THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE

CHAPTER 2:11-13

MEDIA REFERENCE # WNX 203 ~ DATE JUNE 12, 1996

TITLE:

"HAVING ACCESS TO GOD"

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

INTRODUCTION

Having Access is an Amazing Thing...

When You Don't Have It, It can be a little Embarrassing

The Queen Mary & Carmen's Wedding

I Remember Having Access, by invitation to have breakfast in the presence of the President of the United States at the Presidential prayer Breakfast there in Washington DC

I remember standing at the threshold of one of the presidents of BAXTER HEALTHCARE (at that time a $7 billion a year global corporation) the Lord had laid it on my heart to share the gospel with him - I was invited in

Having Access

Yesterday, by invitation, I had access to board Marine 1, The President's helicopter, just me and my Christian brother who we baptized Sunday afternoon - - I asked if I could sit it the chair of the most powerful man on earth - - I sat in the chair of the most powerful man on earth and touched his phone to anywhere in the world - - WE'RE TALKING ACCESS!!!

There will come a day when we will have access to the Throne room of God Almighty - The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords

Last Time Together

#1	Leaving the Hope and Promise of verse 10, that we are in fact God's "Workmanship" and He has a Plan for each of us
#2	That Our Very Mission was - is Prepared for us in advance
#3	And That we were encouraged to Walk in Those "Prepared Works"
#4	It's Possible now because we are In Christ

That He holds the power to mold and shape and to create from us what is a blessing to Him...

If Verse 10 tells us what He can do..... Then

...Verses 11-13
Tells us what God has to work with

1.) What God Has to Work With

Have You Ever Known Someone
Who's Very Good at Buying Junk?

Garage Sale "Scouts" & Junk Yard "Tourist"

What God has to Work with is Just Fine with Him

Growing Up in Orange County I remember seeing Howard Hughes Airline -
"The Big Banana" - and I would fly our bananas all around the house

Look around - see What God Has to Work with here

"Therefore Remember"

On Account of SALVATION BY GRACE

In verses 11-13 the message is that Gentiles can come to God too - Amen!!

a) Remembering where we've come from

In Chapter 2 Paul had told them that they were dead...

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (By grace you have been saved)

The Contrasts of Chapter 2

The Deadness of the Life after the Flesh
Vs.
The Life of the Spirit

Israel's Deliverance from Egypt:

#1 The Promise came to them ("I will Bring you Out...")

#2 The Lord led them personally (The Pillar of Fire & the Cloud)
#3 He provided all that was needed for their Journey

Therefore "Remember" - to call up from, to recollect

Remembering Our Past Is Warned Against in Scripture

We Can Be Guilty of Boasting About Our Past Sins

(Shop Talk)

Philippians 3:13
...But this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind** and reaching forward to those things which are ahead

Keep it IN the "Right Light"

We were led by the flesh - The Devil - The World

We Were Once - in the World...

Ephesians 2:2
In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

But there comes
That work of the spirit

The Turning of a Soul towards God

2 Peter 1:12
For this reason I will not be negligent to **remind** you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

b) The Sign of the Believer

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--

Genesis 17:1-11

(The institution of circumcision)

Symbolically - No Longer Under the Control of the Flesh

The Institution of Baptism -

Symbolically - No Longer Under the Control of the Flesh

Romans 2:25
For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. :26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? - YES!

Baptized into the Death of Jesus Christ
Circumcised of the Heart

Romans 2:28
For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; :29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Circumcision, Baptism of the Heart

c) Salvation is not by the efforts of the flesh

The Circumcision "**made in the flesh by hands"**

If you say that you are a Christian (and you are not trusting in the power of the blood and in perfection of Jesus Christ as your sin offering)

THEN YOU ARE UNCIRCUMCISED OF HEART

You can't run down to the Pacific Ocean and say...
"But God I was Baptized right here"

You can't contact the accounting department and say
"But God I gave $500,000.000 to Calvary Chapel"

You cannot call your doctor and say...
"Tell God that I was circumcised on the eight day"

YOU'RE UNCIRCUMCISED OF HEART

Philippians 3:4-7
Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

2.) Remembering Our Loneliness

a) Remember Your Life Without Jesus Christ?

That - at that time you were **without Christ**....

You can be in room full of People and completely Lonely

And you can be alone and be filled with the prescience of God

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HELL WILL BE LIKE THIS TO THE EXTREME
NO ONE HAS EVERY KNOWN ABSOLUTE LONELINESS
LIKE HELL WILL DELIVER

***** **Grk without Christ**

You had no Messiah and...
- You had no way of finding Him

We had no rest
In mind - in soul

It was worse than you think,
It was worse then what you can remember

We Haven't a Clue How Bad We Really Were because God saw us in our true form - as a heap of rubble
(Our BC days)

Proverbs 17:22
A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

Medical Sciences

Have Proven that - Laughter Increases the Efficiency of your Digestive System

Proverbs 15:15
All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

b) Remembering

Being **aliens from the commonwealth** of Israel....

* **Commonwealth** **GRK 4174 politeia (pol-ee-ti'-ah)**
The citizenship; or the community (metro-politea - meaning a secure community)

(And) you were **strangers from the covenants of promise**

* Strangers GRK 3581 xenos (xen'-os)
A foreigner. One of a different world or country

Have you ever been a foreigner?

You have No Familiar Rights, No Familiar Sounds, No Familiar Language
We were bless-less and comfort-less
And direction-less

Having **no hope** and **without God** in the world.

We Hadn't a Prayer Going for You

Apart from God

The Burger King "Homeless Man"
That I ran after to feed finally after yelling at him

(He’s crossing the street - he’s going over to that building)

Paul Paints the Black Background Again of Our Past

This Is What We Once Were...

Romans 15:13
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3.) Our New Lives

a) But Now In the Spirit - In Christ

But now in Christ Jesus

The dissociative conjunction **BUT**

Connecting the Past to the Present Which Illuminates the Future

>>>>>> BUT NOW <<<<<<

In Christ Jesus

That Changes Everything People

Life can begin again no longer alienated, no longer strangers, no longer without hope

Monday Night at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

An obvious drunk - a beauty queen - a business man - a worn out couple
were experiencing God giving them another chance to find life

Tuesday Evening at President Clinton's Aircraft
How a young marine assigned to the President's air crew found Christ

b) The Distance of All Distance's

You who **once were far off** have been brought **near**

Opposite polls of direction and power

c) The Cure for all Alienation

By the blood of Christ

The Blood

Romans 5:2
Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Hebrews 10:22
Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts
sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

By the..... Blood

Having Access is an Amazing Thing...

Turn to Luke 15:11