

WITHOUT CHRIST **Ephesians 2:12**

I. Without Christ we would be dead (2:1).

- A. Paul makes it clear that the Ephesians were dead in trespasses and sins when they were without Christ (vs's 1 and 5).
 - 1. He says they were "dead in trespasses and sins" (verse 5).
 - a. "Trespasses" means a lapse or deviation from the truth.
 - b. "Sins" means a missing of the mark.
 - c. Paul is saying these people were dead because they had gone outside of God's law.
 - 2. Many times in scripture sinners apart from God are said to be dead (Ephesians 5:14; 1 Timothy 5:6; Romans 6:13).
 - 3. The wages of sin is death (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23).
- B. Only those who have Christ have life.
 - 1. In order to live we must have our sins forgiven and that is one of the spiritual blessings of being in Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
 - 2. Jesus said He was the "way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).
 - 3. And that He came so that "men might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).
 - 4. John 11:25-26.
 - 5. Someone has well said that Jesus is the author of physical (Genesis 1:26, spiritual (1 John 5:12; 1 John 4:9; John 3:16-17), and eternal life (1 John 5:11).

II. Without Christ we would be lost.

- A. The Ephesians are described as being lost and not knowing it (2:2).
 - 1. Like everyone, the Ephesians had missed the mark (Romans 3:23).
 - 2. They had gone astray (Isaiah 53:6).
- B. Only those who have Christ know the way.
 - 1. Jesus plainly tells us this (John 14:6).
 - 2. He is the only way to heaven.
 - 3. He is the one who has laid out the straight and narrow path for us (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - 4. Without Him we will choose the wrong way.
 - a. Proverbs 20:24.
 - b. Jeremiah 10:23.
 - c. Proverbs 14:12.

III. Without Christ we would be without salvation (2:8).

- A. Paul made it clear that without Christ they were without salvation.
 - 1. We've noticed that without Christ they were dead in trespasses and sins.
 - 2. Their salvation came by "grace," which is God's part, and "faith" which is man's part.
 - 3. In Titus 2:11-14 Paul tells Titus that Jesus is the manifestation of God's grace.
 - 4. The Ephesians received salvation by receiving God's grace, which is embodied in Christ, along with their obedient faith.

- B. Only those who have Christ have salvation.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10- the word “by” means through.
 - 2. The Hebrews writer name Jesus as the “author of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:9).
 - 3. 2 Timothy 2:10.
 - 4. Salvation is through Christ, He is the author of it, and salvation is in Him.
 - 5. It is not in any other (Acts 4:12).

IV. Without Christ we would be without hope (2:12).

- A. Paul made it very clear that as long as they were outside of Christ, they had no hope.
 - 1. The Greek construction of the sentence indicates this was ongoing.
 - 2. They were “without hope, without hope, without hope.”
 - 3. In 1 Thessalonians Paul made it clear that those outside of Christ do not have the hope of those inside Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- B. Thanks be to God that He showed interest in a dying world by sending His only begotten Son.
- C. Only those today who have Christ have hope.
 - 1. Colossians 1:27.
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 1:3.
 - 3. 1 Timothy 1:1.

V. Without Christ we would be without access to God (2:18).

- A. Paul made it clear that without Christ the Ephesians had no access to God,
 - 1. Remember he has told them that they were “without God in the world” (2:12).
 - 2. They were without God because He had given them up because of their sins (Romans 1:1).
 - 3. These Gentiles could not have a new relationship with God until they had His Son (2:18).
- B. Only those who have Christ have access to God.
 - 1. “No man cometh unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6).
 - 2. Even in prayer we cannot approach God without Christ.
 - a. Jesus is our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - b. Romans 8:34.
 - c. 1 John 2:1-2.
 - 3. You cannot separate the Father from the Son.
 - a. “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).
 - b. Jesus told His disciples that they knew God because they knew Him (John 14:7-11).