#### NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 7/27-28 2020

### THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 1:21-2:3

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## 7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

#### MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon pm; 85309150746 Tues am!

Topic: <u>Monday 7pm Bible Study</u> - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly:

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#### **OPENING PRAYER**

### THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 1:21-2:3

#### "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God) 3:34

Alleluia, Alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Holy, Holy are You Lord God Almighty, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb. You are holy, Holy are you Lord God Almighty, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb Amen (2x)

Amen are you Lord God Almighty, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb You are holy, Holy are you Lord God Almighty, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb (4)

You are holy, Holy are you Lord God Almighty, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb, Amen Amen!!!

PRAYER – What is the Exceeding Greatness of His Power! Eph 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power Eph 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead

• The Illustration! Helping us understand, what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, he gives us an existing illustration in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, which is a perfect illustration to what happens to us spiritually.

#### **WE BEGIN TODAY:**

# and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

- at His right hand Having raised Jesus from among the dead, out of the domain of death, God made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, that of supreme honor and executive authority. This place of honor given to the Lord Jesus Christ by His Father is the highest place which heaven affords, fulfilling the messianic promise of (Psa 110:1) The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." And our blessed Lord is there at this moment!
- Believers in Christ must realize that **the power which is in them** is to be measured by the fact **that God has taken human nature in Jesus and has raised it in Him and with Him to the right hand of God!**
- Jesus, as fully God and fully man it is there now with all authority and power. What a staggering thought!

# Eph 1:21 far above <u>all</u> principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

- The Apostle continues with his description of the glory and honor given to the Son. *principality and power and might and dominion* Evil angels or of good angels? What is quite clear is that Christ has been placed in a position of authority and honor which is above *all* powers.
- The world is as it is today because of these principalities and powers, these unseen spiritual forces. But the Son of God is *far above them all*. He is greater than they in might and dignity and majesty and position.
- Christ has also been set above the good angels, the blessed angels. He has been set above them *all*.

### Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet,

• Everything is in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is master over every one of them.

### and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

• *The church* – What are we being told about the "*church*"? A number of comparisons and metaphors are given for our understanding.

- The most common is that of **the Church as the body of Christ**. But it is not the only picture. The Bible refers to the church being compared to a **building**; a **family**; a **great empire**; a **bride** and to **a vine and its branches**.
- All these pictures are designed to help us understand our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, enabling us to live the Christian life and reach assurance that we are going to enjoy the 'purchased possession'.
- We are to consider the doctrine of the Church, that we may see how this *exceeding great power of God*, how the energy of the strength of God's might, **actually operates in us.**
- The way to realize the truth about this power is to understand our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. We can best do so through the picture of the Church as His body. Think of the human body. We are joined to Christ, united to Christ, not a number of loose parts, but like a body, a living connection all joined to Christ and to one another.
- This produces a **unity**, which we ourselves cannot bring into being, but is all the result of the power of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit alone which makes us Christians.
- This relationship of the believer to Christ is not spasmodic, but constant. It does not depend upon our concentration or faithfulness, but rather is the work of the Spirit, therefor being permanent.
- *head over all things to the church* The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. He **is the source and the center of the life of the Church.** The life of the whole body and every individual part comes from the head.
- The same life is found in every single part and portion of the body; which gives unity to the body. It is the Holy Spirit that makes and constitutes the unity; it is the common life and energy that establishes unity! That makes us one!
- In view of the fact that the Church is the body of Christ, and that He is the Head, we are entitled to say that what is true of Him is true of us! We are now *in Christ*! He is the Head of the body of which we are the parts. Whatever the Head does the whole body does also.
- We have been crucified with Christ. When He was crucified I was crucified; my old man, the man I was, in Adam, was crucified. I, the man that was born in sin, have died with Christ. In that sense I am as dead as He was. I am 'dead to sin', I am 'dead to the law'. I have finished with both. Crucified with Him, dead with Him, buried with Him! But, I am also risen with Him! Even as the power of God raised Christ from the dead. He also raised me with Him!

# Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Col 2:9) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Here in the same way, the fullness of the Son is in the Church which is His body.

- As believers, we must realize that all the attributes and power and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ are in us as members of His body! All His life is in us; we are made 'partakers of the divine nature'. He is the source of all power in us who are the members of His body. He gives us the energy which is necessary for us to play our individual parts.
- This is most important!!! As we face the difficulties of life, and are tempted by Satan, we often feel that all is impossible and that we cannot go on. We must remind ourselves of this truth: I am a very small and unimportant member, but I am a member of the body of Christ!!! Think of that!
- Then as our eyes are opened to this truth we can take fresh courage and take up our task again and say: In Christ I cannot fail, I must not fail, He will not allow me to fail.
- Even though I am an unworthy insignificant Christian, as a member of the body of Christ, I am someone **who is essential and vital to the** *fullness* of the mystical body of Christ. What an idea! To the extent to which we grasp this idea we shall receive strength not to sin. It will enable us to see sin in a new light.
- A member of this mystical body continuing in sin? Impossible! There is no way which leads so directly to holiness and sanctification as the understanding of this New Testament doctrine of the Church as the body of Christ. We are a part of *the fullness of Him*, of His mystical completeness as the Mediator, as the One given to the Church by God to be its Head.
- (Rom 6:11) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He has raised me with Him!

# By Grace Through Faith — The "Before" of Before and After! Eph 2:1 And you [He made alive — addition from translators], who were <u>dead</u> in <u>trespasses</u> (willful, deliberate) and <u>sins</u>

(missing the mark), (Col 2:13) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (Eph 4:18) having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

• To give a fuller understanding of the power of our resurrection, we need to

- see where we were before our being saved and born again! What a dark, dark, past all of us have had!
- Paul begins with your favorite subject, you (and me)! Unfortunately, that black background is you! Dead in your trespasses and your sin.
- We read *And you who were dead in* (on, or because of them) *trespasses and sins*. The vital word is the word *dead!*
- You were dead, says Paul. What does he mean? He is dealing with a condition of spiritual, not physical, death, because he goes on immediately: in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.
- Now, he is going to begin to splash on that black background, the brilliant colors of God's grace! He goes on to show us how God is doing it.
- The apostle in these three verses, amazingly and profoundly summarizes the biblical doctrine, the scriptural view, of man in sin, saying four things about him: 1) **the condition** man's state in sin; 2) **why** man is in it; 3) **what results in practice** because he is in it; 4) **what God thinks** of it. It is all in these three verses.
- First, man's state in sin. What is it? (Eph 2:1) And you He made alive, who were dead!
- The teaching is that **life for the non-Christian is a living death**. He is spiritually *dead*. No stronger term than death, you cannot say anything beyond saying that a man is dead! There is no life there! Biblically it describes a man in a state of sin before the power of God unto salvation in the gospel comes and he is born again. He is *dead!*
- What does this mean? It is the exact opposite and antithesis of life. What then is life? Jesus said, (*Joh 17:3*) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. This is life!
- You were dead; and those who are not Christian are still dead, meaning that they are ignorant of God. They do not know God! The apostle puts that clearly later in this very chapter. He says here that these people before their conversion were in that very condition. (Eph 2:12) that at that time you 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.
- You were without God,' you did not know Him. You were estranged from the life of God, not in fellowship with God. Oh, you may have talked about God, but God was some sort of philosophic term for you, You did not know Him, you were not in correspondence with Him; you were outside His life.

- But now! Do you know God? Not, do you talk about God? But is God real to you? Do you know Him? 'This is life eternal, *that they might know You*, *the only true God!* Can you say, 'My God'?
- Do you have a heart of compassion for the unbelievers? Do you pray for them? Are you doing everything you can to bring this gospel to them, whether in this or in any other land? That is their condition. Oh, what miserable wretches! They are *Dead!* Outside the life of God!

Eph 2:1 And you [He made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins, Eph 2:2 in which you once walked (meander, without purpose) according to the course of this world, (Col 1:21) And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

- The second thing he tells us about such people is that **they are governed by** *this world*, -- *in which you once walked according to the course of this world*. What a statement!
- *in which you once walked*, meandered, wandered aimlessly, without purpose. Life without Christ lacks true purpose, because the only real purpose for our existence is to serve God and to live in fellowship with Him! If you are not living in fellowship with God, you are just wasting time, just meandering through life with no real purpose, following every fad and every fashion that came along. You were just flowing with *the course of this world*, going with the current.
- The course of this world, meaning that this kind of life is lived under the control of the outlook and the mentality of this present world—(Galatians 1:4) this present evil age as the Scriptures call it.
- Man is carried along, controlled and absolutely governed by that kind of life and outlook. According to the Bible the world is always against God.
- *this world* Not the physical universe, the mountain, trees, and so forth. It means the outlook, mentality and the organization of life apart from God. It is man himself viewing and organizing life and controlling life. This is the mentality that is described as *this world*.
- To be without God means that you are in *this world* and are governed by the outlook and the mentality of it. (*Rom 12:2*) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- We believers are not to be conformed to this world with its mentality and its outlook. We now are in another realm. Be transformed, have your mind renewed to correspond to that new world. John says explicitly: (1 John 2:15–17) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves

the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. [17] And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. You do not belong to that, which is utterly opposed to God. Love not the world!

• We see here that the man who is not a Christian is a man who is simply governed and controlled by the world, its mind, its outlook, and its mentality. There is nothing sadder about man in sin than just that! It is so evident in the world today! Tragic? But that is man in sin, he is spiritually dead because he is controlled by this mind of this world.

# Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now

- We must go yet one step further back. (*Eph 2:2*) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.
- Do you believe in the devil? I believe in the devil because I have to. I cannot explain life without it. It is because the devil is ignored that the world is as it is.
- The devil is so subtle! He dominates man and persuades him at the same time that he is not being dominated. Man even thinks he is emancipating himself by turning his back on the Bible.
- He presently is dominating it all. He hates God. He was an angel created perfectly by God, a bright seraph, who rebelled against God because he wanted to be God. His one object is to mar God's creation, to ruin God's world. He came into it and beguiled Eve and Adam and has been doing it ever since. dominating the life of man. (but, hallelujah! Not much longer!)
- We are all under the dominion of Satan by nature. He has his forces, his powers; he is *the prince*. Of what? *Of the powers of the air*. We read in (*Eph 6:12*) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- The Bible tells us that there are these unseen powers, and the devil is 'the prince of the power of the air. They are not earthly powers, but belonging to another realm, they are spiritual. They have no bodies, but they are there.
- The tragedy of man is that because he cannot see the spirits of evil he does not believe in them. He cannot see the Holy Spirit or God, so he does not believe in either of them! He does not realize he is in a spiritual realm, because he is *dead*, without spiritual understanding.

- Oh, the power of evil! The man who is not a Christian is absolutely dominated, controlled by, and is *dead* in the hands of these powers!
- We believers are still confronted by them. We have to wrestle against this power. We must not think a Christian's life will be one of ease, without strife or struggle. Not in *this world*! There are these powers of evil, the powers of the air, with all their subtlety, malignity and cleverness.
- Their chief transforms himself 'into an angel of light' in order that he may get us down. It's amazing that any of us still stand in this Christian life at all. We are confronted by the one who had come to the Son of God, tempting Him, saying with absolute confidence: 'If You are the Son of God'.
- Still today, he is opposed to us with all his might and strength and power, with all the forces that he commands, with the evil principle that he has put into the whole outlook and mind of the world, organized in visible form but it itself is unseen. It is everywhere.
- How do we still stand? There is only one answer. It is by *the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe*. The God who saves us is the God who keeps us. Without Him we could not stand for a second. The glory therefore must be entirely His. *You, He made alive, who were dead!*

Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,

the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (Col 3:6) Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

- **The explanation of his condition.** Why is man in this condition? What has brought him into it, what explains it? We see the answer in a series of terms and words which he uses in these three verses. One important term is here *the sons of disobedience*.
- It is disobedience that leads to our being exactly what we are and why man is like this. *Disobedience* has led to all our troubles and all our disasters. It is man's relationship to God. Sin is not merely something negative, the absence of qualities, the absence of something, but it is positive, active and deliberate.
- It is departure from *obedience*, it is a questioning the right of God to command us! It is rebellion against God! It all arises from man's pride, self-assertion, setting himself up against God, including his desire to be as a god himself!
- Disobedience is active to the point of enmity. If we fail to realize that, we have not really understood this doctrine. What we are told here is what he

- says in (Rom 8:7) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
- What a statement, and what an important addition! Man *disobeys* because he is at enmity against God; he hates God.

Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

# Eph 2:3 among whom also we <u>all</u> once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

(1Pe 4:3) For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. (Gal 5:16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- An important word *all*. His theme is that God in Christ in the fulness of the times is going to reunite *all* things in Christ and that He has already started to do this. What he says here about man in sin is true for *all* of us; it's as true about the Jew as it is of the Gentile.
- This is true of *all*. Many may think, I can see quite clearly that this applies to certain people. But we are not all like that, are we? The answer of the apostle Paul is *all*, the whole of mankind, not a single exception. We *all* have this sinful nature.
- A fatal mistake is to think of sin always in terms of acts and of actions rather than in **terms of nature**, and of disposition. The mistake is to think of it in terms of particular things instead of thinking about our relationship to God.
- Sin is the exact opposite of the attitude and the life of which we are to conform (*Deu 6:5*) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. If you are not doing that you are a sinner. It does not matter how respectable you are; if you are not living entirely to the glory of God you are a sinner.
- The height of sin is **not to feel any need of the grace of God.** There is no greater sin than that. Infinitely worse than committing some sin of the flesh is to **feel that you are independent of God**, or **that Christ need never have died on the cross of Calvary.** That **final self-sufficiency, and self-satisfaction, and self-righteousness, is the sin of sins;** it is sin at its height, because it is spiritual sin.

- When we realize that, we realize that the apostle is not exaggerating when he says we all...just as the others.
- There is only one adequate explanation that all unsaved men are in sin. This is given in Genesis Chapter 3. It is the biblical doctrine of the Fall and of original sin. You cannot understand the modern world apart from the doctrine of original sin!

**Eph 2:3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

## and were by nature (birth) children of wrath, just as the others.

(Psa 51:5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

- The apostle says two things; that we are all under the wrath of God; and that we are all under the *wrath* of God *by nature*.
- Firstly, all who are born into this world are under the wrath of God. He says we were all the children of wrath, even as others; —that is what just as the others means. Although the world does not want to think that man is subject to the wrath of God, much less that he is under that wrath by nature. We need to believe that. It is part of Scripture.
- We find God's *wrath*, throughout the Bible, starting in the very beginning. In Genesis chapter 3 when man fell in the garden of Eden, God visited, spoke to him and pronounced judgment upon him, driving him out of the garden, placing the cherubim and the flaming sword, which was the sword of God's justice.
- It was the message of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (*Joh 3:36*) He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. What can be more plain or explicit?
- Until we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we are under the *wrath* of God. The *wrath* of God is an expression of God's hatred of sin, an expression of God's punishment of sin. It is a clear statement that if we die in our sins we go on to eternal punishment. That is the teaching of Scripture.
- This doctrine is essential in evangelism. If we really believe in salvation and in our absolute need of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must start with this doctrine.
- God's wrath is the other side of God's just and complete love!

**Eph 2:3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

### and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

(Psa 51:5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

- The apostle says that we are all in that condition by nature (by birth!)—
  'we were all by nature the children of wrath, just as the others. The Bible
  does not teach that we are born into this world in a state of innocence
  or neutrality, and then, because we sin, we become sinners and thereby
  come under the wrath of God.
- It says exactly the opposite, that we are born into this world under the wrath of God; from the moment of our birth we are already under the wrath of God. He says that we are in that position by nature.
- What, then, does this mean? Our relationship, as believers to the Lord Jesus Christ is exactly analogous to our relationship formerly to Adam. In (Rom 5:12) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (Rom 5:17) For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)
- Oh, that our eyes may be enlightened that we may see the problem of being in sin as an unbeliever, appreciating and knowing **that the power of God**, which holds us will never leave us nor forsake us!
- Next week, we will see God's total and awesome answer to this dark, dark, past of our being dead in sin in two words, "<u>But God</u>"!!!!

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**