

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

Ephesians 2

One of the most significant events of the 20th century was the fall of the Berlin Wall. After World War II after we defeated the Nazis, the city of Berlin was divided. It was West and East Germany. A wall was erected to keep people in and other influences out. President Reagan went to that wall and at a public gathering openly addressed the leader of Russia at that time, Mikhail Gorbachev, and gave his famous words, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” In 1989, world history was made as the wall was destroyed and freedom was restored.

There is a wall far more formidable than the Berlin Wall that has been torn down. This is a wall that kept us all from God. It is called the wall of sin. Two thousand years ago, Jesus tore that wall down and thus has given us free open and constant access into His presence. This was done because His blood was shed for us.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Jesus paid it all.** Though there is a place for works, we need to understand our access to God is not based on what we do. It is based on what He has done. God’s love for you is not dependent on your progress but on His perfection. The law of God demands that you do it all. God’s grace reminds us that He paid it all. The law demands everything and gives nothing. Grace gives everything and demands nothing.
2. **Our emotions can mislead us.** Sometimes we feel like we can draw near to God because we feel really good about it. Other times we feel like we cannot draw near to God because we don’t feel really good about it. Be careful. Your heart can mislead you. Your heart can condemn you. Regardless of how you feel, you can approach Him because Jesus’ blood was shed for you.
3. **Everything has changed because of the blood of Jesus.** “We who were afar off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- When you don’t know God, there is no hope. But when you know God, you will have great hope, because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- We are the watchmen on the wall. We are the stewards of the message. We are the witnesses. And we need to bring the message of the gospel to our culture.
- God wants us to be a church that reaches all people. All demographics. All ages. All backgrounds.
- When the Holy Spirit of God convicts you, He uses the Word of God in love to bring you back into fellowship with the Father. But in contrast, when Satan accuses you, he will use your own sins in a hateful way to destroy you. He wants you to feel helpless and hopeless.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive you. You don't have this relationship with God. He seems so far away. Yet He can become so close. You find yourself hopeless when in reality you can be hopeful with Christ living within you. Jesus, who died on the cross and shed His blood and rose again from the dead, stands now at the door of your life and He knocks. He says if you will hear His voice and open the door He will come in. Learn how to let him in at KnowGod.org.