THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 2:19-22

MEDIA REFERENCE # WNX 205 ~ DATE JULY 24, 1996

TITLE:

"ONE FAMILY UNDER 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

OUR LAST TIME TOGETHER

3.) Where Does the Finished Work of Christ Put Us?

There is literally a place in Heaven
reserved for you right now

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

(The Traffic & the Reserved, VIP, Seating - with Popcorn & Coke)

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you

Because this is a fact - You and I are to be living out this truth in our daily lives

BECAUSE MY NAME IS WRITTEN DOWN IN HEAVEN - I CAN FOLLOW HIM
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EASY BOYS Luke 10:20 "**.....**do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven**."

Ephesians 2:18 For through Him **we both have access** by one Spirit to the Father.

1.) What Jesus Has Become for Us

Jesus Became a Human Being for... Our sakes

Ephesians 2:15 having (abolished) **in His flesh** (the enmity), that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace

Both Jew and Gentile were condemned Under the Law of God

That Makes All of Us Equal - Equally Lost, Equally Sinners, Equally in Need of Jesus Christ...

John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

2.) How Did Jesus Do It All for Us?

#1 By His Perfection

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God **in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity**. (Jesus was greater than the law)

#2 By His Obedience

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances

#3 By His Blood

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near **by the blood of Christ.**

1.) The Old World has Been Taken Away v. 19

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners"

"Now, therefore,

Prior to this Truth...

...We were all very homeless in the world

(You may have been living in your flat or in your spacious home on top of the hill - but according to God, you were very homeless indeed.)

Because life without Jesus Christ, with God, is a life that is focused on the ending circle of pursuits - all geared to satisfy me, my wants, my desires, my plans, my direction.... that life without Jesus leads to death and to destruction even though you might look so good right now

(We were Gentile sinners, saved by a Jewish Messiah)

Peter's Dream of all the Beasts running around in the sheet

On what basis? - The Cross - is the only way

This is what we are, No Longer...

WE ARE NOT STRANGERS

* **Strangers: GRK 3581 xenos (xen'-os)**
To be an alien, to be a guest in a distant land. Being unfamiliar (Jesus Christ, His Kingdom, Our Family is a Brand New World for Us)

We have traveled to a new world. We belong to a new nation; we are no longer of this World as Christians

WE ARE NOT FOREIGNERS

* Foreigners GRK 3941 paroikos (par'-oy-kos)
A by-dweller - having a home somewhere else, one who is searching for a new home (temporally or permanently)

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims (strangers) of the Dispersion in Pontus, (Jews) Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (you Jews are now aliens in a foreign land)

WE ARE STRANGERS IN THIS WORLD

“Fellow citizens with the saints”

But We Are Citizens of a New World....

Philippians 3:20 For our **citizenship** is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

We are Aliens and we have been sent out in this world to abduct people and take them to Heaven

We Are Aliens to this World - But not to Heaven & God

A.) Our New World Has Been Established

But We Are Citizens of a New World....

Philippians 3:20 For our **citizenship** is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews 11:8
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. :9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; :10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God..... :13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth Hebrews 11:14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. Hebrews 11:15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. :16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

IT GETS STRONGER

Hebrews 12:22
But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant,

SOMEDAY, THERE WILL BE AN ASSEMBLY OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF GOD AND IT WILL BE IN HEAVEN - NOT HERE

"And members of the household of God"

"Members of the **SAME** Household"

The Relationship between true born again Christians
(World Wide is unbelievable)

From **India**, From **Japan**, From **China** - **Russia**

John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

If the World is tantalizing to you - If the world is exciting to you - It is possible that you have the love of the world in you

- The Desires like the World has
- The Passions like the World has
- The Dreams like the World has

2.) The Foundation of Our Future is Sure v. 20

Construction Terminology

Having been built on #1 <u>the foundation</u> of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the <u>#2 Chief Corner Stone</u>,

Without a Blue Print Nothing Can Be Seen

A Construction Site is a Mass of Chaos to someone standing outside the Project

- Why are there Electrical wires there?
- Why does that room have only three walls?
- Where are they going to put the windows?

Only the Architect can see the finished product because it was born in His mind and no one can read an architect's mind

THE CORNERSTONE

IS THE CHIEF SETTING FOR ALL VERTICAL REFERENCES AND HORIZONTAL REFERENCES AND IS THE MAIN STRUCTURE TO THE FOUNDATION… JESUS LAID DOWN FIRST, THEN THE APOSTLES WHO WERE PROPHETS STOOD ON TOP OF HIM…

?? IS THE REVELATION OF THE (APOSTLE & PROPHETS) COMPLETE ??

Revelation 1:1
The Revelation of Jesus Christ,
which God gave Him to show His servants-- things

Hebrews 1:1
God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, :2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (He's done speaking any Revelation)

Deuteronomy 4:2
"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it…"

Revelation 22:18
For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, (the last book of the Bible) God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book....:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book (the Bible) of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(I'M CURIOUS
- WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE WAS THE LAST BOOK WRITTEN?)

The Foundation is the Word of God - The Bible!!!

JESUS HIMSELF IS THE CORNERSTONE

Turn to the Psalm 118:22-26

(THE "DAY" here is the day that Messiah died - they missed it for now)

Isaiah 28:16
Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.....

Matthew 21:42
Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: `The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? :43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. :44 "And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

PETER'S TESTIMONY
Acts 4:10
"Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. Acts 4:11 "This is the `stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' :12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Here's the Construction Process

1.) One Family Under God in Unity v. 21

In whom the <u>whole</u> building, being <u>joined together</u>, grows into a holy temple in the Lord

Construction Terminology

Just as though all the materials were arriving by trucks from all over the world

The Many Members Make up a Holy Building of God

* **Holy temple GRK 3485 naos (nah-os')**
The holy of holies, the dwelling place of God among men

Hey, where do you want these rocks from Russia?
(Just put them right there - thanks)

Where do want these beams from Africa?
(Right over there - thanks)

Where do you want these windows from America?
(Here, right here - thanks)

(JUST PUT THEM RIGHT THERE - THANKS)

Meaning.... The <u>Church will Never Stop Growing</u> Until Jesus Raptures Us out of Here

The Purpose to the Structure

In whom you also are being built together
For a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Unity in God
is the Witness of His Presence

Ephesians 4:3
Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Psalm 133:1
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

God is Into Buildings (Human Buildings)

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.