

A Practical Study of EPHESIANS

HEAVEN'S PLAN for Life on Earth

“What It’s Like Living According to God’s Plan”

Key verse 5:17 — *“On this account, do not be foolish but be understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

Study Number Three – His Plan for Giving Life – Ephesians 2:1-10

We looked together at two things:

1. The Master Plan and
2. His Plan for Getting to Know Him

Now we come to a critical study in the series.

There are some that are getting more personal and practical, naturally, as we’re getting to the practical sections of the epistle.

This passage of Scripture shows us how to get right with God.

This is the heart of the whole of Biblical teaching on SALVATION.

His Plan for Giving Life—Ephesians 2:1-10.

Our KEY VERSE is verse 8:

For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this [salvation] is not of yourselves—it is the gift of God;

What we're going to look at is the Father's plan for salvation.

Now granted, many things can be used as a process to bring a person to a relationship to Christ. But we can also do those things and not have a relationship with Christ.

It's shocking some of the things people come up with.

“I'm living by the golden rule and God is not going to reject somebody who's doing the very best he can to love his neighbor as himself.”

Or “I live with the philosophy that God you know helps those that help themselves so I'm doing the best I can.”

Can a loving God reject somebody who's been baptized, confirmed and gone to church all his life and served?

He sure can.

Matthew 7:23

Many will say unto me on that day “Lord, Lord, haven’t we done many wonderful things?” And I’ll have to say “Depart from me, I never knew you, you workers of inequity.”

See the problem in relating to this environment is, as soon as we hear something like “God’s got a smile on His face and He never sends anybody to hell,” we just go up in smoke. We set them straight. We hit them with about 6 verses.

We live and we take opportunity to look for the teachable moment. Jesus did that with Nicodemus. He took him to dinner. He came to Jesus by night and they talked a long time. And in the process, he learned that he had to be born again even when he was 70 years old—president of the Sanhedrin—had religion up to here but he didn’t have a relationship.

The apostle Paul who pens this under divine inspiration is exactly in the same boat!

In the process of all of this, what is happening is many times guys will come with these thoughts that the apostle would say “I’m just as much a competitor as you are and when it comes to religion, I was the best one! I was a Pharisee of the Pharisees! I was born to pureblooded Hebrew parents! The tribe of Benjamin! I outstripped everybody in the field of religion in my day. I was number one!”

Why does he write about the Christian life being a race and “forgetting that which is behind and pressing toward that

which is front”? It was because he was that kind of a person. It was not until on the road to Damascus that he met the risen Christ, that he discovered that relationship.

If he had not come to know Christ on the Damascus road, all of that he had done before would have been sound and fury signifying nothing.

Now he comes to pen it! Now he comes to put it down in a few verses!

This is what it is! Here is:

His Plan for Giving Life!

Any time the Bible’s being taught we have one of two choices. We can either accept it or reject it. And that’s a choice.

But just remember, the fight isn’t with someone else. It’s with our Father who inspired the apostle to write it. It’s His plan. We can either junk it or use it. It’s our choice.

Let’s get to looking at it. But as we look at it, let’s look at two verses of the plan that are not here so that we can get a focus on it.

Whenever we’re witnessing to anybody about knowing Christ, these are the very best verses to use.

1 John 5:11, 12

This is the record, God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God, has not life.

There it is.

Either DO and we have life or we DON'T and we don't have life.

Now strip all of the rest of it away from it. Get rid of the church membership. Get rid of the ordinances. Get rid of everything except this one thing of life.

Do you or don't you? And if you do, since when? If you do, do you remember? If you do, are you sure?

A lot of people say "Oh yeah, I'm a Christian."

"Well when did you become one?"

"Well I don't know."

We don't have a hard time remembering or forgetting our spiritual birthday. We remember those things!

Maybe we don't know the exact day but at least we have an assurance in our heart.

Sometimes people say, "How do you know you're a Christian?"

“Well, you don’t have a right to ask that! That’s a private thing! Just mind your own business!”

We hit a nerve when they don’t know. We just assume that. We think that’s the right thing to do. If somebody’s going to be offended when we ask them about their birthday then they probably haven’t had one and they’re just mad and it hurts their pride. And they’ve gone along so many years in all this pomp and circumstance and serving and doing all this.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.

Now with the challenge of our last study before us, that is a challenge for enlarged capacity that Paul prayed for them.

The reason is probably a little bit selfish.

In James chapter 3 it says the teacher is going to enter into greater judgment because he’s teaching.

What more critical, more serious judgment could fall on a man who confused the Gospel so much that people study together and go away and not be a Christian and not know Christ because it was so confusing that they didn’t get it plain. Or they didn’t understand what they’re supposed to do.

**v. 1 And you He made alive when you were dead
through your trespasses and sins,**

“And you”—referring to these people to whom he’s writing—
“He made alive when you were dead through your trespasses
and sins,”

Now it’s unfortunate that we have a chapter division. Because
when we finished our last study he was praying. And he was
praying that they might experience the surpassing power that
raised Christ from the dead.

It is that same surpassing power that’s going to raise us from
SPIRITUAL DEATH to SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Now get this, theological point #1:

All of us are born spiritually dead into the world.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and
death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have
sinned:

We were born **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** into the world.

Therefore before we are prepared to meet the Lord, we have to
have a spiritual birth!

The easiest way to say that is:

We are born DEAD and we must be made ALIVE.

A man born once, dies twice.

A man born twice, dies once and it's no big deal.

A man born once—we've been born. We're sitting here with physical life right now. All of us have that.

But if we only have that birth, we will die twice!

We'll die physically just like everybody else. We can't escape that. We've all got one of those dates out here. We don't know when it is. God's got a great big calendar on His desk and He's saying "Well there's one day less and one day less." And pretty soon it's going to be our day and the Lord's going to say "It's his day! POP! Bring him on!" And it's over!

So teach us to number our days, apply our hearts to wisdom."
(Ps. 90:12)

We don't know how much we got left.

But if we have only been born once, that death isn't anything compared to the second death. We are going to be raised at the Great White Throne Judgment, face the record of our life that we thought was good enough to get us in and God's going to say "uh uh" and it's going to be the second death—the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

And boy that is nothing like the first death.

A man born once, dies twice—he dies physically and he dies eternally.

But a man born twice, if we come to know Jesus Christ—if we haven't come to know Him already—we're born twice. We're going to have another birth now. This'll be our birthday.

“you He made alive when you were dead through your trespasses and sins,”

He's not talking about physical death! He's talking about **SPIRITUAL DEATH!**

And we're trapped in our “trespasses”—which are thoughts of sin. And in our sins—the acts themselves—indicate the fact that we are spiritually dead!

The fruitage of sin indicates that we are apart from Him.

“The wages of sin is death”—Romans 6:23—“but the gift of God is eternal life.”

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned:

Now look at verse 2.

v. 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

“in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

Before this new birth took place, before we were made alive, we were a victim of **THREE ENEMIES:**

1. the “**WORLD,**”
2. the “**FLESH,**” and
3. the **DEVIL.**

They’re all three here in these next two verses. We can just see them as plain as the noses on our faces. Look at them!

“in which you once walked according to the course of this world,”

This world system! This is the **SATANIC REALM.** This is living by the philosophy of selfishness. This is “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.”

This is being concerned about financial security. This is living only for material goals and comforts.

This is living by the philosophy of everybody lives around us. We grab for all the gusto we can get because we only go around once in life.

We walk like that! We live like that!

“according to the course of this world,”

Now when we become a Christian, what’s our attitude supposed to be toward the world?

The attitude is to be using it but not abusing it.

1 John 2:15, 16

Stop loving the world. Don’t let it be your top, consuming passion and priority...[He says] and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God; for all these worldly things, these evil desires—the craze for sex, the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you, and the pride that comes from wealth and importance—these are not from God. They are from the evil one.

So our heavenly Father runs counter to the course of this world.

In James chapter 4 he's talking about that.

“How can you say you love God and you love this world? You adulteresses. You say you love me but you really don't. The world's more important to you than your love for Me! You desecrate my relationship with you by the fact that this world is so very, very important to you.”

Now a person shipwrecked on an island doesn't scribble his name on a piece of paper and tell him where his location is and then throw it in the water. He gets him a bottle and he puts it in the bottle, seals it tight and throws it in the water and hopes and prays somebody will find it.

God doesn't all of a sudden when Jesus Christ comes into our life, scribble His name on us and throw us in the world and hope we make it! He SEALED us by the Spirit! Protects us where we carry out the environment of Jesus Christ and the world doesn't get into us. There's no leaks in our ship!

The problem that believers have is when the world does get in the inside it carries all kind of horrible consequences because Satan is the god of this world.

Now notice the next phrase:

“in which you once walked according to the course of this world” and also “according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

There's a disagreement in the liberal churches today about believing this archaic thought that there is a reality of Satan. That he is an enemy.

Isaiah 14 tells us he was an anointed cherub that went on a rebel trip and fell. We take it that he is very, very much involved in creating all kinds of havoc. We find him most active at the times of greatest blessing that are about ready to come into our life.

For the times of strategic ministry he seems to rear his ugly head and do some of the meanest things.

He's the god of this world! He doesn't want the saints to be blessed! He doesn't want the sinners to come to Christ! He knows us and where we're most vulnerable! He'll just tear our hearts out!

And that same spirit that's working in the sons of disobedience to do some of the horrible things that are happening in our society today—from terrorism all the way down the line—is the same spirit that wants to take the believer and render him ineffective. And we're going to have a fight all the way to the house. He's very, very real.

And Paul says “you once walked according to the prince of the power of the air.”

Now as we go on, notice the next verse gives us the third enemy of the believer.

v. 3 Among these we all once lived in the desires of our flesh, practicing the desires of our flesh and of our thoughts, and were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest.

“Among these we also once lived in”—WHAT?—“in the desires of our flesh, practicing the desires of our flesh and of our thoughts, and were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest.”

What does it mean this term the “flesh?”

We can understand the world and its philosophy. It’s opposed to God.

We can understand Satan as an angelic being who has designs upon his own program and kingdom. We understand that. But there isn’t a whole lot of teaching on what’s the “flesh” and how it fights us?

Well that’s what we were before we became a Christian. That’s the nature we were born with. It’s the rebel nature that wants us to “do it my way.” It’s the nature that doesn’t care to pray until everything else fails. It’s the nature that doesn’t want to read the Bible. It’s the nature that wants to be well thought of, no matter what. That’s that nature.

When we become a Christian, that nature is still in us.

What happens when we become a Christian is we get a new divine nature placed within us that cannot sin. And it's that new nature, when we're under the control of it, that produces victory over sin and allows the life of Christ to flow through us.

We have an article for the newsletter that's on the whole subject of REJECTION.

The term rejection is probably uppermost in every surgeon's mind and also in the mind of every parent or sibling that's related to a transplant patient.

“Oh you're not going to take out the old kidney and put a new one in. You're going to put a third one in. Oh I see.”

“Oh it would shock too much the system to take out the old.”

“Yah, we're going to put another one in. We're going to have a kidney transplant.”

But we have to be praying because that new kidney that's going to be put in there probably is going to be rejected unless we have a miracle!

Why is it that the Christian life is so hard and everything gets all blown out of proportion? It's the minute we transplant that new heart and that new nature into this foreign environment that the whole environment rejects it. That's why we have such a hard time after we become a Christian!

We've been living that way all our life according to that nature and we put that new nature in there, it's lonely.

And that new nature isn't going to work unless the Spirit of God energizes it and we allow it to happen.

And so rejection's very real.

Paul said it's so real that "the flesh wars against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh so I can't do what I want to do!"

In Romans 7 he says:

The good I would, that I don't do, and that which I hate, I'm always doing! I just hate myself!

Why? Because we have the conflict between an old nature and a new nature.

And the old nature's going to reject this new one that's been put in there! He's very much alive!

We're going to carry that old nature to the house. No matter what anybody else tells us.

We're never going to arrive at a point at complete spiritual bliss and victory. If we are, we're going to be the first one that got there.

We're going to become as much like Jesus Christ as is possible for the new nature to function in the years of our lives, under the control of the Spirit. But we're still always going to have the potential for that old nature jumping up. It'll always reject that which is there.

And that's what he says!

We used to live like these people. We lived selfishly. We practiced the desires of our flesh and of our things. We were children of wrath by nature, like everybody else.

“children of wrath by nature.”

What does God do when He gets angry with sin?

“I'm going to take him over and show him what happened when Nadab and Abihu offered a little strange fire.” God didn't have a smile on His face that day!

“I'm going to walk over when old Uzzah just reached to touch an Ark that was about ready to slide on the ground. And show him who's laying there.”

“I'm going to walk over in the New Testament and introduce him to Ananias and Sapphira who said they sold a bunch of property and kept back some of it. And they went out feet first from the presence defeated.”

We “were children of wrath”! God only has one response to sin!
And that is “WRATH”!

He poured it all out on His Son and that’s why Christ on
Calvary cries “My God, My God, why’ve you turned your back?
Why have You forsaken Me?”

Because a holy God can’t look on sin! He can only respond in
wrath and in judgment! And we were like that.

Verse 4 is the most wonderful verse in the series because it
starts with “But God”! And there’s our whole salvation.

If God hadn’t done it, it wouldn’t have gotten done. There it is!

There are no more sacred contrasts in all of the Scripture than
that one right there.

“But God...”

**v. 4 But God, being wealthy in mercy, because of His
great love with which He loved us,**

“But God, being wealthy in mercy, because of His great love
with which He loved us,”

Isn’t that good?

“But God”—what does that do? Takes us back to the MASTER
PLAN.

He SELECTED us, provided SALVATION through the blood of His Son, SEALED us by His Spirit, all of God.

What did He do?

v. 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, He made us alive together with the Christ, by grace you have been saved.

“even when we were dead”—SPIRITUALLY—“through our trespasses, He made us alive together with the Christ, by grace you have been saved.”

That is great preaching! Good truth.

God, while we were in the arena, out of His love provided the means of redemption.

We have been SAVED by means of HIS GRACE.

That’s in the PERFECT TENSE in the Greek.

“by grace you have been saved.”

What does the perfect tense always communicate?

The perfect tense in the Greek always communicates something that happened in the past that has:

PAST,

PRESENT and

FUTURE ramifications.

We could say of that, we not only have BEEN saved, we are BEING saved and we WILL be saved!—If we want to put it all together!

God doesn't make any mistakes, even in the tenses of the verbs that He uses!

We HAVE BEEN, we ARE BEING and we WILL BE saved!

And it's all by His grace.

v. 6 And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

“And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

Why'd He do that? There's the PURPOSE.

v. 7 in order that He might demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

“in order that He might demonstrate in the coming ages the

surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Jesus Christ.”

REASON—oh this is it!

Here’s our KEY to His plan for giving life—verse 8.

v. 8 For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this [salvation] is not of yourselves—it is the gift of God;

“For it is by grace that you have been saved”—there it is PERFECT TENSE again.

How did it happen?—“through faith;”—we didn’t have anything to do with it. We by faith took what He gave us.

“and this [salvation] is not of yourselves”—we’ve already seen that in the Master Plan—“it is”—WHAT?—“it is the gift of God;”

It’s great when we liken salvation to Christmas day.

Wrapped under the tree are all kinds of presents. And how we rejoice to tear into them to see what we’ve been given. And we thank the giver.

Isn’t it wonderful that God wrapped it all up in His Son?! He says “Here! It’s because I love you! I want to spend eternity with you! Will you take it?”

And what if we said “Nah, I don’t want it. No thanks”?

“BUT I WORKED FOR IT! I DIED FOR IT! I SPENT ALL OF THESE YEARS MAKING THIS AVAILABLE TO YOU! WON’T YOU PLEASE TAKE IT?!”

“Nah, I don’t want it.”

That’s exactly what the person does who is bent on trying to make it on his own.

Could we ever in our wildest imagination think what it would do to our kid who worked, took his allowances, did everything he could to buy us something very special for Christmas that he wanted to give us, and on Christmas day we say, “That’s not the one I wanted.”

And we do that to God all the time!

“No thanks! Some other time! Let me have my fun living in the world catering to my flesh! Letting Satan have his day! One of these days I’ll get it together with You, but just keep your gift on a shelf for a while. Let me come around.”

There’s a section in Acts where Paul bears his heart to Agrippa.

And all Agrippa says, after this tremendous message on the resurrection: “Oh and just such a few words you’re thinking of

making me a Christian.”

Paul said, “Would that everyone I know was like me except for these chains.”

The flippant, blasé attitude toward salvation and how it is accomplished. It’s incredible.

We get them to walk the aisle! To raise their hands! To say “I’ll do it!” Get emotional goosebumps, there’ll be a fireball fall out of heaven and something big will happen!

We get so emotionally oriented! It’s the way we FEEL.

It isn’t the way we feel! It’s the fact God said it, I believed, that settled it!

FACT—FAITH—and then FEELINGS!

We can actually wake up in the morning and be a Christian and have a headache.

It’s a gift of God! Did we take it or didn’t we?!

And we know! And we’re concerned about each other! God’s concerned about us! He wants to know!

Are we living life according to His plan? Or not?

John 14:6 says, Jesus doesn’t say “I am one of the ways, I am

maybe the truth, and I might be the life.”

No He doesn't say that!

He says: “I'm THE way, I'm THE truth, and I'm THE life! No man comes to the Father but by me!”

That fits God's plan! Jesus Christ is the FOCAL POINT of salvation!

If we are saved, it's not because we belong to some institutional organization! It is us that had a confrontation with the Person of Jesus Christ! And we've never been the same since.

Paul walking on the road to Damascus had a confrontation with the living Christ and he bore that testimony everywhere he went.

And so he writes about it.

Now verse 9 is strong, isn't it?

v. 9 not because of works, in order that no one might boast.

“not because of works, in order that no one might boast.”

If salvation was a joint venture we'd have to listen to our story throughout eternity as to how we earned the right to be there.

God knows what it's about! If we had anything to do with our salvation we'd have to listen to the mess throughout eternity! And God's going to get all the glory and He's going to share it with nobody. That's why human works don't count.

Romans 4:4-5

But he didn't earn his right to heaven by all the good things he did. No, for being saved is a gift; and if a person could earn it by being good, then it wouldn't be free—but it is! As it is, it is given to those who do not work for it. For God declares sinners to be good in His sight if they have faith in Christ to save them from God's wrath.

This statement is great for works-oriented people:

If God thought for a minute that you could do it, He wouldn't have taken the drastic measure to send Jesus Christ into the world to do it for you!

If we could have done it, why did He go to all the trouble of sending His Son?

v. 10 For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, in order that we should walk in them.

“For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works,”—we're going to demonstrate our faith by love. It'll be

revealed that we're His—"which God prepared beforehand, in order that we should walk in them."

One writer was telling the story that in Montana one of the most fearful predators of the livestock up there is the mountain lion. And the mountain lion is a very strange creature. He can be stalked and hunted and thinks he's going to get away. And the way he gets away is to get up a tree. Not thinking for a minute that's the end of it for him.

The mentality of a mountain lion who ends up getting shot in a tree is the mentality of a lot of people who think they're doing the very best they can so God's going to be obligated to take them in when the end comes.

If our salvation resides in any other foundation than Jesus Christ, we aren't going to make it! Period! Because it's all in a personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

Here are the lessons we learn from our text:

Lesson #1: We are born into this world spiritually dead.

Lesson #2: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23 NASB).

Lesson #3: We must be born again to be prepared for eternity.

Lesson #4: Satan is the prince of the power of the air and he is deeply interested and involved in your eternal destruction.

Lesson #5: 2 Corinthians 4:4: “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (KJV).

Lesson #6: Every believer has war on three fronts: (1) against the world; (2) the flesh; and (3) the devil.

Lesson #7: “But God, being wealthy in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” (verse 4) did something about our hopeless dilemma.

Lesson #8: “He made us alive together with the Christ,” “[He] raised us up with Him, and [He] seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (verses 5 & 6).

Lesson #9: “The surpassing wealth of His grace” will be a testimony throughout eternity (verse 7).

Lesson #10: “For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this [salvation] is not of yourselves” (verse 8).

Lesson #11: Barker says: “The entire process of salvation comes from nothing we have done.”

Lesson #12: Salvation is a “gift of God” (verse 8).

Lesson #13: Our salvation is not of works, “in order that no one might boast” (verse 9).

Lesson #14: “We are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (verse 10).

Lesson #15: No one who is ever in hell will be able to say to God, “You put me here,” and no one who is in heaven will ever be able to say, “I put myself here.” (John Hannah)

Father, You know the longing of our heart would be that the message would be clear enough. That the saints could revel and be thrilled in it and be freed from anxiety and doubt, and the sinners could come to know You as Savior. We pray that as we’ve looked at Your plan for the giving of life, we would look into our own hearts and have the quiet assurance that we’re Yours or the deep feeling of need to do something about it. Thank You Father for the power of the Spirit, for His ability to take the Word of God and to work it into lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

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HEAVEN'S PLAN for Life on Earth

“What It’s Like Living According to God’s Plan”

Key verse 5:17 — *“On this account, do not be foolish but be understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

STUDY NUMBER THREE – HIS PLAN FOR GIVING LIFE – EPHESIANS 2:1-10

KEY VERSE 2:8

v. 1 And you He made alive when you were dead through your trespasses and sins,
v. 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
v. 3 Among these we all once lived in the desires of our flesh, practicing the desires of our flesh and of our thoughts, and were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest.
v. 4 But God, being wealthy in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
v. 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, He made us alive together with the Christ, by grace you have been saved.
v. 6 And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
v. 7 in order that He might demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
v. 8 For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this [salvation] is not of yourselves—it is the gift of God;
v. 9 not because of works, in order that no one might boast.
v. 10 For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, in order that we should walk in them.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What has God done for us, according to verse 1?

3. What did we used to be like before we became a Christian, according to verse 2?

4. What were we before we became Christians, according to verse 3?

5. What is God's attitude toward us, according to verse 4?

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6. What is our position, according to verse 6?

7. How is it that we become a Christian, according to verse 8?

8. Why is our relationship to God not based on good works, according to verse 9?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We are born into this world spiritually dead.

LESSON #2: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23 NASB).

LESSON #3: We must be born again to be prepared for eternity.

LESSON #4: Satan is the prince of the power of the air and he is deeply interested and involved in your eternal destruction.

LESSON #5: 2 Corinthians 4:4: “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (KJV).

LESSON #6: Every believer has war on three fronts: (1) against the world; (2) the flesh; and (3) the devil.

LESSON #7: “But God, being wealthy in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” (verse 4) did something about our hopeless dilemma.

LESSON #8: “He made us alive together with the Christ,” “[He] raised us up with Him, and [He] seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (verses 5 & 6).

LESSON #9: “The surpassing wealth of His grace” will be a testimony throughout eternity (verse 7).

LESSON #10: “For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this [salvation] is not of yourselves” (verse 8).

LESSON #11: Barker says: “The entire process of salvation comes from nothing we have done.”

LESSON #12: Salvation is a “gift of God” (verse 8).

LESSON #13: Our salvation is not of works, “in order that no one might boast” (verse 9).

LESSON #14: “We are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (verse 10).

LESSON #15: No one who is ever in hell will be able to say to God, “You put me here,” and no one who is in heaven will ever be able to say, “I put myself here.” (John Hannah)