



Famous Chapter 2's of The New Testament

Ephesians 2 is most certainly famous. As per usually let's begin the chapter before. Paul is setting up this letter to be a declaration that Jesus is in control. In verse five he mentions that Jesus predestined believers to be adopted within the body of Christ. If you will notice, Paul mentions that it's Jesus good pleasure and his will that we are welcome in to this kingdom of God. The reason I mention this is because Paul is telling us something. That Jesus set up the kingdom, not just for himself. No, he wants to fill it with people, the souls of believers.

Ok, lets look at Ephesians 2. Paul says we walked with the prince of the air (devil). We were considered (in heaven) to be children of wrath and disobedience. Think of it this way. God set up a way for us to be predestined for heaven. Every single one of us. Then our sinful nature kicked in and we were given a choice: heaven or hell. Trust me, not that many people want anything to do with heaven. Remember Jesus good pleasure in chapter one? In verse 4 of Ephesians 2 Paul says that we are given mercy by a God who loves us. Meaning that he is giving us time to make a choice for God. It also mentions the word "quickenning." Does 2000 years later seem quick? Yet God is always calling us to him. Always! When we respond it seems that our change in character is fast and shocking. I call it quick. Yet, God patiently waits.

Ephesians 2 verses 8-10. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is 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 handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

This is so good. By the love and grace of God we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Then comes the good news. Not by works. What are works? It's anything we could try to do to earn our way in. The good news is sometimes we were good and other times we were terrible. Exactly what effort got you in? What mistake keeps you out? Grace is giving allowance for sin. Giving us time to fully become children of God. Nobody is in because they are good. They are in because they believe and because God is good. Look at verse 10. There it is again "God before ordained." It's his plan that we all come. The even better news is within that verse also. Just because we were Christians does not mean we don't sin. Yet, once you profess you believe then you become the workmanship of Jesus. He will mold, shape, and change you. The toughest part is change. We all want it quick. Yet, Jesus takes his time with it. Why? It's because we cannot be the author of change. It must be orchestrated by God "so no one can boast."

Verse 14 mentions a wall between us. What's with that? If you read the surrounding verses you will see words like circumcised and law. In that day, Jewish people (circumcised) were the in group. The people of the law (Jewish Moses law) were the in group. Take another look at verse 14. It says "*for he is our peace, who has made both one.*" There were gentiles and Jews. Now there are one (believers). It must have been tough for the Jewish nation to share God. Through Jesus we share. Through Jesus we can't boast of ourselves because we are one.

Ephesians 2 is famous because it points to one. Verse 18 mentions that we have Jesus, the Spirit, and God the Father as one. This whole religious Christian thing is about one belief, one God, and one body of believers. Why? So that no one can have a leg up on another. Jesus is equal to God the Father just as we are equal to Jews. Look at verse 19. "*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.*" Basically (through their history) Jewish people were called the chosen ones. The

children of God. They still are his chosen race. Paul (a learned Jew) grew up only knowing these facts. Yet, he is welcoming all of us into the family. We are adopted in as equals. That is amazing. Only the power of Jesus could accomplish that. That is why this chapter is so good.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

To sum it up, this whole narrative began with God creating. The lion and the man were living in harmony. The man and woman were to tend the garden. To take care of Gods world. One creation. When humans walked away from that plan God drew up another plan. A plan where people could return to being one with creation. It’s not a spiritual mojo thing. Just people, creation, and God living in union. Look at the verse above. Now reflect on Ephesians 1 and 2. Paul is telling us that if we chose to believe in Jesus and the plan of God for redemption, we are back in. Fully loved and accepted by God the Father through his Son Jesus. The best part is that God asked us to come back in and it’s free to enter so that all can come. That is good news and why Ephesians 2 is famous.