**March 26, 2017 “In Which You Formerly Walked” Ephesians 2:1-2**

Once again, I am plagued with the problem of having far too much information which I would like to share with you and not having enough time to do so properly. Consequently, we may have to break this passage down over the course of the next couple of weeks.

Last week, I spoke about the “walking dead” which are described in verse 1 of this chapter of Ephesians. Those who are alive physically but are dead to spiritually to the things of God. They are incapable of understanding the truths found in God’s Word nor do they have any desire to know them. Why? Because they are dead in their sins and trespasses.

Now before we get all high and mighty over this and somehow want to exalt ourselves on some self-righteous plateau, we need to remember that the verse starts out with “any you were dead.” Every single saint of God starts out in the same place of deadness before God. We are all born into sin. We are all born with a sin nature and we are all born with a rebellious nature toward God. And, it is only by the grace of God that any of us are saved through faith in Christ alone as our only hope of salvation.

Paul in this passage we are going to study today is speaking to the people in Ephesus and in order for us to gain a fuller understanding of what was taking place, we need to understand some of the things that were occurring in that city and what had happened when the Word of God was “boldly” declared. First by Paul, then Apollos, aided by Priscilla and Aquila, and then by Paul. (Acts 18: 19-20; Acts 18: 24-25; Acts 18: 26; Acts 19: 8)

So why are we going to look at Acts 19 when the main passage for our study is found in Ephesians 2: 1-2? The answer is… we need to know what had happened or is happening in Ephesus so we can better understand the context of the Ephesian chapter 2.

There are three main cities in the Eastern Roman empire. Those cities were, Corinth, Alexandria and Ephesus. Ephesus was a port city on the Mediterranean, located 3 miles inland situated on the Caster River. There were also 4 main highways that intersected in the city so the trade in the city was very great and probably quite impressive. In fact, many scholars feel that the description of Babylon in Revelation 18:11-13 was John’s description of life in Ephesus from which had been exiled to the island of Patmos.

1. Acts 19:1
   1. Found some disciples
      1. Interesting that Paul uses the word “disciples” rather than “believers.”
         1. Why is that?
            1. Acts 18:25
            2. Acts 19:2-4
            3. What is the baptism of John?

“There is one coming after me whose sandal laces I am not worthy to untie”

* + 1. Acts 19:2… so what then did they “believe?”
       1. One was coming… is the simplest
  1. Acts 19:5-7
     1. Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
        1. “Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins”
        2. Christ… the anointed One… Luke 4:18-19… “because He has anointed Me… to preach the Gospel”
     2. They were baptized immediately upon acceptance of Christ
  2. “They spoke in tongues and prophesied”
     1. I Corinthians 14:22
        1. Tongues are a sign to “unbelievers”
           1. Who are they?

Acts 20:34… the men who were with me?

* + - 1. Prophecy is a sign to “believers”
         1. Who are they?

Acts 20:34… the men who were with me?

Maybe these new converts?

* 1. Result
     1. Acts 19:8-10
        1. Romans 1:16… “for I am not ashamed of the Gospel… for **IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION** for everyone who believes… to the Jew first and also to the Greek”
        2. Reasoning and persuading them of the kingdom of God
           1. What is the “kingdom of God?”

Birth of Jesus Christ

It is the Holy Spirit descending like a dove

It is the voice of God… “this is my beloved Son”

It is the healing of lame man

It is the blind receiving sight

It is the feeding of the 5,000

It is dead being raised

It is the cross of Christ

It is His death

It is His burial

It is His resurrection

It is His ascension

It is His coming again on clouds of glory

* + 1. 3 months Paul teaches in the synagogue
       1. They harden their hearts
    2. Goes to the school of Tyrannus
       1. Who would ever go to a school of someone who is named “Tyrannus?”
       2. Schedule of the Ephesians
          1. 11:00 am to 4 pm… siesta time
          2. Heat of the day everyone slept

Paul is teaching in this school because it is available during this time

5 hours a day, 7 days a week

* 1. What does this tell us?
     1. There must be a commitment on the part of every minister of the Gospel
     2. There must be a commitment from every believer