Acts 22:18-21**).

Ephesians 2:14 –

- Christ is our peace (**Isaiah 9:6-7, John 16:33, Acts 10:36, Romans 5:1, and Philippians 4:7**).

- Christ made Jews and Gentiles one (**Colossians 3:11-14**).
- Jesus took down the Law of Moses (**Romans 7:1-6**), which was the wall of division between Jews and Gentiles (**Acts 10:28**).
- Consider this, what does it mean if a “Christian” does not have SPIRITUAL peace (**Isaiah 48:22** and **Isaiah 57:21**)?

Ephesians 2:15 –

- He abolished the Law in His flesh (**Colossians 1:20-22**; cf. **Hebrews 10:1-21**).
- He did not destroy the Law of Moses (**Matthew 5:17-18**).
- He brought in a new Law (**Hebrews 9:15-17**; cf. **Galatians 6:1** and **James 1:25**).
- The bringing about of two people into one brought peace since God’s creation is one people (cf. **Acts 17:24-27**), as He has long desired (**Psalms 86:9** and **Isaiah 2:2-3**).

Ephesians 2:16 –

- Jesus reconciled both Jew and Gentile unto God (**Romans 5:10** and **II Corinthians 5:18**).
- In one body (**Ephesians 3:1-6**).
  - The body being the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).
  - There is but one body/church (**Matthew 16:18** and **Ephesians 4:1-6**).
  - The opposite of reconciliation would be division. Think of what the Jews and Gentiles did then, and erring people today, to God’s work of reconciliation. He wants no division (**I Corinthians 1:10**; cf. **John 17:20-23**). Such is the case racially, doctrinally, etc.
  - One body means more than just assembling together (**I Corinthians 10:16-17** and **Philippians 3:16**).
- By the cross (**Colossians 2:10-15**).
- Jesus slain [killed] the enmity [hatred] can and does carry several, or more, meanings:
  - The hatred of God toward man because when man is in sin God hates us (**Psalms 5:4-6**, **Psalms 11:5-7**, **Proverbs 6:16-19**, **Proverbs 16:5**, and **Hebrews 1:8-9**).
    - Under the Law of Moses God remembered sins (**Leviticus 16:34** and **Hebrews 10:3**).
    - He promised this new Law wherein He would not remember sins (**Jeremiah 31:31-34** and **Hebrews 8:1-13**).
    - Thus, when we fully obey the Lord (**II Corinthians 7:1**); we can have our sins truly forgotten (**I John 1:9**).
    - This is through Jesus (**Matthew 26:28**, **I John 1:7**, and **Revelation 1:5**).
  - The hatred between Jew and Gentile (**Galatians 2:11-17**).
  - The Law itself killed (**II Corinthians 3:6**).

Ephesians 2:17 –

- At the first, the Gentiles were not being taught the Gospel (**Matthew 10:5**).

- However, it was prophesied that the Gentiles would hear the Gospel (**Isaiah 42:6** and **Isaiah 49:6**).
- Preached peace to the afar off [Gentiles] (**Acts 13:46-48**, **Acts 26:13-18**, **Acts 28:28**, **Romans 15:8-9**, and **I Timothy 3:16**).
- Preached peace to those nigh [Jews] too and in fact, first (**Luke 19:1-10** and **Romans 1:16**).

#### Ephesians 2:18 –

- Through Christ, all have access to the Father (**John 14:6**, **Romans 1:8**, **Romans 5:1-2**, **Ephesians 3:11-12**, **Ephesians 5:20**, **Colossians 3:17**, **Hebrews 7:14-19**, **Hebrews 10:19-22**, and **I John 2:1-2**).
- By one Spirit (**I Corinthians 12:12-13**). No one could ever have been saved without the work the Holy Spirit did in revealing the truth (**John 14:23-26**, **John 16:12-13**, **I Corinthians 2:9-13**, and **II Peter 1:20-21**).
- God is our Father (**II Corinthians 6:14-18** and **I John 3:1**).

#### Ephesians 2:19 –

- No more strangers in the kingdom (**Ephesians 2:11-12**), but now we are strangers from the world (**Hebrews 11:13**, **I Peter 1:1**, and **I Peter 2:11**).
- Fellowcitizens (**Philippians 3:20-21**, **Hebrews 12:22-23**, and **Revelation 1:9**).
- With the saints (**Psalms 89:7**, **Romans 1:7**, and **Colossians 1:12**).
- In the household of God (**I Timothy 3:15** and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).

#### Ephesians 2:20 –

- Built (**Matthew 16:18** [cf. **I Corinthians 12:27**], **Acts 20:32**, **Colossians 2:6-7**, and **I Peter 2:5**).
- The foundation of the Apostles (**I Corinthians 3:1-10** and **Galatians 2:9**).
- The foundation of the prophets (**I Corinthians 12:28**).
- Jesus being the chief corner stone (**I Corinthians 3:11**).
- The builder and maker (**Hebrews 11:8-10**).

#### Ephesians 2:21 –

- The building framed together (**Ephesians 4:16** and **Colossians 2:19**).
- A holy temple to the Lord (**I Corinthians 3:15-17**).
- Such is why we read language of spiritual sacrifices, etc. in the New Testament (**Romans 12:1** and **Hebrews 13:15**).

#### Ephesians 2:22 –

- An habitation of God (**John 14:23** and **I John 4:15-16**; cf. **Ephesians 3:17**).
- The Spirit, **their seal** (**Ephesians 1:13**; cf. **Acts 19:1-7**), was their evidence of their being the habitation of God (**I John 3:24**).
- We [today] know we are the temple of God through the word (**John 6:63**, **II Timothy 3:16-17**, and **II Peter 1:3-4**).