**SHINE – SERMON NOTES
PART 5 – EPHESIANS 2:4-22**

**HOW INCREDIBLY BLESSED & SPIRITUALLY RICH WE ARE!**

 **Outline - Recap
Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ (Ephesians 1 – 3)

1. Our spiritual possessions in Christ (Ephesians 1:4-14)**

* + 1. **From the Father (Ephesians 1:4-6)**
		2. **From the Son (Ephesians 1:7-12)**
		3. **From the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)**

**First Prayer – for enlightenment (Ephesians 1:15-23)**

**2. *Our spiritual position in Christ* (Ephesians 2:1-22)**

**A. Raised and seated in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:1-10)**

**B. Reconciled and set into the temple (Ephesians 2:11-22)**

**Second Prayer – for enablement (Ephesians 3: 1-21)**

**II. Duty: Our Responsibilities in Christ (Ephesians 4 – 6)**

1. ***Walk in unity* (Ephesians 4:1-16)**

**2. *Walk in purity* (Ephesians 4:17 – 5:17)**

**A. Walk not as other Gentiles (Ephesians 4:17-32)**

**B. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-6)**

**C. Walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:7-14)**

**D. Walk carefully (Ephesians 5:15-17)

3. *Walk in harmony* (Ephesians 5:18 – 6:9)**

**A. Husbands and wives (Ephesians 5:18-33)**

**B. Parents and children (Ephesians 6:1-4)**

**C. Masters and servants (Ephesians 6:5-9)**

 **4. *Walk in victory* (Ephesians 6:10-24)**

**Ephesians 2:4 - 22**
*4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

*14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

*19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

1. **Our spiritual position in Christ – 2:4-22**

**Overview of Chapter 2:**

Having described our *spiritual possessions in Christ* in Chapter 1, Paul now turns to a complementary truth: *our spiritual position in Christ*. First, he explains what God has done for all sinners in general and individually; then he explains what God has done for both Jew and Gentile. The sinner who repents and trusts in Christ as Lord and Saviour has been made alive, raised up and seated with Christ (Eph 2:1-10) and the believing Jew and Gentile have both been reconciled to God and to each and have been set together into the temple of the Lord (Eph 2:11-22). What a miracle of God’s grace. We are taken out of the dark graveyard of sin and placed into the heavenly realms in glory. Wow!

***Our spiritual position in Christ – 2:1-22***

**1. Raised and seated in the heavenly places (2:1-10)**

**a. Sin’s work against us
 (i) (He is dead**

**(ii) He is disobedient
 (iii) He is depraved
 (iv) He is doomed**

 **b. God’s work for us
 (i) He loved us
 (ii) He made us alive
 (iii) He raised us up
 (iv) He keeps us

 c. God’s work in and through us**

1. **God’s work for us – 2:4-9
(i) He loved us (v4) –** By nature God is love (1 John 4:8). But God would love even if there were no sinners, because love is a part of His very nature. Theologians call love one of the attributes of God. But God has two kinds of attributes: those he possesses of Himself (intrinsic attributes such as life, love, holiness) and those by which He relates to His creation, especially to ma (relative attributes). For example, by nature God is truth, but when He relates to man, God’s truth becomes faithfulness. God is by nature holy and when He relates that holiness to man, it becomes righteousness or justice.
Love is one of God’s intrinsic attributes, but when this love is related to man, it becomes grace and mercy. God is rich in mercy (v4) and in grace (v7) and these make it possible to man to be saved. We are not saved by God’s love, but by His mercy and grace. In His mercy, He does not give us what we deserve (punishment for our sins) and in His grace He gives us what we do not deserve (total forgiveness and righteousness). All this of course was made possible because of the death of JESUS. It was at the cross that God displayed His hatred for sin and His love for sinners – all at the same time (Rom 5:8 & John 3:16). **(ii) He made us alive (v5) –** God has made us alive, even when we were dead in our sins. He accomplished this spiritual resurrection by the power of the Spirit, using His Word. According to 1 Peter 1:23 *‘For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God’.* Those who repent and believe in JESUS have now been made alive. This spiritual resurrection puts us in union with Christ; God ‘made us alive together with Christ’ (v5). As members of His body we are united to Him and we share in His resurrection life and power (Eph 1:19-20)  **(iii) He raised us up (v6) –** We are not raised from the dead and left in the graveyard.Because we are united with Christ, we have been raised with Him and our spiritual position is ‘in heavenly places in Christ’. We are to live out of this reality of our spiritual position, not stuck in our temporal condition. **(iv) He keeps us (v7-9) –** God’s purpose in our redemption is not simply to rescue us from hell, as great as a work that is. His ultimate purpose in our salvation is that for all eternity the church might glorify God’s grace. So, if God has an eternal purpose for us to fulfill, He will keep us now and for all eternity. Since we have not been saved by our good works, we cannot be lost by our bad works. Grace means that God does it all for JESUS’ sake. Our salvation is the gift of God, not a reward. Salvation cannot be ‘of works’ because salvation has already been completed on the cross. This is the work that God does for us, and it is a finished work (John 19:30). We can add nothing to it (Heb 10:1-14) and we dare take nothing away from it. When JESUS died the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom, signifying that the way to God way now open. There is no more need for earthly sacrifices. One sacrifice – the Lamb of God – has finished the great work of salvation. God did it all and He did it all by His grace.
2. **God’s work in and through us – 2:10
In us**

‘For we are His workmanship, created in Christ JESUS to do good works’. Is the Greek word *‘poiema’ – POEM* and it means – that which is made, a manufactured product. In other words, our conversion is not the end, it is the beginning. We are a part of God’s ‘new creation’ (2 Cor 5:17) and God continues to work in us to make us what He wants us to be – make us more like Christ (Rom 8:29).
How does He do this? Well, Christ finished His work of redemption for the entire planet on the cross, but then He rose from the dead and returned to heaven. From there He carries on His unfinished work of perfecting His church. Christ is equipping us for our walk with Him and our work with Him here on the earth, by the power of His Spirit.
He uses 3 special tools to accomplish this:
*a. Word of God* – 1 Thessalonians 2:13
*b. Prayer* – Ephesians 3:20-21
*c. Trials* – James 1:2-4 & 1 Peter 4:12-16

As we read, feed, study, meditate, memorise and put into practice God’s word – God’s word goes to work in our lives to cleanse, protect and nourish us. As we pray, God’s Spirit works in us to release the power and presence of God in our lives. As we go through trials, both inward and outward trials, the Spirit of God minister’s strength, patience, perseverance, hope, peace and joy.

**Through us**Too many Christians think and live as though our conversion experience is all that really matters. But God has plans for us – plans to prosper us in the Kingdom. The same resurrection power that saved you and took you out the graveyard of sin can now daily help you live for CHRIST and glorify Him. God is busy working in us, so that He can also work through us!
The ‘works’ Paul talks about here have two special characteristics: they are ‘good’ works and they have been ‘prepared’ by the Father for us to walk in.
Firstly, they are ‘good’ not because the believer himself is good, but because the believer has a new nature from God in him and because the Holy Spirit works in him ‘both to will and to do according to His good pleasure’ (Phil 2:13).

We minimise the place of good works in the life of a believer because we wrongly conclude that we are not saved by works, therefore good works are evil. This is a mistake. JESUS said, ‘Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven’ (Matt 5:16). We do not perform works to earn our salvation or to glorify ourselves, however we do good works to prove our salvation and glorify our Father.
Our good works are evidence that we have been born again (James 2) and they are a testimony to the lost (1 Peter 2:12). They win us the right to be heard. Eg. Soup for elderly retirement home man.
Secondly, they have been ‘prepared’ by our Father that we should walk in them. According to Acts 17:28 ‘From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him…’
This means that loving heavenly Father has a gracious plan for our lives and He wants us to walk in His will to fulfill His plan. His will is the best for us and for all those around us.

Conclusion:

Are you wearing ‘graveclothes’ or the ‘grace-clothes’ of Christ? Are you living in the freedom you have in Christ to love, worship and obey our heavenly Father or are you still bound by the habits of the old life in the graveyard of sin?

The power of sin has been broken off your life as a believer, you have been made alive, raised up and seated with Christ in heavenly places. Practice your position in Christ!
JESUS has worked for you; now let Him work in you and through you, that you may walk in the exciting, creative life He has prepared for you to live in!

**He Paid It All!**

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*Romans 1:16*

The gospel of grace is the good news of Jesus Christ and it is the only thing that can change people’s lives. The gospel is the good news that the moment you receive Jesus into your life and make Him your Lord and Saviour, all your sins are forgiven, and you receive the gift of eternal life. You are justified and made righteous through your faith in Jesus Christ. Your righteousness is a gift from Him. In Christ you now have perfect standing before God, paid for by the precious, eternal blood of His Son. There is no more judgment, punishment, and curse for you because the full judgment, punishment, and curse for all your sins fell upon our Lord Jesus at the cross. You and I can now walk free in your relationship with God and in life, because of what JESUS has done. He paid it all!

1. ***Reconciled and set into the temple of the Lord – Ephesians 2:11-22***
Since the time God called Abraham, God made a difference between Jew and Gentile. He made this difference, no that the Jew might boost, but that they might be a blessing and a help to the Gentiles. God set them apart that He might use them to be a channel of His revelation and goodness to the heathen nations. They didn’t always do this. They kept the difference nationally and ritually but not always morally and, in their devotion to the LORD, often strayed and went after the false gods of the gentile nations.

*One word best describes what the Gentiles were – WITHOUT***a. Separation: What the Gentiles were – 2:11-12**

**Without Christ**Ephesians worshipped the goddess Diana and had no concept that The Christ, The Messiah, The Anointed One was coming to bring salvation not only to the believing Jew, but to the entire world.
John 1:29 – *‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’*

***WE HAVE CHRIST***

**Without citizenship**God called Abraham and through his lineage, God set apart the Jews build them into a nation. He gave them His laws and blessings. No other nation had the privilege of being God’s country – God’s nation. A Gentile could enter the nation as a proselyte, but he could never be born into this special nation.
1 Peter 1:9 – *‘But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of the darkness and into His marvellous light;’*

***WE ARE CITIZENS***

**Without covenants**While the blessing of the Gentiles is included in God’s covenant with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3), God did not make any covenants with the Gentiles.Hebrews 8:13 – *When He said, ‘A new covenant’, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear****.***

***WE HAVE A NEW COVENANT/NEW TESTATMENT***

**Without hope**

Historians tell us that a great cloud of hopelessness covered the ancient world. Philosophies were empty; traditions were disappearing; religions were powerless to help men face either life or death. People longed to pierce the veil and get some message of hope from the other side, but there was none.
1 Peter 1:3 – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord JESUS Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of our Lord JESUS Christ.*

***WE HAVE A LIVING HOPE***

**Without God**

Heathen had gods a plenty, as Paul discovered, but no matter how religious or moral man is, they do not know the one true God. Only by coming to Christ that we know the one true God. The spiritual plight of the Gentiles was not caused by God but by their/our own wilful sin. Paul said in Rom 1:18-23, that the Gentiles/nations instinctively knew God but deliberately refused to honour Him as God. Religious history is not a record of the nation’s starting with many gods and gradually discovering God, but rather a sad story of man knowing the truth about God and deliberately turning away for Him.
It is a story of Devolution, not Evolution.

**Matthew 1:23** – *The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”*

**WE HAVE GOD WITH US**

 **b. Reconciliation: What God did for the Gentiles – 2:13-18**‘Enmity’ is key word is this section and here we find there is a two-fold enmity: between Jew and Gentile (v13-15) and between sinners and God (v14-16).
Paul here describes the greatest peace mission in history: JESUS not only reconciled Jews and Gentiles, but He reconciled both to Himself in the one body, the church.

The word ‘reconcile’ means to ‘bring back together again’. A distraught husband wants to be reconciled to his wife who has left him; a worried mother longs to be reconciled to a wayward son; the lost sinner needs to be reconciled to God.
Sin is the great separator in this world. It has been dividing people ever since the very beginning of human history. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from God and from each other. Before long, their sons Cain and Abel, were also separated from each other, to the point where Cain killed Abel.
The earth became filled with violence and the only remedy was divine judgment. Yet, even after the flood, men sinned against God and each other and even tried to build their own unity without God’s help. The result was another judgment that scattered the nations and confused the tongues. It was then that God called Abraham and through the nation of Israel, JESUS Christ came into the world. It was His work on the cross that abolished the enmity between Jew and Gentile and between sinner and God.

**The enmity between Jew and Gentiles (v13-15)** God had put a difference between Jew and Gentile so that His purposes in

salvation might be accomplished. But once those purposes were

accomplished, there was no more difference. The wall, the veil, the

separation has been permanently erased through the reconciling work of

Christ.

This process was difficult for the early church to walk out and as can be seen

in Acts 15, the question of enmity between Jew and Gentile was forever

settled – MUST A GENTILE BECOME A JEW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN? The

conclusion was NO! Jews and Gentiles are saved the same way – by faith in

JESUS Christ. The enmity was gone.

In Christ, Jew and Gentile have become one. ‘He is our Peace’ v14. Through

Christ the far-off Gentiles have been ‘brought near’. The consequences of

Christ’s work is that it destroyed the enmity by abolishing of the law and

thereby creating ‘one new man’ – the church, the body of Christ. The law no

longer holds sway over either Jew or Gentile, since in Christ believers are not

under the law anymore, but under grace. The righteousness of law is still

God’s standard, but this was fulfilled perfectly by Christ for both Jew and

Gentile. Now ‘there is no difference’ because in Christ ‘He is our peace’ with

God and between Jew and Gentile.

**The enmity between sinners and God (v14-16)**

Not only did the Gentiles need to be reconciled to the Jews, but both Jews

and Gentiles needed to be reconciled to God. This was the conclusion the

apostles came to at Jerusalem in Acts 15. Peter said that God, ‘put no

difference between us {Jews} and them {Gentiles}, purifying their hearts by

faith…..But we believe that through the grace of the Lord JESUS Christ we

shall be saved, even as they’. It was not a question of the Gentile becoming a

Jew to become a Christian, but the Jew admitting he was a sinner like the

Gentile, ‘For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God’ Rom 3:23.

The same law that separated Gentile & Jew also separated mankind from

God. Christ bore the curse of the law in order to reconcile us back to God.

**c. Unification: What the Jews and Gentiles are in Christ – 2:19-22**Unification – the word ‘one’ is emphasized in this section to point out the unifying work of Christ and Paul gives us three pictures to help illustrate the unity of believing Jew and Gentiles in the church.

**One nation (v19a) –** As mentioned, sin has divided mankind, but Christ unites

us by His Spirit. All believers now, regardless of national background belong

to God’s ‘holy nation’ (1 Peter 2:9) and now have ‘citizenship in heaven’

(Phil 3:20).

**One family (v19b) –** Through faith in Christ, we enter into God’s family and

God becomes our Father. This wonderful family of God is found in two places,

‘in heaven and earth’ (Eph 3:15). Living believers are on the earth and

believers who have died are in heaven. None of God’s children are ‘under the

earth’ (Phil 2:10), or in any other place in the universe. We are all brothers

and sisters in the one family, no matter what racial, national or physical

distinctions we may possess.

**One temple (v20-22) –** God went from walking with mankind in Genesis to

dwelling with them in Exodus and today because of the finished work of

JESUS on the cross, He dwells in the church, His temple, by His Spirit. He no

longer dwells in man-made temples or even church buildings, but rather has

chosen to dwell within the hearts of those who have trusted in Christ

individually (1 Cor 6:19) and in the church collectively (Eph 2:20).

CONCLUSION:

IT IS OUR TIME TO SHINE!

To take this message of Good News everywhere we go and in every season of life.

Do you have beautiful feet?

A missionary was preaching in the village market and some of the people were laughing at him because he was not a very handsome man. He took it for a time and then said to the crowd, ‘It is true that I do not have beautiful hair, for it is grey and almost gone. Nor do I have beautiful teeth, for they are not really mine; they were made by the dentist. I do not have a beautiful face, nor can I afford beautiful clothes. But this I know: I have beautiful feet!’ And he quoted from the verse in Isaiah: ‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of joy’. Isaiah 52:7