

Become What You Believe (Ephesians) – Part 3

2:5 – we were BORN DEAD, but God QUICKENED us

When people become Christians one of the hardest things to do is to RETRAIN them not to continue to operate ACCORDING to the world. It took one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but forty years to get Egypt out of them. There is always a battle between the NEW MAN and the OLD MAN, but ...
WE ARE NOT DEAD ANYMORE – SO DON'T ACT LIKE IT!

2:5 – “by grace” – grace is not God’s ability to overlook our sin, it is the ability He gives to us to live above sin! (grace is the power to CHANGE!)

2:6 – “raised us up together” – you cannot be blessed outside God’s BODY / “made us sit together” – your victory depends on the BODY of Christ

That is why the devil constantly seeks to bring DIVISION among the church, so God’s presence, provision and power can never be manifested in us.

2:7 – “he might show” – God likes to show US off (think about Job in the OT) – God even wants to use your PAST for His glory (“such were some of you”)

In the ages of eternity God will say “Look how much I did with so little”

2:8-9 – “by grace” / “through faith” / “gift of God” / “not of works” – **GOD DID IT, BUT WE NEED TO WALK IN IT!**

SALVATION IS THE MOST ELASTIC WORD IN THE BIBLE ...

JUSTIFICATION	Past – “I was saved”	PENALTY of sin
SANCTIFICATION	Present – “I am being saved”	POWER of sin
GLORIFICATION	Future – “I will be saved”	PRESENCE of sin

2:10 – “we are His workmanship” – God is working to the OUTSIDE what He has deposited on the INSIDE – we were created to perform GOOD WORKS

2:10 – “that we should walk in them” – literally, we should ORDER OUR LIVES within the sphere of the works God has destined for US to perform

2:11 – “remember” – look back with APPRECIATION for what God has done

2:12 – “without Christ, being aliens ... strangers ... having no hope”

2:13 – “but now ... MADE NIGH BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST”

2:14 – “he is our peace” – Christ not only GIVES peace (temporary), He IS our peace (permanent)

2:14 – “made both one” – Jew and Gentile, and later in Ephesians, husband and wife – they are TOGETHER what neither of them could be APART

In the temple stood a wall beyond which no Gentile was allowed to go, bearing this inscription: “No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught so doing will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.” This is the “middle wall of partition” that Paul refers to in Ephesians.

2:14 – “broken down the middle wall of partition” – UNITY

2:15 – “enmity” – great hostility or extreme conflict – the LAW was the root cause of this hostility, but Jesus fulfilled the law and abolished the conflict

2:15 – “make in himself” – Jesus became SIN that we might become RIGHTEOUS (i.e. injecting a virus in the bloodstream to create an antibody)

2:17 – “afar off” = Gentiles / “nigh” = Jews / now “ONE BODY”

2:18 – “access” – depicts a formal entrance into the presence of a king or deity (i.e. a “royal audience”)

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come **BOLDLY** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may **BOLDLY** say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

2:19 – “household of God” – YOU LIVE HERE! (“what are you doing standing outside ringing the bell when Jesus died to give you the key?!”)

2:20 – we are built on the “foundation” of what the apostles (NT) and prophets (OT) SAID, and on the cornerstone of what Jesus DID

2:21-22 – “fityly framed together” ... “builded together” – Satan’s only hope of overthrowing our faith is creating DISUNITY – if we live in UNITY, it creates a “habitation of God” among us

YOU CANNOT LOVE CHRIST WITHOUT LOVING HIS BODY!

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

ONENESS IS MORE THAN A DOCTRINE ABOUT THE GODHEAD! BECOME WHAT YOU BELIEVE!

3:1 - Paul had a Jewish PEDIGREE, but he became a PRISONER on behalf of Gentiles he wouldn't have even spoken to before he knew Jesus Christ!

3:2 – “dispensation” – “administration” (Paul's role to the Gentiles)

3:3 – the church is “THE MYSTERY” – the carnal mind cannot understand it – unbelievers are supposed to think teachings of Scripture are ridiculous!

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

IN SCRIPTURE, A MYSTERY IS NOT SOMETHING “HIDDEN” BUT SOMETHING “REVEALED”

3:5 – we are highly PRIVILEGED to live in the CHURCH AGE

3:6 – GOD BROKE ALL PROTOCOL IN SAVING THE GENTILES!

3:7 – Paul is referring to the miraculous moment of his conversion

3:8 – “less than the least of all saints” – Paul stood in awe that God would save a murderer of Christians and call him to be an Apostle!

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

3:8 – “unsearchable” = “inexhaustible”

3:9 – “fellowship of the mystery / hid in God” – revelation of the church hidden in the Old Testament

3:9 – “created all things by Jesus Christ” – the same God who brought a WORLD out of nothing brings His CHURCH out of nothing!

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

3:10 – “to the intent that NOW” – what was hidden before is revealed NOW

God always reveals Himself, His principles and His purposes progressively in stages. You couldn't take it all at once, that's why God waited until NOW in your life. With God, timing is everything – catch His “proceeding” Word!

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that **PROCEEDETH (continually)** out of the mouth of God.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that **GOETH (continually)** forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

When God says something, His Word continues to work (“let there be light”); the same Word that delivered you still says “YOU SHALL LIVE ...”

3:11 – “eternal purpose” – what happens to you as a child of God in TIME was predestined in ETERNITY – God didn't just redeem you in TIME, but in ETERNITY (Rev. 13:8 – “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”)

GOD FIXED IT IN ETERNITY, AND THEN MANIFESTED IT IN TIME.

That's why it is only “a matter of time” before God brings me out of my trouble, because He fixed it in eternity!

3:12 – “boldness and access with confidence” (!)

3:12 – “by the faith OF HIM” – we live by HIS FAITH!

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The only thing still alive when Jesus went into the tomb was the words He had spoken BY FAITH. Many times, our faith and confidence in the Word is all we have when we are buried in our trials! And without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have no proof that “His faith” actually worked.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

3:13 – tribulation for the gospel's sake brings glory to God and to His church
– your tribulations are not only for you – your experiences impact others

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,
worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

3:14 – “for this cause I bow” – Paul is in awe of the plan of God

3:15 – “the whole family” – the church is bigger than North America, and the church is also bigger than NOW (it reaches to the PAST and the FUTURE); the whole family includes an innumerable host of saints, and even the angels – **REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE NEVER WORSHIPPED ALONE!**

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

God knows how to use what we do and say today to bless someone around the world – or even someone in “the whole family” in a future generation!

3:16 – “inner MAN” – not “inner child” – you are called to be MATURE, strengthened by God to be MATURE, and expected to be MATURE!

3:17 – “dwell” – “to live in as a home” – this means that Christ is not just living in our hearts, but that He is “feeling at home” in us!

3:19 – “passeth knowledge” – greater than what you can figure out!

3:20 – “exceeding abundantly above all” – English translators are struggling a bit here to give us the sense that God’s power is “over the top”

3:20 – “according” – common word in Ephesians, meaning “in harmony with” – in the first two chapters refers to something God or the devil did (in spirit realm) – here it is used to refer to something that WE as the church allow!

3:21 – “Amen” – “absolutely, unequivocally true” – you can’t argue with a statement that has an “Amen” at the end of it!

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him **Amen**, unto the glory of God by us.