

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 24 (#912204)
WEEK 5 (912345)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 24 – Because Of Jesus Christ We Are No Longer
Under The Law**

THURSDAY

OPEN

The dear man was traveling a long distance. Every bit of money that he had had gone into that plane ticket. He had no money for food and he was absolutely starving. He sat down on the plane and they came by and they offered him food and he turned it down because he had no money. He turned it down because he didn’t know that when he got the ticket that the food went with it. And so for that whole trip until the very end the man starved. Are you starving Beloved because you don’t know what is yours because you are His?

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PART ONE

Welcome Precious One to this program. You are precious to God. You are precious to me and you know that. And you know that because you know the Word of God. And this is why this program is designed to help you discover truth for yourself, to know God’s precepts for life so that you will know how you are to live in the light of who you are, in the light of what you gained when you got that ticket to heaven, when you got the Holy Spirit who dwells inside of you who is the guarantee of the redemption of this purchased possession. You and I so desperately need to know doctrine. We so desperately need to know this teaching because the way I live is really determined by my thoughts by what I think about by what I believe by the truth I have embraced or by the truth that I have neglected. Now when we come to chapter 4 we’re going to go into the practical part of the book of Ephesians. I mean he gets a hold of you and he deals with your life. But before he deals with your life he has to make you understand who you are so that you know this is who I am and therefore this is why I behave the way I behave. And so what I want us to do is I want us to continue to look at what Jesus Christ did for us when He came to earth when He died on that cross and when He was buried and resurrected from the dead. What did He accomplish? Well we saw in our last program that He made us a new entity. He made a new classification of mankind. So let’s review. I don’t know if you have the paper that you worked on from our last program. But if not and if you’re new to the program you always keep a blank piece of paper in front of you and you always have a pen in hand so that you can draw out what I am explaining to you. And in the drawing of it you will remember. We live in a visual society and it’s very important for us to be able to see in a sense truth. Because when you hear it when you speak it when you see it then you retain it and especially when you review it. So what we have seen is this. We have seen that in the world there are two categories of people: Jew and

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Gentile. All right now a Gentile is anyone that is not a Jew. Now when Jesus Christ came, so between writing Jew on that line and writing Gentile, and write Jew first and then Gentile put a cross. On that cross put a stick figure to represent Jesus Christ for dieing on the cross. Now what happened was the Jews and the Gentiles were at enmity with one another. They were separated from one another. In a sense they were enemies against one another. And they were enemies because there was a divider between them. And the divider between them was the Law. So this is what I want you to do. You may not understand it right now, but do it anyway. Over the top of that cross write Law, okay. Over the top of that cross write Law because it was the Law. So just think of that cross in a sense as a barrier, a dividing wall between the Jew and the Gentile that separated them. We saw in our last program that in the Jewish temple itself up on that temple mount that there was a court for the Gentiles, but no Gentile was allowed to go into the temple proper because they were unclean. So what happens is it is the Law that tells us what is clean and what is unclean, how you're clean, how you're unclean. It is the Law that is a group of ordinances that tell us how to live. It's not just the Ten Commandments, but it's a whole bunch of ordinances. Now those ordinances and that Law separated the Jews from every other person on the face of this earth. The way the Jew worshiped God and they believed in only one God, was they worshiped Him in the tabernacle until the temple was built and they worshiped Him three times a year going up to Jerusalem celebrating three feasts and going through ceremonies that had to do with those feasts that had to do with their relationship with God. And one of those ceremonies was Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, when they would go and make a sacrifice for their sins. And at that time the priest would go one time a year into the holy of holies. Now if you just think about about the tabernacle and you have a drawing of it in your study guide. If you don't have the study guide go to our website preceptsforlife.com and download that study guide. It's absolutely free. We want you to study with

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us. We want you to discover truth for yourself. We want you to learn how to study the Bible. So go there. You’ll see that the temple had an outer tent and then it had an inner tent. And that inner tent was divided into two parts into the holy place and the holy of holies. The holy place on the right had a table of showbread. It had in front of the veil an altar of incense. It had on the left side as you went in a seven-branched candlestick. And that seven-branched candlestick was a picture of Jesus as the light of the world. All right the table of showbread was a picture of Jesus as the bread of life. The altar of incense was a picture of Christ our intercessor. All right and then there was a veil. That veil was a picture of the flesh of Jesus Christ. Beyond the veil there was only one piece of furniture and that one piece of furniture was the ark of the covenant. And the ark of the covenant had two cherubim on the lid of it and the lid was called the mercy seat. One time a year the high priest would go all the way in to the holy of holies and there he would take the blood of the sacrifice, first for himself. He’d go in a second time for the sins of the people and he would put that blood on the mercy seat and there would be a covering of their sin, not a taking away of their sin, but a covering of their sin. And they would do that year after year after year because as Hebrews 10 tells us God tells says, [I’m not satisfied with the blood of bulls and goats because the blood of bulls and goats can never take away sin.] (Paraphrased Hebrew 10:4) **“Therefore...,”** and Jesus is speaking, **“...a body [Thou has] prepared for Me....” (Hebrews 10:5b)** That body is Jesus being made into a man so that He might die on the cross and pay the wages of sin. for all mankind and **“...the wages of sin is death....” (Romans 6:23a)** So that [Jesus being made a man might taste death for every man.] (Paraphrased Hebrews 2:9) You can read about that later in Hebrews chapter 2 and you can read about it in Hebrews chapter 10. All right now the Jews were shut out from this temple. Only the priest could go in. Only the house of Aaron could go in and perform these duties. Only the high priest could go in there. So the Jews were shut out. And so this is what I want you to remember.

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They were shut out from the very presence of God. They never went into the inner temple. And they couldn't do that because the Law forbade them. So actually they did not have immediate or personal or individual access to God. Now what God is telling us in Ephesians chapter 2 is hey there's a whole new day. There's a whole new day. This law which separated Jew and Gentile this law in a sense that you could not keep, you would try to keep the whole law but if you broke it in one point you would be guilty of breaking it all. Let's look at it for just a minute. I want you to go to James chapter 2, verse 10. Go back to this practical little book. I call it the gospel in shoe leather. It's the way that you live and it's all about the importance of your lifestyle. And in James chapter 2, verse 10 this is what he says. **“For whoever keeps the whole law...[yet stumbles] yet stumbles in one point, he has become [guilty] guilty of all.” (James 2:10)** So what he's saying is you can keep the law and keep the law and keep the law, but the minute you stumble the minute you break it in one single little point, you are guilty. The gavel of the court comes down and the Judge of all the earth says, “Guilty.” So the law did not save us. And so what Jesus did is when He came [He abolished in His body the enmity of the law and He took Jew and He took Gentile and He made one new man.] (Paraphrased, Ephesians 2:15) Now does that mean every Jew, does that mean every Gentile? No, that means those that have come near by the blood of Christ. Look at it in Ephesians chapter 2, Ephesians chapter 2. Now I've told you all this stuff. I've reviewed for you. All right it's part of learning. All right now watch what he says in verse 13. **“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off...,”** and he's talking to the Gentiles, **“...you who formerly were far off...,”** he says, **“...have been brought near....”** Near to whom? Near to God, **“... [through] the blood of [Jesus] Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13)** So on that drawing that you have there just put a little bit of blood. If you have a red pen put blood because this is [without the shedding of blood there's no payment for your sins]. (Paraphrase, Hebrews 9:22) And so he says,

“...you...were...brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself...,” Jesus, now watch, “...is our peace...,” our peace, “...who made both groups...one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.” (Ephesians 2:13b-14) And he’s going to show this to them. It says “by abolishing in His flesh the enmity...,” this Law. And so just think of the Law right above that cross, “by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two...,” Jew and Gentile, “...into one new man, thus establishing peace...” (Ephesians 2:15) You’ve seen “peace” mentioned two times. We’re going to talk about that peace and we’re going to talk about peace apart from the Law when we come back.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. These are solid truths that you need to understand because understanding them then you know who you are. So what is this truth that I want you to understand today? I want you to understand what Jesus Christ did when He hung on that cross and how He took care of the Law so we’re no longer under Law, but we’re under grace. And that grace of God that has been taken care of through the death of Jesus Christ satisfied all the requirements of the Law and in that satisfaction brought us near to God and gave us access to God through the Spirit of God. So let me read to you verse 15, “by abolishing in His flesh the enmity...,” and then he’s going to tell you what the enmity is, this dividing thing, “...the enmity...is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances....” (Ephesians 2:15a) The Law of commandments shut out the Gentiles. The Law of commandments also separated the Jew from the Gentile in saying that the only way that you could come to God was to become a Jew was to believe in God and believe in the commandments of God and be circumcised and that. And so it says, “by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of

commandments contained in ordinances....” Do this, don’t do that. Make sure you have this, you know, all that. **“...So that in Himself...,”** in Jesus, **“He might make the two...,”** Jew and Gentile, **“...into one...man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross...,”** in one body to God through the cross, **“...by ...having put to death the enmity.”** (Ephesians 2:15-16) Now you’ve got to understand that the enmity is the law. So remember above the cross where we’re drawing this diagram with Christ on the cross we have the law. And what I want you to see is Jesus died according to the law. I want you to go to Galatians. Back up one book and I want you to go to Galatians so that you can see what Jesus Christ did and it’s Galatians chapter 3, verse 10. It says, **“For as many as are of the works of the Law [they] are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all the things written in the book of the Law, to perform them.’”** (Galatians 3:10) What is he saying? He’s saying that the Law brings a curse because as we saw in James, [if you keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point then you’re guilty of breaking it all.] (Paraphrased, James 2:10) And so the law has this high standard of perfection but we fall short of it. And when we fall short of it then what we are doing is we are sinning. And so what he’s saying in Galatians is this, **“Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident....”** (Galatians 3:11a) In other words you can’t be justified by the Law because no human being except Jesus Christ has ever kept all the Law. Now it says, **“That no one is justified by the Law before God is evident....”** (3:11a) Justified means you’re declared righteous. It means the gavel comes down and the judge says “Not guilty!” So you’re justified. You’re declared righteous. He says, **“Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for...,”** and he’s quoting, **‘...the righteous man [will] live by faith.’”** (Galatians 3:11) And what he’s doing is he’s quoting an Old Testament book. He’s quoting Habakkuk, the just, **“...the righteous will live by...faith.”** (Habakkuk 2:4c) He says, **“However, the**

Law is not of faith....” (Galatians 3:12a) The Law is not a matter of believing something’s going to happen. The Law is a matter of obedience. He says, **“...On the contrary, ‘He who practices them...,”** the Law with its ordinances, **“...shall live by them.’ Christ....” (Galatians 3:12b-13a)** And this is what I want you to see because this is what he’s telling us in Ephesians. Christ took care of the enmity of the Law. He abolished the Law. And some Jews would go, what did you just say? The Law’s righteous and holy and good. Yes the Law is righteous and holy and good, but once you come to Jesus Christ you’re no longer under law, you’re under grace and you have the Spirit of God inside of you and the Spirit of God inside of you is the One who enables you then to fulfill all the requirements of the Law. So this is what he’s saying. He’s saying in verse 13, **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us....” (Galatians 3:13a)** So that’s why I had you write Law up here above the cross. Now watch, it says, **“...for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,’”** and He did this, **“in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (3:13b-14)** So what happened and you can just then with the cross you can just take your eraser or your pencil and cross out Law because Jesus fulfilled the Law by dying on a cross. **“...Cursed is [he] who hangs on a tree.” (Galatians 3:13b).** He hung on the tree for you and me and was made sin and He took away the enmity of the Law. Now this is who you are. You are no longer under Law. You are under grace. You are no longer Jew. You are no longer Gentile. If you have come through the blood of Jesus Christ you are one new man. You are the body of Jesus Christ. You are the church of Jesus Christ. And this is what he wants us to understand. So go to Ephesians and and this is what I’ve written at the top of the page, “The annulment of the Law by the death of Jesus Christ brought into existence a whole new entity,” a whole new category of mankind. And that category of mankind is the category of whom Jesus the

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last Adam, the final Adam, the final perfect man is the head of. And so what we have now is you are no longer Jew. You are no longer Gentile. You, standing here having been a Jew or having been a Gentile and I'm taking two stick figures and I'm putting them hand in hand, you are now one new man. You are now one new man. And this is what he wants you to understand. And as one new man you belong to a new household. Watch what he says. It says, **"So then..."**, verse 19 we, **"...are no longer strangers and aliens..."** (Ephesians 2:19a) You're no longer way out there. This poor man that got on the plane and this is a true story, that was so hungry was a stranger. He was an alien. He had never flown before. He did not know what came with his ticket. But once he learned, listen, everything that they had in that galley left over from that International flight was given to that man and it was absolutely free. So he says **"So then..."**, conclusion, **"...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household."** (2:19) This is who you are. You have access through one Spirit because the Jew and the Gentile that comes to believe in Jesus Christ has the Spirit. He's the ticket. And He is the ticket that gives you access to God the Father. And when He gives you access to God the Father, then you have everything that is yours in Christ Jesus. And you are at the foot of that cross and Christ is the head of you. O Beloved, O Beloved, know who you are and know what is yours because of who you have become and then live accordingly.