

## Lesson 4

### Christian life in evidence. Eph. 1:15-23

1. What two things had Paul heard about the Ephesians?
2. Consider both I John 2:9-11 and I John 3:14. What does their love for the saints confirm?
3. How did this knowledge affect Paul? (Ephesians 1:16)
4. What was Paul's prayer for them? (vs. 17 - 19)

Paul wanted them to GROW spiritually. He wanted them to understand all that their salvation involved and what they had inherited in Christ.

5. This power that works in believers is the same type of power that God used to do what? (vs.20 & 21)
6. How complete is this power in the life of a believer? (see 2 Peter 1:3)
7. Believers have great advantage in understanding spiritual truths because we have the \_\_\_\_\_ to teach us. (I Cor. 2:9-13)

8. What relationship did God create between Christ and the church? (Ephesians 1:22 & 23)

**Our lives before salvation. Read Ephesians chapter two.**

9. What is the state of every person before salvation? (2:1 & 2)

10. Is this a problem common to all people? (compare 2:3 with Romans 3:10 & 11)

11. What is **everyone's** relationship to God while in this state? (Eph. 2:3b, Romans 8:7 & 8, Titus 3:3)

12. What characteristics of God brought hope to this dismal picture? (Ephesians 2:4)

13. Even though we were dead (unable to do anything for ourselves, unresponsive to anything spiritual), God did these things for us:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
& \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 5 & 6)

14. According to Romans 5:8 & 9, we have been \_\_\_\_\_ by His (Christ's) blood and we will be \_\_\_\_\_ from the wrath of God through Him.

15. Why did God chose to do this great act of mercy? (Ephesians 2:7 and also Ro. 9:23)

### **Our salvation**

16. God extends grace to us and we are saved through \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.8)

17. Read verse 8 again. Where does the faith come from? (see also 2 Peter 1:1)

18. If we could be saved by works, what might we also do? (vs. 9)

19. Why would boasting or taking credit for our salvation be offensive to God? (Ephesians 2:8-10)

20. What is God's desire for those whom He has saved by grace? (vs. 10)

21. What desire does God put into the hearts of His children? (Phil. 2:13)

### **Our new relationship**

*In the Old Testament, God made a covenant (contract) with the nation of Israel. God gave them many laws which included moral, legal, civil and even dietary rules. God told Israel, as a nation, that if they would live by His rules He would in turn bless them as a nation. They would prosper so much that the nations around them would be astonished and be drawn to find out why they were so blessed. (Ex. 19:5-8)*

*What God intended and what they assumed were unfortunately, not the same. The Israelites eagerly agreed, thinking that they could easily live up to God's perfect standard and thus gain individual salvation. God intended that His law would lead them to see their individual failures and sinfulness.*

*God made temporary provision for them through the use of sacrifices. Those Jews who confessed their sin and relied on the grace of God to forgive them, made the animal sacrifices in faith. Heb. 11:6 reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 10:4 tells us that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin. God did accept their sacrifices when they were offered by faith, as a temporary covering for sin, until He provided the perfect sacrifice, His own Son, the perfect lamb of God.. To the others it was only ritualistic dogma. They thought they could obtain salvation by doing good works. This has never been true. In Psalm 14: 1-3 and again in Romans 3:10, we are told that there is no one who does good, not even one. God's holy law was intended to "lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith." (Gal 3:24)*

*Because of the Jew's misunderstanding about why God chose them to receive the law, much hatred and misunderstanding developed between the Jews and the Gentiles. The Jews developed a self-righteous attitude and there was nothing to draw the Gentiles to them or to their God. When Christ came to earth, He broke down the wall between Jews and Gentiles. He made the law obsolete (Hebrews 8:13) by instituting a new covenant of grace. This opened the way for all people to come directly to God through faith in Christ. This is what is being addressed in Ephesians 2:11-22. Please read that passage now.*

22. Find at least three references to Gentiles in verses 11-13. In what different ways are they described? (Since all Jewish males were circumcised, the Gentiles were sometimes referred to as the "uncircumcision".) For further insight, read Gen. 17:1-14.

23. What great change is described in verses 13-16?

24. What did Christ remove that also brought peace and reconciliation for both Jews and Gentiles? (vs. 14 & 15)

25. What was His stated purpose in doing this? (vs. 15b)

26. What is exactly the same for both Jew and Gentile? (vs. 18) compare also John 14:6

27. According to verse 19, we are no longer \_\_\_\_\_, but are now fellow \_\_\_\_\_ with the saints and are part of God's household.

28. In Paul's analogy of a building in verses 20-22, who is the cornerstone? Who is the foundation? Who makes up the building materials? (see also I Peter 2:4 & 5)

***Have you put your faith in Christ alone for salvation? Have you become one of the living stones described in I Peter 2:5?***