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