

The Church – Kingdom, Temple, and Family of God

TEXT: Eph. 2:19-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. LAST 2 LESSONS – **PAST** CONDITION OF GENTILE CHRISTIANS CONTRASTED WITH THE **PRESENT**.
1. They were spiritually dead – Now alive in Christ.
 2. Once far off – Now made alive
- B. THIS WEEK WE WANT TO LOOK AT THEIR **PAST** & **PRESENT** FROM ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW.

I. THEIR PAST CONDITION (vs. 19a).

- A. **STRANGERS**: *xenos*, “alien, without knowledge of, without share in.” – Thayer. NO SHARE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
- B. **SOJOURNERS**: *paroikos*, “a stranger, foreigner, one who lives in a place without the right of citizenship” – Thayer.

II. THE PRESENT CONDITION.

- A. **FELLOW CITIZENS** IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (vs. 19b)
1. Fellow citizens, though **strangers in the world** (1 Pet. 2:11-12).
 2. A **spiritual** kingdom (John 18:36; Luke 17:20-21; Phil. 3:20).
 3. The kingdom was established during NT times (Mark 9:1).
 4. Jesus gives the sign of the kingdom’s coming (Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4, 32).
 5. Christ is king (Eph. 20-23; 1 Tim. 6:15).
 6. **How is citizenship obtained?** (Matt. 7:21).
- B. OF THE **HOUSEHOLD OF GOD** (vs. 19c).
1. God’s family – **God is the Father** (Matt. 23:9).
 2. **Christ** is God’s Son **over his house** (Heb. 3:6).
 3. **Christians are his brethren** (Heb. 2:12).
 4. **Christians are children of God**
 - a. They are heirs (Rom. 8:15-16).
 - b. They can approach God as their father (Matt. 6:6-9).
 - c. Fatherly protection (Rom. 8:31-32).
 - d. Fatherly correction (Heb. 12:4-11).
 - e. Fatherly provision (James 1:17).
 5. How does one become a child of God? (Gal. 3:26-27).
- C. A **TEMPLE** OF GOD (vs. 20-22).
1. Suggests **priesthood** and **worship** (1 Pet. 2:9).
 2. Temple built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets (vs. 20).
– Their preaching credited with the start of the church (1 Cor. 3:6-7; 10-11).
 3. **Christ is the chief cornerstone** (vs. 20).
 - a. The church is built upon Christ – It is dependent upon him for existence (1 Cor. 3:11).
 - b. It is founded upon the rock (Matt. 16:16-18).
 - a. **Peter** – *petros*, Stone or pebble.
 - b. **Rock** – *petra*, Boulder or mass of rock..
 4. Peter and other Christians are living stones in this building (1 Pet. 2:4-5).

5. **Each of us as a living stone has a place (Eph. 2:21).**
6. Together we are God's dwelling place – **His presence is in the church (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16).**

CONCLUSION:

- A. THERE WAS A CHANGE WROUGHT IN THE GENTILES WHEN THEY BECAME CHRISTIANS.
 1. They **were dead**, now they **are alive**.
 2. They **were far off**, now they **are reconciled**.
 3. They **were strangers and sojourners**, now **fellow-citizens, family and temple of God**.
- B. THIS CHANGE CAN BE WROUGHT IN YOU.
- C. BUT ONLY IN THE CHURCH.