Notes for “Accomplished without my Assistance” (Ephesians 2:1-22)

April 13, 2025

* Historical progression of Passion week:
  + Triumphal entry
    - Heralded as coming Messiah
    - Fulfillment of prophecy and expectation
  + Cleansing of the temple
    - Confrontation of contamination in worship
    - Confrontation of those that create barriers to getting to God
  + Occupying/teaching at the temple
  + Teaching at the Mount of Olives
  + Silent Day (Wednesday)
  + Observance of Passover
    - Institution of Lord’s Supper
    - Prayer in Gethsemane
    - Betrayal by Judas
    - Abandonment by majority of disciples
    - Series of illegal trials
  + Presentation to Pilate for official charges
    - Found innocent and sentenced to death
    - Crowds exchange Barrabas for Christ
  + Crucifixion
  + Burial in borrowed tomb
  + Resurrection in third day
* Theological progression and meaning with the various aspects
  + Fulfillment of prophecy and promise
  + Supremacy over church
  + Justification
  + Redemption
  + Sacrificial fulfillment’
* Aim of message is to reiterate that Christ accomplished all that is necessary without my assistance.
  + We struggle with emphasis on societal self-sufficiency
  + That impacts our spiritual understanding

1. Without Christ, I am dead, hopeless, and driven by my desires.

* Dead men can’t help themselves
* Paul claims that we are unable to do the right things
* He claims we are unable to desire the right things
* We are closer in alliance with Satan than Christ- not basically good

1. Our hope is based on God’s goodness, not ours.

* Hope is based on God’s grace, not my goodness
* Paul gives progression as: God is good to me because He is good- so that He can be gooder and gooder, just because He is that good.
* Our relationship with good is the effect of salvation, not the cause for it.

1. Christ has invited you to intimacy.

* We are not the right people from the right place
* In the grand scheme of things, we are culturally, the Uncircumcision
* Yet, we are invited through the blood of Christ to draw near
* We are not aliens of covenant, but adopted as children

1. Christ has conquered conflict through the cross.
   1. Conflict between peoples/covenants

* The first separation mentioned is between peoples- namely Jew and Gentile
* The cross has eliminated the divisions of covenant and cultures
  1. Conflict with the Father
* Verse 18 seems like a small statement but it is a big promise
* Access to the Father is a statement about settled conflict
* Compare to the Old Testament process with the Holy of Holies
  + Physical barrier of veil
  + At crucifixion, God tears it in half removing the separation
* The conflict that separated us is satisfied.
* God doesn’t see the stain of my sin, but the stamp of His Son

1. Christ has given you a new identity and purpose.

* God has redeemed us for a new purpose
* We are part of something larger
  + We are coupled together with the apostles
  + We are joined with the spiritual greats of all generations
  + We have Christ as our cornerstone
* We are created to be a home for His Spirit of life