

Review:

Abolished (reduced to inactivity) in his flesh the law. The law shows our sinfulness level Rom 3:20. It kind of cries out against us. Satan uses it to condemn us. In Christ we are righteous because God looks on us who accepted Christ and he sees Christ's righteous instead of our ugliness.

Oneness we are one with each other and one with Christ who is one with God the Father.

Peace We have "a set of favorable circumstances involving peace & tranquility"

Amp: (our bond of unity & harmony)

Chapter 2:19

Consequently, "no longer" **GKL**: the extension of time up to a point **but not** beyond. Definite time when we were no longer:

Foreigners GK: "not belonging to the "in crowd" group. or

Aliens GKL: "a person who for a period of time lives in a place which is not his normal residence"

We were "outsiders" looking in. **School Analogy**: Students always want to with the Kool Kids!

No longer on the outside looking in!

Fellow citizens with God's people. **Citizenship** in the USA greatly valued by many in the world. Some born as citizens take it for granted. Don't realize the blessing to be a citizen of USA vs China, Russia, Somalia, etc

God's People GK: **Holy Ones** ie Saints

Members of God's **household**

Chp 1 adopted as sons. We are his family and His heirs and inheritance!

I Tim 3:15 "if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in **God's household**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

A HUGE contrast is being painted for us here in this verse.

Green words: "oik" play on words using **House**.

Red words: "syn" **With**

Chapter 2:20

Are **Built**/Having Been Built **GK**: aorist participle passive

Foundation GK Foundation. That on which a structure is built. Metaphorically: 1st principal of institution or truth. Purpose of foundation for a house, any building, even a wall? Jodi Price's falling wall.

I Cor 3:10

Cornerstone – Essential to construction of the entire building. Everything is measured and laid out from that cornerstone. The stone must be perfectly level, properly oriented, and aligned. If the cornerstone is off, then the whole building will not be right.

JESUS is our Cornerstone!

Chapter 2:21

Joined together **NASB** "are being built together": **present passive/middle participle**.

Building (now) rises/**growing** Present Imperative Mood (command) Continuous/repeated action.

GK: Carries the idea of grow and exceed. IE Very Vigorous (Book of Acts added 1,000's daily to their #'s)

HOLY (Set apart for a purpose) Temple

Definitely a comparison with Holy Temple of Old Testament

Original temple was unfinished when Paul wrote this book. Even when destroyed, temple was not complete.

Our living temple will NOT be destroyed, but will be completed.

Chapter 2:22

Built (I Cor 3:9) **together** **GKL**: (to be built together with some other object or objects)

Dwelling: **GK**: Not just a place to live but a place that seems like home.

God Dwelling in us individual and collectively.

The focus is not on being joined to Christ, however, but on being joined to God's people **NIVLifeApp**

Parallel Passage: **I Peter 2:4-6**

Verse 4 “rejected by humans” If Jesus is rejected, the world will also reject us. Should we let that bother us?

Verse 5

living stones being built (GK: focuses on the present, not future or past) (MIDDLE voice) **together**.

Better Translation: “build yourselves”. IE: Make sure right now today you are living your life in a way that helps built together with others into the temple in which God dwells. “Oneness” “Unity” themes again!

Temple offering **spiritual sacrifices**. Eph 5:12 for Sacrifice definition. “Giving of self for others”

What are the FIVE?

http://www.preciousseed.org/article_detail.cfm?articleID=839

<http://www3.telus.net/public/kstam/en/tabernacle/details/offerings.htm> (5 Offerings Explained)

In the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered for one of two reasons.

- For those OUT of fellowship with God, to restore them back to the Lord
- For those IN fellowship with God, to express thanksgiving, praise, love and devotion

Look at 5 Spiritual Sacrifices

1. **A Living Sacrifice Romans 12:1**. Total dedication and giving to our Lord.
 - Burnt Offering: Voluntary act of worship; atonement for unintentional sin in general; expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God
2. **Sacrifice of Faith Phil 2:17**
 - Meal/Drink Offering: the only bloodless one, was invariably offered with a burnt offering, and upon the meal offering, a drink-offering of wine was poured.
 - Voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God
 - Our faith causes us to act in service to others.
 - **Sacrifice of Praise. Heb 13:15** The phrase, "the sacrifice of praise" quoted from law of peace offerings, Voluntary act of worship; thanksgiving and fellowship (it included a communal meal); included vow offerings, thanksgiving offerings and freewill offerings
 - Fruit of lips “confess” his name. What does confess mean? Jesus means salvation. Confess means to agree with. We confess our sin we agree we are a sinner and wish to act to change. We agree he is the savior and we share Him with others.
 - We PRAISE Him in both Word and Deed! Not just on SUNDAYS!
3. **Sacrifice of Doing Good. Heb 13:16, Rom 12:13, James 1:27. Our sacrifices glorify Him!**
4. **Sacrifice of Material Assistance. Phil 4:18** They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

I Peter 2:6

Ashamed /Disappointed (NASB) references both meanings. Also in Subjunctive Mood makes an assertion about something of which there could be doubt or uncertainty.

Back to Ephesians 22:

Living stones

Built into a dwelling. Analogy of Brick House. How important is each brick? What happens if one brick is removed? How about another? All of us are important in the body!

What happens if you pull a few blocks out of the foundation of a building? Weakened and flimsy

Heb 10:25 forsake the assembling together.

There is a “togetherness” in the last 4 Eph verses. Its only “together” that we reach those higher levels in our life of Christ!

Chapter 3 Verse 1

Prisoner: GK: Someone who is bound or under custody. Paul is a servant of Christ for life! A willing slave.

Verse 2 - 3

Mystery: not a “who done it” but a revealing of something previously hidden.

Go to **Acts 9:1- 10** to read of Paul being on the Damascus Road

Background: **Acts 8:1** Stephen one of the Seven was stoned to death. Great persecution broke out against the church. All except the Apostles were scattered.

Acts 9:1 - 2

Why was Paul so concerned with going to Damascus?

Damascus was more than just another stop on his campaign of repressing and opposing “The Way” (Name of the early believer’s message).

Damascus was the hub of a great commercial network with far flung lines of caravan trade routes reaching into northern Syria, Mesopotamia, Anatoli, Persia, and Arabia.

If the message of “The Way” flourished in Damascus, then that message would quickly reach and spread to all these other places covering a huge geographical area. That would make Paul’s attack job much harder!

Acts 3 - 4

Suddenly a Light from heaven surrounded them. (**GREAT –Acts 22:7**) (Acts 26:13 **Brighter than sun**)

They were walking along, and in a “snap of one’s fingers”, a brilliantly bright light surrounds them!

Ever see how rays of sun breaking through on cloudy days like a HUGE spotlight? That’s how I envision this but with a lot more voltage or lumens flowing in the light.

Why the bright light? Remember Moses face radiating? Rem the transfiguration?

How do you think Saul and his cohorts felt?

Saul fell to the ground.

Cohorts saw light, stood speechless (v7), heard but did not understand.

What did Saul’s companions not hear? Jesus said “why persecute me”

Shows Jesus’ oneness with us of Eph 2:14-18

Why did God not allow them to hear the words?

If they heard Saul was persecuting Christ, his co-hort might decide to do away with Saul to spare their lives.
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Acts 9:8

Saul was blind. How come co-horts were not blinded? Only Paul?

Acts 9:9

Saul was blind three days. He did not eat or drink. **Why** no eat or drink?? Fasting?

Imagine what Saul was thinking? What was he doing during that time? How did Saul feel?

Acts 9:10

God already had solution to Saul’s problem – Ananias!! God knows the FIX and is working behind the scenes before we know there is a problem.

Are you going through a problem? God has the solution already. Does that mean his solution is the same as our wishes? 1) Joni in the wheel chair. 2) Paul’s thorn in the flesh.

Acts 9:11 - 12 Jesus says, “GO!” Saul is praying and has SEEN you in a vision come and lay his hands on him to see. See and be filled with Holy Spirit

Acts 9:13 – 14

Ananias worried God did not realize he was making a mistake by helping Paul!! Why heal Paul??

Acts 9:15 - 16 Paul was God’s chosen instrument to bring the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles outside of Israel. The Jewish disciples and apostles mostly shared with Jews. Only Peter went to Samaritan Jews, not Greeks. Philip with Ethiopian eunuch of Acts 8 happened in geographic region of Palestine. Ananias thinking, “chosen instrument”? Are you kidding me?? He is an instrument of the Pharisees.

Paul would go from persecuting Jesus to **suffering** for Jesus’ name

Suffer GKL: to undergo an experience, usually difficult, and normally with the implication of physical or psychological suffering

Acts 17-19 Quickly Read

Acts 9:21 Astonished GK??

Acts 9:23 Humility of being lowered in a basket

Verse 25

This is where Saul went into the desert to be taught by Jesus for three years.

Galatians 1:13 – 18

Acts 9:26-27 Barnabas – son of encouragement

When a person repents, they no longer are fit for or accepted by former friends. They may not be accepted by believers or others who normally did not associate with him or her. We may have doubts but must be brave and encouraging and willing to accept those who Jesus has forgiven through salvation and even after salvation.

When we are hurt by a person, its so easy to put up a wall.

We don’t trust them.

We could be afraid of them.

We need to be a Barnabas both on our behalf and the behalf of others who fear or don’t trust forgiveness.

Applications to us:

1. Paneled Houses. Hagg 1:4
 - a. How does the amount of time we put into our own temple/residence compare with the amount of time we put into his house and our part in His house?
 - b. How much effort are we putting in the Middle Voice to become more and more a part of a building both individually and collectively in which God lives?
2. Being built into a living temple otherward.
 - a. How is your end of the construction going?
 - b. Are you supporting others in the living temple or is there an empty spot where your brick/rock should be that supports others?
3. Sons of Encouragement.
 - a. When a person gets saved, how much of their past do we forget?
 - b. When a believer hurts us via sin and they repent, how do we respond?
 - 1) Do we avoid their desire to seek forgiveness?
 - 2) How hesitant are we to trust them?

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