

Lesson 4, EPHESIANS 2:1-5

In chapter 1 of Ephesians, Paul has systematically expounded on the “perks” or blessings of believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who takes away the sins of the world. He has declared that through faith we are given the Holy Spirit who not only works in our lives daily, but also is a “deposit guaranteeing our inheritance” in the future.

1. Look up the word “deposit” (“guarantee” used in some translations); you might want to see what definition Merriam Webster uses. How do you apply it to Ephesians 1:14?

2. In Ephesians 2, Paul wants us to look back to our past and see where we have been spiritually. Read verses 1-3. Paul asserts we were all in sin. Some of our sins may seem more pronounced than others, but we are all guilty. Think back to a time when you were following your own desires and not the will of God. Write out a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s grace to you.

3. Read Genesis 3. How does this idea of original sin affect mankind? What was the sin or sins that caused the Fall?

4. What does Romans 1:18-20, 28-32 say about the nature of mankind and the nature of God? For a more complete picture read all of Romans 1. It seems that mankind is without hope. BUT..... Reading Romans 5:12,17-19, what do you learn?

5. Read John 12:30 and John 10:17-20. Who is the “ruler of the kingdom of the world”? What does Jesus say about the world and its ruler in John 15:18-19; 16:33; 18:36?

Application: Jesus went to the cross to take away the sins of the world. That means yours and mine. If there is a sin you are holding on to and have not released to the Lord, then take this time to truly give him your sin. Remember, to not forgive yourself of past sins is to belittle the work Jesus did on the cross. There is no sin so great that the blood of Jesus is not more than sufficient sacrifice.

Prayer: Most Loving Father, you sacrificed your Son out of love and mercy for your children. We praise you for your loving kindness to us who struggle with sin in this world. May our lives be a sacrifice of praise to you as we seek to do your will in all areas of our lives. We praise you, Jesus, for your obedience to the cross out of love for each of us. May we show reciprocal love to you in all we say and do. Amen.