WITHOUT CHRIST
Ephesians 2:12

I. **Without Christ we would be dead (2:1).**
   A. Paul makes it clear that the Ephesians were dead in trespasses and sins when they were without Christ (vs’s 1 and 5).
      1. He says they were “dead in trespasses and sins” (verse 5).
         a. “Trespasses” means a lapse or deviation from the truth.
         b. “Sins” means a missing of the mark.
         c. Paul is saying these people were dead because they had gone outside of God’s law.
      2. Many times in scripture sinners apart from God are said to be dead (Ephesians 5:14; 1 Timothy 5:6; Romans 6:13).
      3. The wages of sin is death (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23).
   B. Only those who have Christ have life.
      1. In order to live we must have our sins forgiven and that is one of the spiritual blessings of being in Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
      2. Jesus said He was the “way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).
      3. And that He came so that “men might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
      5. Someone has well said that Jesus is the author of physical (Genesis 1:26, spiritual (1 John 5:12; 1 John 4:9; John 3:16-17), and eternal life (1 John 5:11).

II. **Without Christ we would be lost.**
   A. The Ephesians are described as being lost and not knowing it (2:2).
      1. Like everyone, the Ephesians had missed the mark (Romans 3:23).
      2. They had gone astray (Isaiah 53:6).
   B. Only those who have Christ know the way.
      1. Jesus plainly tells us this (John 14:6).
      2. He is the only way to heaven.
      3. He is the one who has laid out the straight and narrow path for us (Matthew 7:13-14).
      4. Without Him we will choose the wrong way.
         c. Proverbs 14:12.

III. **Without Christ we would be without salvation (2:8).**
   A. Paul made it clear that without Christ they were without salvation.
      1. We’ve noticed that without Christ they were dead in trespasses and sins.
      2. Their salvation came by “grace,” which is God’s part, and “faith” which is man’s part.
      3. In Titus 2:11-14 Paul tells Titus that Jesus is the manifestation of God’s grace.
      4. The Ephesians received salvation by receiving God’s grace, which is embodied in Christ, along with their obedient faith.
B. Only those who have Christ have salvation.
   1. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 - the word “by” means through.
   2. The Hebrews writer name Jesus as the “author of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:9).
   3. 2 Timothy 2:10.
   4. Salvation is through Christ, He is the author of it, and salvation is in Him.
   5. It is not in any other (Acts 4:12).

IV. Without Christ we would be without hope (2:12).
   A. Paul made it very clear that as long as they were outside of Christ, they had no hope.
      1. The Greek construction of the sentence indicates this was ongoing.
      2. They were “without hope, without hope, without hope.”
      3. In 1 Thessalonians Paul made it clear that those outside of Christ do not have the hope of those inside Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
   B. Thanks be to God that He showed interest in a dying world by sending His only begotten Son.
   C. Only those today who have Christ have hope.
      1. Colossians 1:27.
      2. 1 Thessalonians 1:3.
      3. 1 Timothy 1:1.

V. Without Christ we would be without access to God (2:18).
   A. Paul made it clear that without Christ the Ephesians had no access to God,
      1. Remember he has told them that they were “without God in the world” (2:12).
      2. They were without God because He had given them up because of their sins (Romans 1:1).
      3. These Gentiles could not have a new relationship with God until they had His Son (2:18).
   B. Only those who have Christ have access to God.
      1. “No man cometh unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6).
      2. Even in prayer we cannot approach God without Christ.
         a. Jesus is our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
         b. Romans 8:34.
         c. 1 John 2:1-2.
      3. You cannot separate the Father from the Son.
         a. “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).
         b. Jesus told His disciples that they knew God because they knew Him (John 14:7-11).