

Be Strong In the Lord – Episode 6 – Dave Weber

Adopted into God's Family in Christ

Ephesians Chapter 2:11-18

Book of Joshua

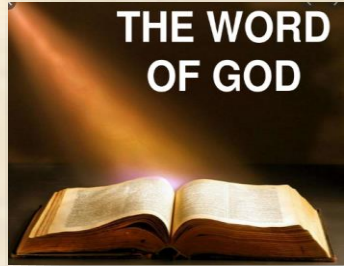
God's people taking physical possession of the Land that God promised them

Book of Ephesians

God's people taking spiritual possession of the spiritual ground God has promised us as **our inheritance in Christ** – we need to **actively possess it**

Ephesians Chapter 1 Topics – Also in Chapter 2

• Foreknowledge	God's eternal knowledge & wisdom
• Election	God's Divine choosing of us
• Predestination	God's plan for us from eternity
• Redemption	God's price & plan to redeem us
• Adoption	God's legally adopting us
• Blessings	God's riches for us in Christ
• The will of God	God's will for mankind & us in particular
• Mysteries (12)	God's mysteries being revealed
• Dispensations	God's sequence of events & time frames
• Forgiveness	God's great love, the steep price, His character
• Inheritance	God's inheritance to us thru Jesus' death & Will
• Sealing	God's sealing us with the indwelling Holy Spirit



Ephesians 2:11-18

Passed from Death unto Life



Ephesians 2: 11

“Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcised by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands.”

Ephesians 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.”

“Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcised by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands.” Eph 2: 11

- ***“In time past...”***: is my life transformed?
- **Was or am I a Gentile under no covenant?**

Looked down on as unchosen

Could become a Jew by conversion

(Ruth a Moabite, Rahab an Amorite)

- **Was or am I a Jew under the Covenant of Promises and of the Works of the Law?**

Risk of pride, arrogance trusting in race & religion

Ephesians 2:11

The Bible clearly distinguishes between

- **The Law** by works **Luke 16:16**
- **Grace** by faith **Eph. 3:1-2**



God shows us **righteousness**, by the **faith** of Abraham, 430 years before God gave Moses the **Law**:

Gal 3:6 *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for **righteousness**”*

Gal 3:8 *“And the scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify** the heathen by faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham...”*

Ephesians 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.”

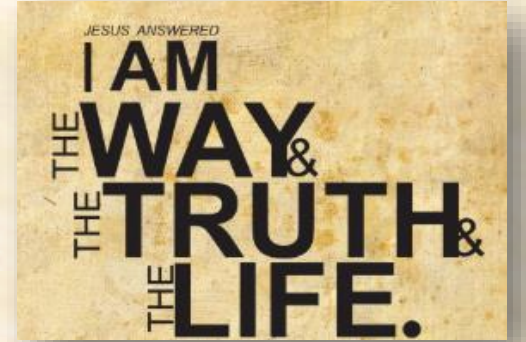
- This refutes any notion that pagan religions are just as acceptable to God as the Christian faith.
- To be “outside Christ” is condemnation

As Gentiles, when we are born into this world, with our inherited sinful human nature, we are:



- **Without Christ**
- **Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel**
- **Strangers to God's covenants of promise**
- **Having no hope**
- **And without God in the world**

Since...



In Christ alone is forgiveness of sin

In Christ alone is freedom from God's wrath

In Christ alone is assurance of heaven

In Christ alone is eternal life

In Christ alone is peace now, joy forevermore

In Christ alone is all of God's blessings

Why remain unregenerate ...“in the world”?

Since God had a plan of salvation through faith, in His sacrificing His Son Jesus, what is the purpose of the Law ? The 10 Commandments & the Law:

- Is a schoolmaster, teaches us we cannot keep the God's laws on our own, we need Go (Rom 3:20)
- Is a mirror, show us our guiltiness (Rom 3:19)
 "the soul that sins shall die." (Exod 18:20)
- Declares God's wrath against sinners (Rom 4:16)
- The Law is holy, just, true (Rom 7:12)
- A shadow of the good things to come (Heb. 10:1)

Ephesians 2: 12

Matt 22:37,39 *“Jesus said unto him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*

James 2:10 *“For whoever keeps the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

In Christ ...Rom 6:15 *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the Law, but under grace.”*

How can I become good and made righteous?

Phil 3:8-9 *“... that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith”*

How can I escape God's **wrath** against my sin?

Rom 8:1-2 *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

*For the law of the Spirit of **life in Christ Jesus** has made me **free** from the law of sin and death."*

Ephesians 2:13

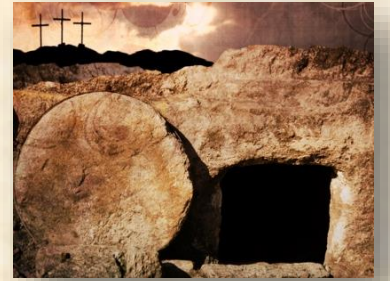
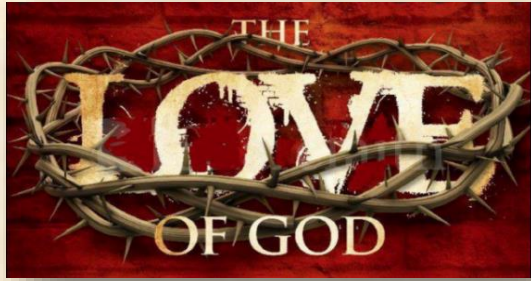
***“But now, in Christ Jesus
you who sometimes were
far off are made near by
the blood of Christ.”***



Ephesians 2:13 *"But now, in Christ Jesus you who sometimes were far off are made near by the **blood of Christ**."*

- Only by the precious shed **blood of Christ**, the spotless Lamb, can we approach near to God.
- "and without the **shedding of blood**, there is no **remission** [of sin]." **Heb 9:22**
- "...though yours sins be as scarlet, they shall be **white as snow**..." **Isa 1:18**
- "Now where **remission** of these is, there is no more offering for sin." **Heb 10:18**





Man is not saved by works

Man is not saved by faith + works

Man is saved by faith alone **John 17:1-4, 19:30**

Any attempt to add to Jesus' completed
work of salvation is **blasphemy**

We can add nothing to it **Heb 10:1-14**

Ephesians 2:14

“For He is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us”

Access by a Gentile into the Temple was on **penalty of death**

God describes a **new class of person, that is NEITHER only a Jew nor only a Gentile:**

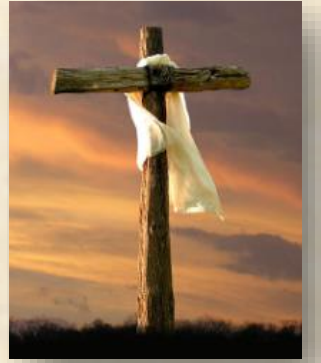
****The believer** as unified in one body, the body of Christ**



Ephesians 2:15

“Having abolished in His flesh the enmity (hostility), even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of two one new man, so making peace.”

Ephesians 2:16



“And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity (hostility) thereby.”

Peace with God comes from
Jesus taking our punishment



Peace with God is by **justification**:
just as if I'd not sinned

*“Therefore, being justified by **faith**, we
have **peace** with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ” Rom 5:1*

*“And the **peace** of God that passes all
understanding shall **keep** your hearts and
minds through Christ Jesus” Phil 4:7*

The Law created a wall between of **separate between:**
Jews under Promise, under the Law
Gentiles without the Law of God

In Christ, we are **grafted into** the Covenant w/Abraham

In Christ, Jews & Gentiles are under **the law of Grace**

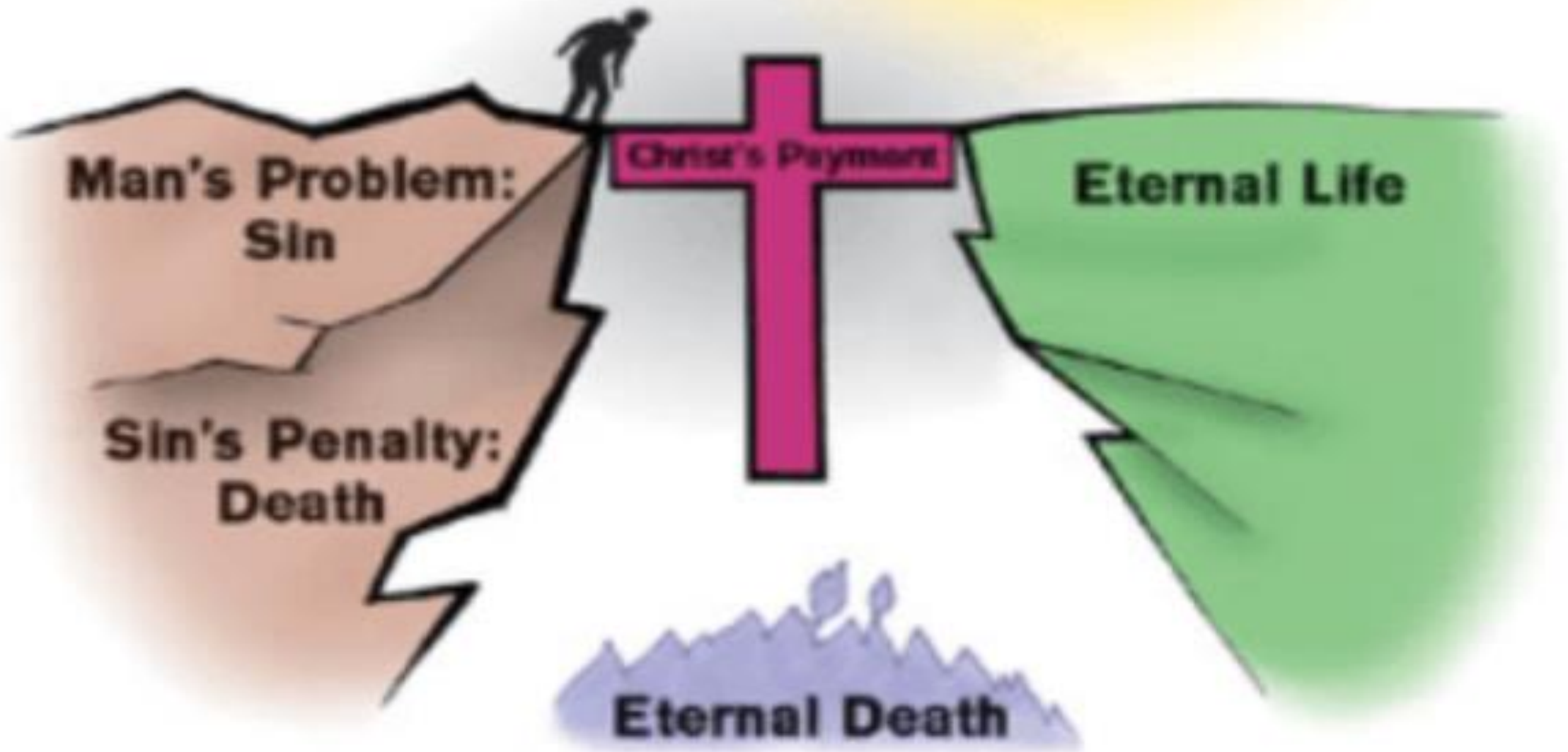
Salvation **by grace alone**
 through faith alone
 in Christ alone

Mercy: we don't get what we deserve (**justice ending in wrath**)

Grace: we get what we don't deserve (**salvation, relationship**)

By the Cross

God's Purpose



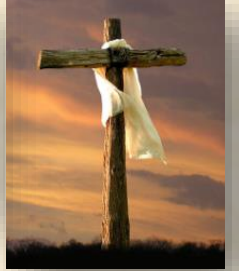
Ephesians 2:17-18



“And came and **preached peace** to you who were afar off, and to them that were near,

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

Peace through the Cross to the Jew & Gentile



Access by one Spirit to Father God

- Access had been only once a year, by the high priest
- In Christ, we now have **access any time**, through prayer, to commune **directly with God**, addressing Him as Father!
- **access to** God, blessings, to heaven, fellow saints, eternity, inheritance, glorification

Under the Law of **Grace**:

We are not **to live** as we please, **but as He pleases**

So...what does this say...

About me?

To me?

For me?



What about me?

Am I saved?

Will I go to heaven?

How can I know for sure?

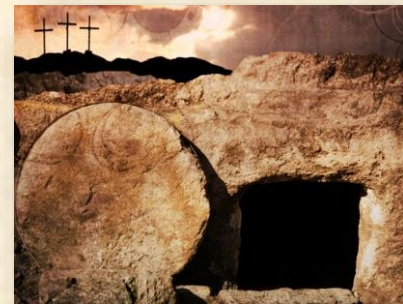
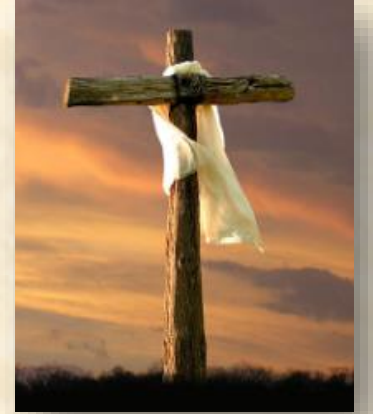
God's Solution for my sin

Rom 5:8 “For God commends His love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**”

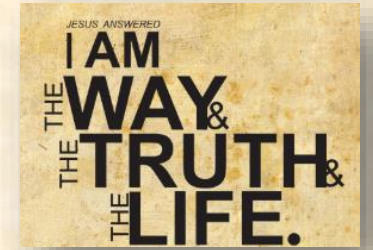
2 Cor 5:21 For He hath **made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him

Col 2:14 **Blotting out the handwriting of the ordinances** that were against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way **nailing it to the cross**

Jn 19:30 When **Jesus** therefore had received the vinegar, he **said, “It is finished”**; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.



Our Response



- **Rom 10:9** That if you will **confess** with your mouth **the Lord Jesus**, and will **believe** in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, you **shall be saved**.
- **1 John 1:9** **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

God's Promise for the Believer

1 Peter 1:3,4



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a **lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.