**THERE’S POWER AVAILABLE FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

**2022 EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

**22 JUNE 2022**

New Signs, new seasons, new days, and new years are physical and directional thoughts toward our Lord and Savior, who is the spiritual reality of all things new.

In Jesus, **God has done everything to not only solve the problem of our isolation and displacement from Him, but also our isolation from one another**. Jesus destroyed all barriers to peace. He's done it for us so we can live free - in peace, joy, love and fullness with Him and with one another.

**Before being saved, converted believers were just as bad as those outside the faith - we gave in to our lowly thoughts, inclinations and impulses**.

Christ’s peace-making activity is about forming a new kind of humanity.

New kind of humanity.

New kind of humanity

New kind of humanity

(repeated for emphasis of understanding)

I used to think preaching was merely teaching, transferring Bible data from my head into yours. I’d been taught to get the text right, and I’ll go to my grave grateful for that understanding. Paul commends rightly handling the biblical text precisely because there is such a thing as wrongly handling it.

Competent and careful explanation is essential. But it’s not sufficient. Knowledge isn’t enough. Understanding the text isn’t enough. All of them are vital. None of them is sufficient. James warns us that even the demons can get their doctrine right ([James 2:19](https://www.esv.org/James%202%3A19/)).

Sam Allberry wrote, and I agree with him, that we open the Word of God to the people of God, believing and longing that Christ Himself would come and make Himself known to the hearts of those listening—that He would be preaching, and that He would be what people remember.

THEREFORE…**To live in confidence that you are hearing from Him, you need to have a knowledge of His Word continually in your heart.  And you do this by drawing near to God (James 4:8).  That’s your part—to seek Him. God’s not going to run you down. Your part is to diligently seek Him. That involves spending time in the Word and in prayer. And whatever place you give Him in your life, the Spirit of God will fill it up for you.**

As Christ lives in our lives, He wants to continue doing good works as He did on earth. The Holy Spirit that fills us is the same as Christ living in us. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26).

**When the Helper comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, **that is the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning (John 15:26-27).

**OUR DIRECTIONAL THOUGHTS:**

Previously discussed: Know what you were

1. GOD MADE US ALIVE.
2. SAVED THROUGH FAITH.
3. AT ONE TIME…SEPARATED, ALIENATED & NO HOPE
4. BUT NOW…
5. YOU CAN’T COUNT US OUT.

**PAUL TEACHES ABOUT THE NEW BLESSINGS OF GRACE THROUGH FAITH BY BECOMING ONE IN CHRIST!**

**EPHESIANS 2:1 - 17 (ESV)**

**KNOW WHAT YOU WERE**

2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 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— 3 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.

**1 GOD MADE US ALIVE vs 4-6**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

* **While we were yet sinners…God sent Jesus**
* **There is a place in Glory…reserved for those who have said yes to Jesus**

**2 SAVED THROUGH FAITH vs 7-10**

7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

* **On your best day, you’re not good enough to get into Heven on your own.**

**3 AT ONE TIME…SEPARATED, ALIENATED & NO HOPE vs 11-12**

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

* **not included initially, but still “offered” access.**
* **Hope makes tomorrow different.**

**QUESTION: WHEN/WHERE DID YOU FEEL THAT YOU STILL HAD HOPE?**

**4 BUT NOW…vs 13-14**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

**5 YOU CAN’T COUNT US OUT…vs 15-17**

15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

* **“abolish”- means to bring something better than what was already provided.**
* **abolished, yet improved, from written ordinances by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
* **God's intent with the gospel was a family based on Christ rather than law, rooted in salvation rather than circumcision.**