

**Background of Ephesians and Early Teachings**

Thank you, thank you, many many greetings to all of you in the name of Christ the Lord. We are reading the letter of Ephesians. We have done three steps. We saw the introduction of the letter, then we read the first chapter and learned great truths of God, how He chose us in Christ before the world was made, and then when the time came, He showed Himself to us, made us His sons and daughters, and gave us the seal of the Holy Spirit. This is the same Christ who rose from the dead. It is written in the first chapter that when He rose from the dead, He was highly honored. This same honored and powerful Lord is our Savior, whom God gave to the church.

**Past Condition: Life Before Sin and Salvation**

In the second chapter, we saw what we were before salvation. The apostle told us that we were spiritually dead, and we have seen this. He also told us that we lived in the ways of the world, and he told us that evil spirits had power over us. We read that we lived according to the desires of the body and fulfilled the wishes of the body and mind. Naturally, because of this situation, we lived under God's anger. But in this situation, God showed mercy to us, saved us, and showed His grace. The things we should do were shown to us in Jesus Christ. These were the first 10 verses.

**New Life and Second Condition**

Today we will start from verse 11 of the second chapter. Open the Holy Bible with me. These are such beautiful truths that a person's heart fills with joy. In verse 11 the apostle writes: "Therefore" — this is a result and also the introduction to new thoughts — it is written, "Therefore remember that you who are Gentiles by birth, called 'uncircumcised' by those called circumcised (which means Jews by the hand of man), that at one time you were without Christ."

(Some Punjabi sentence translation): Like some people called you with disrespect 'uncircumcised.' Jews called the Gentiles by this name (including us). We were not Jews; we called our neighbors Gentiles, and we were also Gentiles, but God had mercy on us. It is written that they called you uncircumcised.

## **Condition of Being Separate from Christ**

What was our first condition? What was our character? We read in the first verse of the second chapter that we were spiritually dead, children of anger, alive in worldly things, etc. Now society also looked at us with disrespect. Let us see what God's word says. In earlier times, what were you? Separate from Christ. This whole situation is clear. We were separate from Christ, excluded from the kingdom of Israel, unaware of the promises, hopeless, and far from God in the world.

## **God's Mercy and Restoration of Closeness**

This was our situation. But — and thank God for this "but"! — what happened to us then? The word says: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Hallelujah! What a great work! This was your situation, but now you are in Christ Jesus, and because of the blood of Christ, you have come near.

## **Christ is Our Peace**

Because in verse 14 it is written: He Himself, that is Jesus Christ, is our peace. Hallelujah! Jesus is our peace! He made the Jews and the Gentiles one, and the wall that made separation between them, Jesus of Nazareth broke down.

(Some Punjabi sentence translation): Jesus of Nazareth broke the walls that separated people from each other by His power on the cross and the power of His blood. Hallelujah!

## **End of Enmity of the Law**

In verse 15 it is written: He stopped the enmity by His body — meaning the law with all its rules and commands — so that He could create one new person from both Jews and Gentiles and make peace. Hallelujah!

## **Reconciliation Through the Cross**

In verse 16 it is written: He wiped out the enmity on the cross and made both one body and brought them to God. Our encounter, our new experience with God, happened through the blood of Jesus of Nazareth.

## **Good News of Peace**

In verse 17 it is written: He came and preached peace to you who were far away, meaning Gentiles, and to those who were near, meaning Jews.

### **Access to the Father**

Because verse 18 says: Through Him (Jesus), we both have access in one Spirit — that is the Holy Spirit — to the Father. We also meet the Father, Jesus, through His blood and the cross. And Jews also meet God through the cross, who is now our Heavenly Father. Hallelujah!

### **Power of the Cross**

I want to come to the power of the cross. Let us clap loudly! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Glory to God! The cross has done such a great work.

### **The Cross is Our Identity**

That is why we have crosses in our homes, crosses on churches, and the cross is our identity. Paul says: The world has been crucified to me, and I have been crucified to the world. The cross is my pride.

(Some Punjabi sentence translation): The cross has done such great things!

### **Result: Part of God's Family**

Then in verse 19 it is written: So as a result of all this, you are no longer foreigners and strangers. What have you become? Through the cross, you have become fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's family. You have become sons and daughters of God through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **Built in God's Building**

Verse 20 says: And you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. This is the teaching we are reading by inspiration. On this foundation, whose cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. You are being built on Jesus Christ, who is the cornerstone, and on the teaching of the prophets and apostles and the written word. God's inspired word is present, and in your foundation is God's Son Jesus Christ, who holds the whole building together. He Himself is Jesus Christ. You are being built, being made, and growing. Hallelujah!



## **Complete Unity in Jesus and Holiness of the Church**

Verse 21 says, in Him, the small pieces brought by the apostles? Oh, they went deep into great truths. In Him, and no one else. If there was a little difference, it would not mean "Only Him." Only in Jesus Christ, every building joins and completes in God. Joined in God, first in Him, then in God, then in Jesus Christ. The apostles have told us the truths by inspiration. Together in God, a pure, holy, holy temple, holy building, church, and believers, different people in the world are becoming one pure holy building. The people of the church keep becoming holy.

### **The Holy Spirit's Residence**

Verse 22 is the last verse of this chapter. It says:

"You also are being built together to become a place where God lives through the Spirit, the Holy Spirit."

The church is a holy building where the Holy Spirit lives. It is God's home. So, the church is not a political group; it is a spiritual house of God where God lives and works in the world. Hallelujah! What a chapter, what an ending to this chapter! We are reminded who we were, and who we have become by God's work. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I think the joy is in silence. You are sitting quietly and peacefully. When I say "Hallelujah!", I pray that you also fold your hands and say "Hallelujah!" for the truth of the Word.

Today, we will try not only to finish this chapter but also start the third chapter. We have read so much and I have explained some things briefly while reading. Now, let's look closely at what Paul is writing. What does he mean? He says, "Just remember!" When you had not yet received salvation, when you were still empty and Christ had not yet come into your life, who were you? In the first part of chapter two, Paul also told us who we were — about our character. Now he is telling us who we were from the point of view of the Jews.

### **Our Condition Before Coming to Christ**

Let's write these things:

1. We were separated from Christ.
2. We were outside the kingdom of Israel.
3. We did not know the promises of the covenant.
4. We were hopeless, there was no hope in our lives.

Today, Jesus lives in our hearts as the hope of glory. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We were separated from God in this world. How many things were there? Now friends,

think about this: when Christ had not come into our lives, what was our condition? Number one: We were separated from Christ. Who is Christ? He is life, so we were separated from life. Who is Christ? He is light, but there was no light inside us. Who is Christ? He is the door, the life, the honor, the source of blessings, our Savior. Oh! If we are separated from Christ, we are separated from everything!

### **The Kingdom of Israel and God's Blessings**

Next, it says: "outside the kingdom of Israel." What was the kingdom of Israel? It was a monarchy, not a democracy or aristocracy. It was God's government. God's blessings were with them. We were outside their kingdom or citizenship. We had no share in their spiritual, physical, or financial wealth. We were outside. This is what God's Word tells us. It says "outside the kingdom of Israel." The English translation is "Commonwealth of Israel." We had no part in it. But by the power of the cross, today we are equal heirs of all the blessings that were given to Israel. These blessings are now given in large measure to the Gentiles in Jesus Christ.

### **Wealth and Blessings in Jesus Christ**

Oh, go to Jesus! Keep getting wealth! Keep coming to Him! And keep receiving blessings! Hallelujah! Which Psalm is that? 15? "His name will remain!" So, may all people receive that blessing. Jesus of Nazareth came to this world as a person who has the treasure of blessings for all the people of the world. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Come! Worship Jesus, serve Him, bow before Him, become His. Obey Him, read His Word, walk in His light. Blessings will continue to come from heaven on our lives, families, and children. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **God's Covenants and Promises**

"Being outside the kingdom of Israel" also means, as it says later, "separated from the promises of the covenant." This means all the covenants God made, the first one was with Abraham. Why, friends? What was that covenant? Let's read. What does being outside the kingdom of Israel mean? Take out Genesis chapter 12. Manwar, speed up the clock, we have been reading for 35 minutes. I need to break the clock. Yes, take out the Book of Genesis.

### **Blessings Through Abraham**

Now look carefully! What blessing did Israel get through Abraham? Genesis 12, verse 2. Yes, has everyone taken it out? Let's see, it says: "I will make you a great nation," and what else will I give? Say loudly! "I will bless you and make your name great, so you will be a blessing!" I will not only bless you but you will be a reason for blessing. The whole world will receive blessings from you. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Read more: "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who



curse you." Who is saying this? Oh God! And "all the families of the earth" — how many families are there on the earth? Too many, my friend! What will I do with them? (Someone says) All the families of the earth will receive blessings through Abraham. One side is the covenant, it is still the same today. If you mention Abraham's name, you want to read more. The last one will be next.

### **God's Promise: Sacrifice and Oath**

If I get it, then look! Chapter 22. God opened His heart to Abraham, his descendants, Israel, and the world. Genesis 22, verse 16. Yes, what is written? God says — who says? Say loudly — the living God says. What does He say? "Because Abraham did this and did not hold back his only son, that is, he was ready to sacrifice him for me, he did this, he loved me so much, then what will I do? Therefore, I have sworn by myself to bless you greatly."

### **Blessings and Increase of Descendants**

Oh! Don't say to me, say Hallelujah, and you should feel the power! What will I do to you? Hallelujah! I will increase your descendants like the stars of heaven and the sand on the seashore. Your children will own the gates of their enemies. More blessings have come, God cannot take them back! Through your descendants — that means offspring — people, this is also right. Oh, the first is no germ will die. What will I do to all the nations of the earth through your descendants? Say loudly! Because you obeyed me.

### **The Gentiles' Condition and Jesus' Sacrifice**

Okay, when we were among the Gentiles, we were outside all these blessings. We had no part in them. But Jesus Christ came to earth, lived a pure life, took our sins, took our curses, took our sicknesses. And on the cross, He said, "It is finished." And all sinners of the whole world, whoever believes in Him, will not perish but have eternal life. Because of this, we have entered all these blessings.

### **Old Identity and New Identity**

Who were we? Separate from Christ, kicked out of Israel's kingdom, not knowing about the promises. Read them, what a tragedy! We were hopeless, "No hope, no help, no light, no life." We were alone, weak, in darkness. But from God, Jesus of Nazareth came as a strange light on earth. Because we believed in Him, all our sins were washed away, we became clean, walls broke, hate went away.

### **Peace from the Cross and Worldwide Brotherhood**

Today, some are Jews, some are not Jews, some are from other nations, some are black, some are white, some are small, some are Pakistani, some American, some

are sinners—whoever comes to the cross, they become at peace with each other and become one body. And the “Daddy” in heaven, they call Him Father. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Glory to God! (Ephesians)

### **Jewish View About Other Nations**

Okay, that was our past friends. Now let’s read about the present. But what did the first people—who were not Jews—think? Now in Christ Jesus, what kind of people have you become? Because of His blood, you have come near, Hallelujah! Come, praise the power and honor of the cross, clap loudly, Hallelujah for the cross!

### **The Reason for Our Peace**

This is our peace, verse 16—one Prince, and who is He? Hallelujah! He made both—meaning all people from every nation—one. By the power of His cross, Jesus of Nazareth broke the wall of separation that was between. Today I read—I think it was William Barclay—he writes well sometimes, not always, but he gave good information.

### **Jewish Prejudice Against Other Nations**

How did Jews think about non-Jews? Number one: Jews said every non-Jew is fuel to burn in hell. Tell me! One group looked at another group with so much hate they said, “Fuel for hell.” What will the listener feel? Sad, worthless, low. This was a wall of hate between Jews and non-Jews.

They said God only loves Israel. But the New Testament says: "God loved the whole world so much that He gave His only Son, so whoever believes in Him will not be lost but have eternal life."

### **Intensity of Hate for Other Nations**

Third thing: They said if a non-Jew dies, it is like a poisonous snake dying! Such hatred! Then if it’s a non-Jewish woman or child, do not help them because whoever is born will also be a non-Jew. Don’t let them live. Is this right? Then brother, if there is love, does it cross walls between nations or not? Everyone stays quiet.

If a Jewish man or woman marries a non-Jewish man or woman, the whole nation acts like that Jewish person is already dead! Such a big wall of hate and shame—the cross of Jesus Christ of Nazareth broke this wall. And those who come to Christ get new life. Everyone who gets new life, they are all brothers and sisters, Hallelujah!

### **Reference from Galatians – New Identity**

Let's read one verse: Galatians chapter 3, verse 26. It says: "Because you all are God's children through faith in Christ Jesus." Through faith. And all of you who were baptized into Christ put on Christ. No longer Jew, no longer Greek, no slave, no free, no male, no female—for you all are one in Christ Jesus.

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's family, heirs of blessings by promise. This honor we have in God's Son Jesus Christ.

### **New Nature and New Person**

Verse 15: So He stopped the enemy—meaning the law with its rules—that was against us. The rules were good, but when a person tried to follow them, he could not, and God's anger came. So God sent His Son to bring grace. He died on the cross. And whoever believes in Him receives the Holy Spirit, and God's life, God's grace, a new nature, a new life comes inside that person, so he happily follows God's word. Hallelujah!

### **New Person – New Life**

It says further: to make one new person from both. The Greek word for "new" is "kainos," which means new in quality. "New man in Jesus," saved person, forgiven, born again, full of hope. This happens by the power of the cross. So thanks to God's Son, thanks to His cross, and thanks to God for raising Him from the dead. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The new person is made by making peace, removing the enemy on the cross, making both one body, and joining them with God. He came and gave peace to you who were far and to them who were near. Both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

And verse 18 is so rich because through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. So if you find a brother who loves, hugs, gives, covers shame, and clothes the naked, what else do we need besides that Father? In Christianity, through Christ, through the cross, we not only meet God but get a hug from our heavenly Father, and our loneliness ends, and our spiritual wealth grows. Hallelujah.

### **Identity and Position in Christ**

I have five minutes left, very precious. Beyond what we have found, God has shown us two pictures. One picture is that after coming to Christ, we are not strangers or foreigners because Jesus' blood is on us, the Holy Spirit's seal is on us, and now we belong to His family. Hallelujah!



### **The Church of Living Stones**

The second picture is that we have become like living stones, which were once dead stones. Jesus gave His life, and by His power, we became living stones. All saved people are living stones. God put these stones together to build a building called the church. This is a building of living stones. It is the church, the house of the Lord. Inside it, the Holy Spirit lives. He stays there, helps us, is with us, and uses us.

### **Thanksgiving to God**

Where were we? Think carefully, where have we come? For this, thank God's Son. My heart says, "Come, let us stand up and thank God for these blessings that He has brought us from so far." Come, let us thank Him fully, praise Him, and at least say "Thank you" to Him. Let us all together loudly thank Him. If you are a living stone, shout with joy, praise Him, all in one voice thank Him, bless Him, praise Him happily, dance, praise Him. He loves you, cares for you, is with you, lives inside you, will never leave you, will always be with you, you are in Him, you are safe, He will do everything for you.

### **Do Not Fear, God Is With You**

Do not be afraid, do not fear, God is with you. Give yourself to Him. Hallelujah, let us raise our voices like this, Hallelujah, in God's praise and thanksgiving, Hallelujah.

### **Blessings Through the Son**

God the Father, we thank You, for Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Our hearts are full of thankfulness. God the Father, thank You for bringing us near through Your Son. Hallelujah, through Your Son, God the Father, You have given us every kind of spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. God the Father, thank You for giving us the honor to sit in heavenly places through Your Son. We thank You that through Your Son, You made us heirs of glory. God the Father, we thank You for making us heirs of eternal life through Your Son.

### **Freedom from Failings**

We thank You that You have forgiven all our anger, faults, failings, and sins through Your Son Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. And You have made us part of eternal life, You have made us Your children. Hallelujah, hallelujah. For this great honor, this great privilege, this great respect, God the Father, our hearts are full of thanksgiving.

### **From Death to Life**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, before Your Son, God the Father, we did not exist. We were children of darkness, sons of darkness. The shadow of death was on us. God the Father, through Your Son Jesus Christ, You brought us out of death into life. We thank You, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. We give glory to Your name for this great honor. God the Father, we thank You, we praise You, that You took us out of clay, swamp, worms, and sin, and made us part of Your Son's righteousness.

### **New Life**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, now we are not dead because through Your Son we have entered into life. Hallelujah, God the Father, You changed our status. You changed our position. You changed our place. Hallelujah, hallelujah, You gave us the honor of being a new creation. Our old humanity is gone. God the Father, You made us a new person through Your Son.

### **God's Life**

Hallelujah, because in us there is not normal life, God the Father, but the life of Your Son Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, hallelujah. And that life which is God the Father's own life, the life You have inside Yourself, You gave that life to us through Your Son Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

### **Heirs of the Promises**

And You did this work through Your Son, our Savior, God Jesus Christ, by giving His life. Hallelujah. You made us children of the promise. We who were not heirs of that promise, we who did not even know those promises, God the Father, You took us out from that sinful crowd, lifted us up, and brought us to Your holy place. We thank You, thank You, You made us a holy nation, a royal priesthood. Hallelujah, hallelujah, You included us in Your chosen ones.

### **Blessings of the Word**

We thank You, praise You, and honor You. God the Father, thank You, praise You. For all the blessings of God the Father today, which You gave us through Your Word, thank You, thank You that You tell us through Your Word about our place through Christ. Hallelujah, all the things we got through Christ, thank You, praise You. Hallelujah. For this, God the Father, we thank You and give glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen, Amen, Amen. Praise God, Hallelujah.