

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ January 17, 2010 ~ Ephesians 2:1-13

“A Complete Picture”

Our text today is from Ephesians 2:1-13. Our God is very thorough in every detail—a complete picture is given to us in His Word about many subjects such as:

- Creation
- The first great flood
- The calling of Abraham
- The Jewish nation
- The Messiah
- Prophetic events

Among these subjects is also a picture of the ‘believer’—his or her past, present and future.

The Believer’s Past: *Ephesians 2:1* “We were dead in trespasses and sins...”—spiritually dead in our responses to God. See Romans 8:6: Paul said: “*To be carnally minded is death.*”

Ephesians 2:2 “*You followed the ways of this world...*” You were without spiritual strength—carried away by the current of the world’s influences and pressures. Verse 12 tells us that “*At that time you were separate from Christ*”—without a Savior!

All that Christ now stands for in our personal experience and future hopes at that time had no existence in our lives!

We see here the poverty and desolation of unregenerate souls: destitute; afflicted; tormented and empty!

Verse 12 also brings out that we were “*...foreigners from the covenants of promise.*” It has been said that there are 30,000 positive promises in the Word of God for believers but not even one for the man whose mind is at enmity with God.

There are exceeding great and precious promises for us but the worldly, carnal; Christ-less soul sees no value in them. Again we see truth in verse 12 in this regard: “*...without hope*”, without true hope of forgiveness or acceptance of God. Christ is the only hope of the world—His government shall stand! Also in verse 12: “*...without God in the world...*” that is, without the true God. In a world loved by God, where

God’s Son came, lived, loved and ultimately died. How much more could He have done?

The Believer’s Present: *Verse 13:* “*But now, in Christ Jesus...*” We are made alive! The Holy Spirit has breathed into us the breath of new life:

- Our eyes have been opened to see the mysteries and realities of eternal things.
- The darkness is past and the true light shines in our hearts.
- The clouded promises now appear like stars of the first magnitude.
- Christ is a reality not an abstract being!

Verse 13: “You are brought near by the blood of Christ.” The sins which separated us from God have been put away! We have the fellowship of God always.

Verse 6: “And God has raised us up together with Christ...” We were crucified with Christ—we died to the old life. Now we share in His resurrection life and power. We are seated with Him together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Our privilege now is to rest with Him in the work accomplished for us.

Verse 10: “We are His workmanship...” We are to be willing to allow the Master craftsman to make us like himself!

What do we take away with us today?

The promise of ***The Believer’s Future*** from Verse 7 of our text: “*That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace:*” It will all be glory and our inheritance shall finally be realized! The following text from the great book of the Revelation proves it all is true and the Lord Jesus Christ promised He is coming soon. And, He also promised blessing upon those who keep the words of the prophecy in this great book. You can count on it! Check it out:

Revelation 22:1-7 “*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of*

the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His servants the things that must soon take place." "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

