

A DIVINE CONTINUUM
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Ephesians 2:1-22

1. We will resume our series from the Old Testament next week, but today I want to deal with the continuum that we find in Ephesians 2.
2. Every human being is on one of two paths; the path of the wicked or the path of the righteous. Proverbs 4:14-19

Do not enter the path of the wicked and do not proceed in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; and they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. **18 But the path of the righteous** is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

3. We can tell which path we are on by what is, or is not, happening in our lives.
4. If we are in Christ our lives will be characterized by spiritual growth and progress.
5. We see this clearly stated in Philippians 1:3-7

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 **For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

NOTE: What God begins He finishes or perfects. This was true when He spoke the Creation into existence, and it will be true in the life of every person who has genuinely repented towards God and embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

6. Here in Ephesians 2 we have a series of conjunctions that introduce us to five great truths or realities.

NOTE: A conjunction is a word that connects paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or other words. Some common conjunctions are “and,” “but,” “or,” and “therefore.”

7. This passage begins with a conjunction, and each section of the passage starts with a conjunction.

I. And you. 1-3

A. In these verses Paul introduces us to the predicament that every human being faces.

B. Note the details of this predicament.

1. You were dead in (by reason of) your trespasses and sins.

NOTE: When Adam and Eve sinned they died spiritually, and outside of Christ every human being is spiritually dead.

2. You formerly walked or lived according to the dictates of the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

NOTE: Notice how many times Paul used the word “formerly” in this chapter.

II. But God. 4-10

A. But God...made us alive together with Christ.

1. He did so even when we were dead because of our transgressions.
2. He did so being rich in mercy, and because of His great love with which He loved us.
3. He raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

NOTE: We have a reservation where it really matters.

B. What He did He did so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

C. What He did is based on His unmerited favor and not on our performance.

D. What He did He did so that He might work in us and through us.

III. Therefore remember. 11-12

A. Remember that formerly you were separate from Christ.

B. Remember that formerly you had no hope and were without God in the world.

NOTE: How do we explain the current, low level of devotion to Christ and His church that is manifested in the lives of many so-called followers of the Lord Jesus Christ in the light of what God has done for us in and through Christ Jesus?

IV. But now. 13-18

A. You who were formerly far off have been brought near; not only to God, but also to each other.

B. In Christ both Jew and Gentile have been made into one new man-Christians.

C. Through Christ enmity was abolished, peace was established, reconciliation has occurred, and access to God has been granted.

NOTE: How sad that what Christ died and rose again to accomplish has rarely been fully realized.

V. So then. 19-22

A. We are now fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household.

B. We are built on the same foundation and constitute a holy temple in the Lord; a temple in which God dwells through the Spirit.

APPLICATION

1. The world in which Paul lived was a divided world even as ours is today.
2. In the life of the early church it did not take long for disunity to intrude on the unity that was established in and through Jesus Christ.
3. It is my belief that a local church should be united in Christ, and that churches that are united in Christ should care about and support one another.
4. Cultural norms and divisions have no place in the church.
5. God help us to be what God intends us to be.