



Meeting Notes: T-Time - Ephesians 2 (August 3, 2016)

These notes capture our August 3, 2016 meeting, which is our first study since April 13th. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

Current Vision: “2016 – The Year of Becoming Women of Worship Women of Witness”

Memory verse: Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (NKJV)

Our approach: Since Ephesians is a letter, we are approaching it as a form of communication, which means, there’s a **messenger** (the apostle Paul), a **message** (what we’re seeking to discover), and an **audience** (the believers in Ephesus). Thus, we are looking at “What did the apostle Paul say?” and not “What does it mean to me?” This approach help us put Scripture back into its proper context.

Discussion Topic: Ephesians 2

- **Testimony:** We began the evening with a testimony and discussion surrounding the testimony. A few general highlights are below:
 - **The purpose of Scripture.** According to 2 Timothy 3:16 (CJB), the purpose of Scripture is to teach, convict, correct, and train. We noted how whether we learn or not, the lesson was taught! **Takeaway.** Scripture teaches even when we don’t learn!
 - **Awareness.** We were thankful that we’re becoming more aware of what’s happening in our midst. **Takeaway.** We’re learning how to see past the mess to the message!
- **Year 11.** We discussed what the number 11 means and how that meaning relates to group.¹ We do feel **incomplete**, because many have moved on. Distractions have resulted in **disorganization**. And, even though we feel like we have **disintegrated**, it’s only an illusion. Actually, everything is falling into place! **Takeaway.** Yes, we miss those who have left and their good input, but we see ourselves as empty nesters! They may have “left home,” but they are still family!
- **Segue into our discussion topic.** Peace comes from turning our worry into

¹ Kevin J. Conner, *The Tabernacle of Moses*, (Portland: City Bible Publishing, 1976), p. 116,

prayer! That's how we learn to use His feet and not our flesh, which turned our attention to our study topic.

- **Ephesians 2.** We explored the first 10 verses of chapter 2, taking note there were a lot of contrasting points being made. Therefore, we decided to turn our next meeting into a T-Time² to more clearly see the contrasts being presented to us. In the meantime, here are some nuggets from our discussion:
 - **Disobedience.** When we are being disobedient, we are following the ruler of the powers of the air, which is Satan.
 - **Flesh AND mind.** We noticed verse 3 addressed “fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (NKJV). This caught us by surprise! We concluded “flesh” refers to our nature and “mind” refers to our thoughts. **Takeaway.** Our old desires consist of BOTH our nature and our thoughts!
 - **How the root of something affects the meaning.** Because we don't know the root of where certain sayings come from, we've lost the true meaning behind it! Unfortunately, I don't remember the specific example we discussed, but the point is some of the old sayings had more merit than we knew! **Takeaway.** Understanding the root of a saying gives us a much better perspective on the saying.
 - **The contrast.** During our discussion, we saw two distinct contrasts: we can be “in the world” OR “in Christ (Messiah).” When we walk “in the world,” we look to ourselves and lean on our own understanding. When we're “in Christ,” we walk in faith and lean on Him. **Takeaway.** In the world we walk in on our own understanding. In Christ, we walk in faith!
 - **Connecting the dots.** This study in Ephesians is connecting the dots for things we've learned in previous studies! Last year, we THOUGHT we were connecting the dots! This year, He IS connecting the dots! He's teaching us how to recognize the holes in our armor as well as those in someone else's, so we will know how to pray for them. **Takeaway.** The Father connects the right dots in His timing and for His purposes!
 - **Summing up this section.** Ephesians 2:1-10 is a contrast of what it looks like to be in the world and to be in Christ. We determined, because of what the first Adam did in the Garden of Eden, we come into this world headed for God's wrath. However, the sacrifice of the last Adam, Jesus, leads to God's salvation! Moreover, when we're in Christ, God has already created good works for us! **Takeaway.** Wrath or salvation—those were the choices.

Homework: Turn Ephesians 2:1-10 into a T.

² T-Time is where we use what looks like a modified big T to capture contrasting principles and/or Scriptures. It allows us to more clearly see the choices/ideas being presented to us.

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site, www.wow2women.com.