



LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

In this week's passage, the author, Paul, is continuing to reveal the amazing change in our lives due to God's grace and Jesus' work. Here, he is addressing the Ephesians who were primarily gentiles, non-Jewish people. This is most of us. The blessings and amazing work of God keeps pouring out. Let's dig in and learn about what God has done for those who are "in Christ."

Look back at 2:1-3 and notice the words that the author focuses on their (our) previous status: "You were" (v. 1), you "once walked" (v. 2), you "once lived (v.3), and you "were" (v.3). What does Paul ask us the "Gentiles" to "remember" in verses 11-12?

Look back again at 2:4. The author wrote, "But God. . ." In the previous section These two words began the focus on what God did to change their status. In this week's passage (11-22), Paul begins the added blessings with the words "But now" (v. 13). Through a series of contrasts, we see how God completely changes our status when we are "in Christ." It is life-changing truth to see the kindness of what God has done. Below, complete the chart of contrasts of status "At one time" and then God's the blessings "But now" that Christ is in our lives.

"At one time"

Ex. Were far off

"But now"

Brought near by the blood of Christ

In our passage, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are referenced 18 times. How did God bring about these amazing changes in our lives?

What was God's purpose for achieving these changes? What does this say about God?

What do you think and feel when you meditate on these truths?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

When the author (Paul) tells us to “remember” (vs. 11, 12), he then lists things that have happened in the past. Why?

What stands out to you from this passage? What do you think or feel as you consider these truths?

One of the repeated truths is that through God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), God has joined people together (oneness) in Christ (occurring 15 times here). What did this mean to the original audience? What should this mean to us today?

Who, in your world, needs this message? How can we team up to share this message?

APPLYING THE MESSAGE

Read through Ephesians chapter two slowly. Allow time to give thanks for each blessing. Carry this thanksgiving through your week and let the joy of the Lord fill your heart.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for us to be intentional to pray and watch as we walk through our days and as opportunities arise for us to influence people with this good news
- Please pray for your global partners to know the joy of the Lord this week
- Please pray for Pastor Doug and Lisa as they make a quick trip to visit family in Montana