

## Ephesians 1:13-2:5

### Verse 13-14:

Three experiences we must have to be a Christian:

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (Ephesians 1:13 ESV)*

### In him also-

Gentiles were believing in Jesus and they had to have the same three experiences the Jewish believers had.

The word of truth told them about their sin problem. In fact, their sin was so bad that it nailed Jesus, God's Son, to the cross. Our sin problem is humanly incurable.

The word of truth tells us the Gospel-the good news.

The first experience is: 1) We need to know the word of truth.

The second experience that we must have is also found in verse 13, we believed in him

True belief results in change. If you say you believe in this truth and you still live the old life it means you have not really believed.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)*

The second experience is: 2) We need to believe.

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (Ephesians 1:13 ESV)*

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior the seal of the Holy Spirit is placed on us showing that the believer belongs to God.

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV)*

*who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:14 ESV)*

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee.

God has made the down payment on our lives and the proof of that is the Holy Spirit.

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1Corinthians 1:9 ESV)*

The third experience is: 3) We need to be sealed with the Holy Spirit.

But what is our response to what God has done? We are to worship Him.

### **Verses 15-23:**

Now Paul praises these believers and we will see what he praises them for:

*For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, (Ephesians 1:15 ESV)*

#### **1) Saving faith**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)*

Paul knew they had saving faith because they obeyed Jesus Christ.

Paul is celebrating not only their saving faith, he also celebrated their

#### **2) Practical faith**

These folks took what Jesus said in John 13:34-35 to heart, they did it.

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35 ESV)*

When faith and love are combined in a church you have a winning hand and people will turn to Christ when they see that.

Paul then prays for these believers in **verses 16-17**.

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (Ephesians 1:16-17 ESV)*

Paul mentions three areas that we need to know about God.

*having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:18 ESV)*

1) **Hope**

2) **Riches**

*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24 ESV)*

*and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:19-20 ESV)*

3) **Power**

At the cross we saw a display of God's love for us at the resurrection of Jesus, **you saw the power of God**- and that very same power that rose Jesus from the dead is available to us. How do we see this power?

1) **Saving power**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16 ESV)*

2) **Living power**

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (Ephesians 3:20 ESV)*

*And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV)*

But these verses tell us that Jesus Christ considers himself incomplete without us with him.

### **Verses 2:1-5:**

In this next section Paul tells us what we as believers once were.

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1 ESV)*

Paul tells us we were dead before Jesus came into our lives.

*among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3 ESV)*

Paul says that everyone is that way. This is an absolute universal, even for Jewish people.

Paul then gives us the different areas where to which we were once slaves.

*in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (Ephesians 2:2 ESV)*

- 1) We followed the ways of the world.
- 2) We followed the god of this world.

*In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV)*

*among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3 ESV)*

- 3) We followed our flesh.

What Paul is saying is that before Christ came into our lives we were dominated by the world from without, dominated by the flesh from within, and dominated by Satan.

- 4) We were children of wrath.

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,  
(Ephesians 2:4 ESV)*

**But God,**- there was nothing in us to make God act. It was in Him.

Being rich in **mercy**

**Great love**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 ESV)*

*even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—(Ephesians 2:5 ESV)*

**By grace**