

Study Questions - Week 6

Read 2:11-18.

- Can you summarize in 10 words or less what this is saying?
- A very unique title for this section would be "**Jesus is an Equal Opportunity Redeemer**". How does this capture the thought of the passage?

Please re-read **verses 11-13**.

- These verses are giving a **portrait of alienation**. The Jews felt themselves to be superior to the Gentiles and proceeded to give them labels such as "uncircumcision". What are some of the labels we use to make us feel that we are superior to other people?
- What are **3 practical benefits** of obeying Paul's command to remember our desperate hopeless past in contrast with our glorious present salvation? What does Remembering "then, but now" do for us...
1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Read **verses 14-18**.

- What **2 things** fueled the animosity of the Jew toward the Gentile? (for a better understanding of the "wall" see <http://bible.org/seriespage/guilt-men-and-grace-god-part-2-ephesians-211-21> and read the comments).
- Someone has said "**The best thing to do when you don't like someone is to build a "wall"**". What are some of the "walls" and fences we build to prevent the full inclusion of all believers together in one body on an equal basis? Why do we love to build them?
- What fueled the animosity was **religious beliefs**. What is it about religion that can make it so divisive?
- **Jesus is our peace**. Why is He so fundamental to unity amongst people? What are some of the ways the present worldly system attempts to heal a fragmented universe?
- The Jewish believers thought the Gentile believers were second-class citizens. The Jews were "**insiders**" and the Gentiles were "**outsiders**". Why is the "insider" vs "outsider" mentality so dangerous when it is found in a church?
- Someone has said the Sunday morning worship time is still the most racially segregated time in our country? Should we work to restore demonstrable unity among believers of different races, age, etc.? How?

EPHESIANS

A GOD
CENTERED
GOSPEL

Christ's Destiny Has Become Ours

(This is the 6th in a series of messages entitled *The God Centered Gospel*)

Ephesians 2:1-10

The great pastor teacher John Stott begins this section with - "Against the somber background of our world today Ephesians 2:1-10 stands out in striking relevance. Paul first plumbs the depths of pessimism about man, and then rises to the heights of optimism about God. It is this combination of pessimism and optimism, of despair and faith, which constitutes the refreshing realism of the Bible. For what Paul does in this passage is to paint a vivid contrast between what man is by nature and what he can become by grace (Stott, *Ephesians*, 69)."

Note well the relationship between 2:1-10 and the preceding context (1:15-23). Paul is continuing along the theme of God's powerful aim which is to fill the universe with the glory of His Son, Jesus, by putting the church on display as the embodiment of His Son (1:15-23). God by His power fulfilled Jesus' destiny. *But how confident can we be in the fulfillment of ours?*

Idea

Because our salvation is totally of God, there is eternal hope for all those who are dead in their sins. This is accomplished by the same powerful God who raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him so that He can complete His Father's plan for the ages. That wasn't a one time event. God is in the business of raising people from the dead and exalting them. You were re-born by His purpose and you were re-born for His purpose.

Lessons

- I. OUR CONDITION _____ CONVERSION (vv 1-3)
 - A. We were _____ (v 1)
 - B. We were _____ (v 2)
 - The _____ holds its sway from _____
 - The _____ of the world holds his sway from _____
 - The _____ holds its way from _____
 - C. We were _____ (v 3)

- II. OUR CONDITION _____ CONVERSION (vv 4-10)
 - A. It is completely the work of God caused by _____ alone (vv 4, 5, 7, 8)
 - B. It is completely the work of God accepted thru _____ alone (vv 8,9)
 - C. It is completely the work of God in and because of _____ alone (vv 6, 7, 10)
 - God's settled purpose is to be _____ to those in Christ
 - He has an _____ to lavish His kindness on you
 - You were re-born _____ His purpose and you were re-born _____ His purpose