



Meeting Notes: Ephesians 2:11-20
(October 12, 2016)

These notes capture our October 12, 2016 meeting. 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. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each discussion topic. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

Current Vision: “2017 – The Year of Learning how to Walk: Putting on our Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace”

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are of God’s making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do” (CJB).

Discussion Topic: Ephesians 2:11-22. We resumed our study in Ephesians.

- **Our approach to our study:** 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 helps us put Scripture back into its proper context
- **Brief Review:** Ephesians 1 teaches us our identity in Christ and contains a wonderful prayer the apostle Paul prayed over the believers in Ephesus. Ephesians 2:1-10 begins discussing the difference in our old and new nature.
- **The White Board.** See the attached White Board for how we used T-Time¹ to examine the contrasting principles in Ephesians 2:11-20.
- **Breaking down the verses.** As we looked at the contrast between where we were and where we are in Christ, we finally settled on two distinct states of being: forsaken and not forsaken.
 - **Forsaken:** This side of the T describes our state of being before we “heard the message of the truth, the Good News offering [us] deliverance, and put [our] trust in the Messiah” (v1:13 CJB).² We were Gentiles by birth, we did not have the Messiah, nor were we a part of the nation of Israel; therefore, we were not connected to God’s promises. Not only were we without God, we didn’t even know Him. We were without hope!

¹ 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.

² The terms Messiah and Christ are used interchangeably throughout this document.

Takeaway. Without Messiah, we were lost and without hope!

- **Not forsaken.** After placing our trust in Messiah, we are now in union with Him. We were brought near to Him through the shedding of Messiah's blood. By shedding His blood, He broke down the wall of separation between the Jews and the Gentiles and made them one body. He is our peace. By bringing the Jews and Gentiles together, we saw this as Messiah leveling the playing field! Jews were no longer "better than" Gentiles, and Gentiles were no longer without hope! The way to God for both was now through the Cross. As a result, we are now "fellow saints", and "members of the household of God" (v2:19 NKJV). As a result, we now have fellowship with one another, and we're "being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (2:22 NKJV). Of particular interest was we are "built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (v2:20 NKJV). **Takeaway.** In Messiah, we are a part of the Father's family!
- **Cornerstones.**
 - **Messiah as the cornerstone.** In order to visualize this concept, we actually looked at the definition and images of a cornerstone (see attachment 2). This helped us see how everything truly does proceed from Messiah. The attached image brought to mind Jesus with His arms outstretched welcoming the "weary masses to rest on the strongest stone there is." This reminded us of the verse, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NKJV). **Takeaway.** Just as every stone in the image ultimately rests upon the cornerstone, we can find our rest in Jesus.
 - **Building upon the cornerstone.** Before we pulled up the image on the Internet, I was only seeing a two-dimensional view of how we "[grow] into a holy temple in the Lord" (v2:21 NKJV). However, another sister saw so much more, which is why we looked up an image. From this image we could see how we are each unique, we each have a place, and we each have a purpose, BUT we are all connected, for if you pull out any one stone, other stones lose the foundation upon which they rested! **Takeaway.** We truly are all interconnected; therefore, our actions really do impact others.
- **And the two became one.** We had a lengthy discussion about why it was important to bring the Jews and the Gentiles together. Several ideas arose, to include the many advantages, and discussing the concept of oneness found throughout Scripture. However, our ultimate conclusion was, BECAUSE Jesus got rid of that wall of division between the Jews and the Gentiles, NO ONE has to be forsaken!
- **Summing it up.** The overall theme of this section appears to be that while the

Jews had a relationship with God the Father, Gentiles were separated from Him and without hope. However, through the blood of Jesus, all who hear and accept the message of salvation belong to one new body, with Jesus being the cornerstone.

- **More revelation needed.** Even though we understood the concept of we are all one body (one building) and “growing into a holy temple in union with the Lord,” I, for one, am still having a hard time visualizing this idea (v2:21 CJB). In other words, it’s part of my belt (head knowledge), but not a part of my breastplate (heart knowledge). However, I will need the heart knowledge to walk it out!
- **Nuggets from the evening.** Here are some general nuggets from our evening
 - **Seeing the goodness.** Even if everything doesn’t work the way we think it should work, there’s still goodness.
 - **Looking for signs.** We say we need a sign, but if we think back over our lives, there have been signs that we just didn’t see.
 - **Our view of others.** Don’t be prideful when interacting with others. See them as people first, then look at whatever else is going on. This is how we can become more compassionate towards others.

Next Meeting: We will begin our study of Ephesians 3.

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.

ATTACHMENT 1: WhiteBoard

Identify: Putting on our shoes

Define: Ephesians 2:10 - His good works

Apply: Obedience

Learn How to Walk

2 Tim 2:14-17

- teach us truth
- convicts us of sin
- corrects our faults
- trains us in right living


to be equipped when before God may be fully devoted to Christ

Forfeiture

Sons of disobedience

Gentiles by birth

- no Messiah (Christ)
- people without a nation (estranged from Israel)
- not connected to God's promises
- didn't know God
- without hope
- without God



Messiah w/ His arms stretched wide

In Him

- in fellowship w/ one another
- being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

(Eph 2:18, 20)

Bring peace to the 2 bks

are we not at war w/ ourselves?

not forfeiture

Alive w/ Christ

Jews

In Union w/ Messiah (Christ)

- brought near (to God) by the Shedding of Messiah's blood
- broke down the wall of Separation (between Jews and Gentiles)
- Made peace - one new man from the two
- He took the 2 (Jews + Gentiles) + made them 1 through His sacrifice

leveled the "playing field" through Messiah's sacrifice

- → cross → God
- fellow citizens with the saints (God's people) + are members of God's household

Holy Temple

apostles + prophets → Messiah (Christ)

increases growing into a holy temple

Connect The Dots

Name that Arise

Answer - vision to grow to Purpose

Discipline

Disempowerment

Disorganization

Discrimination

Oppression

Harassment

Disempowerment

Disorder

The Anti-Christ

distractions

Lack focus

Wages of Sin

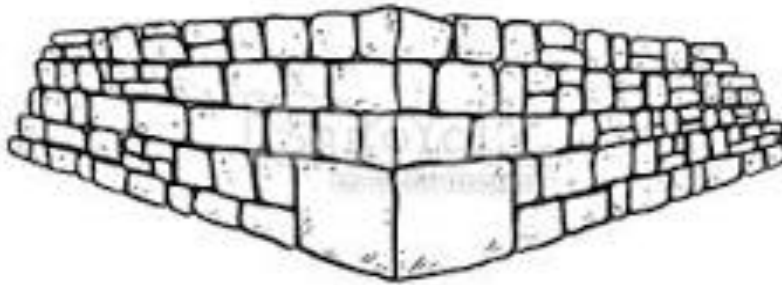
→ reveal what's in our heart

Spiritual Warfare

to daily living

to warfare

ATTACHMENT 2: Cornerstone Image³



Definition:⁴

- a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building, joining two walls.
- an important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends or is based.

³ Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/search?sourceid=chrome-psyapi2&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8&q=cornerstone%20images&oq=cornerstone%20images&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.5143j0j7>.

⁴ Retrieved from https://www.google.com/search?espv=2&q=define+cornerstone+&oq=define+cornerstone+&gs_l=serp.3..0l3j0i22i30k1l7.17956.17956.0.18315.1.1.0.0.0.64.64.1.1.0....0...1c.1.64.serp..0.1.63.CyQfs4zEIK4.