

**JESUS IS THE ANSWER:
TO GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN
Ephesians 2**

I. CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

- A. The Upper Room.
 - 1. John 13:1-11 – the Lord's Supper instituted; washing of feet.
 - 2. Jesus shares regarding the night:
 - a. Betrayal of Judas.
 - b. Denial of Peter.
 - c. His death, Mt. 26:31-35.
 - 3. Looking toward His ascension and eventual return, John 14.
- B. Crucifixion.
 - 1. Within a little more than 12 hours -Jesus is crucified, surrounded by enemies and friends.
 - 2. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus bury Jesus.
 - 3. Some of the women marked the location of the tomb.

II. MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST, Eph. 2:1-2.

- A. "*You were dead.*" Vs. 1
 - 1. As Jesus died for our sins – We were dead in our sins!
 - 2. Have we lost the significance of what it means to be sinners?
 - a. DEAD!
 - b. Luke 15:32 – Prodigal Son, "*...was dead, and has begun to live.*"
 - 3. "*...formerly lived [used to live]*" v. 2.
 - 4. "*...according to the course [followed the ways] of this world*" v. 2.
 - a. The way the world is, 1 Cor. 2:14 (3:1-3).
 - b. Our solution, 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
 - 5. All of this is from Satan, Eph. 2:2.
- B. "*All of us also lived among them.*" vs. 3
 - 1. Gives reason to stop and recognize the hopelessness of the situation. Eph. 2:12.
 - 2. The Prodigal Son in the pigsty, Lk. 15:14-16.

III. GOD'S PLAN BEFORE FOUNDATION OF WORLD, 2:4-10.

- A. We were changed – how and for what purpose?
 - 1. By God, vs. 2:4-5.
 - a. Deut. 7:7-8 – chosen because of love.
 - b. Rom. 5:6-8 – demonstrated love...
 - 2. Through Christ, vs. 5.
- B. Raised up with Christ, vs. 6.
 - 1. Col. 2:12-13 – made alive in Christ.
 - 2. Romans 6:3-4
 - 3. 1 Cor. 15:57, "*...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

C. Changed for what purpose?

1. "To show the surpassing [*incomparable*] riches of His grace," vs. 7.
2. 1 Tim. 1:12-16 – demonstrate Christ's patience...
 - a. If He had the patience for Paul – foremost of sinners.
 - b. Then He surely has the patience for me!
3. God's grace leads us to work, Eph. 2:8-10.
 - a. Paul's constant theme: "*We don't earn salvation – it is by the grace of God through faith.*"
 - i. Jn. 20:30-31
 - ii. Rom. 1:16, "*For 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.*"
 - b. "*To do good works,*" Eph. 2:10.
 - c. Titus 2:11-14 – grace of God...