



Ephesians 2
9.21.11

Introduction: Ephesians 2 is about the mystery that was from eternity, revealed in Christ, that Gentiles are joined with Israel in the Kingdom of God. This is what Paul called “my Gospel.” This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ. (Rom. 2:16, 16:25) Paul was chained because of this teaching.

Key verses in studying Ephesians 2:

Eph. 1:9 - “he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.” – **states God’s purpose.**

Eph. 3:3 - “that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” – **reveals the mystery.**

Eph. 6:19b-20 - “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” – **reveals why Paul was in chains** (see Acts scripture below).

Acts 21:27-36 - ²⁸ shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.” ²⁹ (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

Study/Discussion Questions:

1. What was Paul talking about when he said the people were “dead in your transgressions?” What kind of death is that?
2. How can Israel still be a Holy Nation (separated from other nations), yet at the same time, have Gentiles part of it?
3. In vs. 2:9, what did Paul mean by “not by works? What kind of work was Paul talking about?
4. Did Jesus abolish the Law? Explain.
5. How can someone’s faith be not from himself but from God?
6. How does a person go about getting that kind of faith?
7. Think about someone “new” or “different” joining your family or moving into your neighborhood. How might Paul’s teaching in Eph. 2 guide you in your behavior/acceptance of that new person?

Close in Prayer