

The Church – The Body of the Reconciled

TEXT: Eph. 2:11-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. LAST WEEK THE **PAST** CONDITION OF THE EPHESIAN CHRISTIANS.
1. They were **dead in their sins**.
 2. They had been **raised** spiritually **through Christ**.
- B. THIS LESSON WE VIEW THE **PAST** CONDITION OF THE GENTILES AGAIN.
1. **Separated** from God **because of their sin**.
 2. **Reconciled** through Christ **in the church**.

I. THEIR PAST CONDITION – FAR OFF (vs. 11-12).

- A. UNCIRCUMCISED IN THE FLESH – NOT IN COVENANT RELATION WITH GOD (**Gen. 17**).
- B. **SEPARATE FROM CHRIST** – UNAWARE OF THE ONLY SAVIOR (**Acts 4:12**).
- C. **ALIENATED** FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL – NOT THE PEOPLE OF GOD (**2 Cor. 6:16-17** è **Rom. 8:16, 31ff.**).
- D. **STRANGERS** FROM THE COVENANTS OF THE PROMISE – NOT RECIPIENTS OF GOD’S BLESSING (**Gen. 12:1-3**).
- E. **NO HOPE** – NONE IN REALITY – IGNORANT OF GOD’S WILL AND GOD HIMSELF (**Acts 24:15**).
- F. **WITHOUT GOD** IN THE WORLD – SPIRITUALLY DEAD (**Eph. 2:1; Isa. 59:1-2; 1 John 1:6**).

FAR OFF FROM GOD AND GOD’S PEOPLE!

II. THEIR PRESENT CONDITION – MADE NIGH or RECONCILED (vs. 13-18).

- A. RECONCILIATION IS THROUGH CHRIST (**vs. 13-14**). **HE IS OUR PEACE** (**2 Cor. 5:18**).
- B. **WHAT DOES CHRIST DO TO RECONCILE?**
1. What separated the Jew and Gentile? (**Josh. 23:12-13**). The Law of Moses! (**vs. 14-15; Col. 2:13-14**).
 - a. **Brake down the middle wall of partition** – That which separates.
 - b. **Abolished in his flesh the enmity**, even the law that which put the Jew and Gentile at odds.
 2. **When** was this done? **How** did he do this?
 - a. **Through his blood** (**vs. 13** è **1 Pet. 1:18-19; Eph. 1:7; Acts 20:28**).
 - b. **Through the cross** (**vs. 16**)
 - **Why were we dead?** (**Rom. 6:23**).
 - **Jesus bore our sins for us** (**1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 3:23-26**).
 - c. The law was given to bring us to this point (**Gal. 3:23-25**).
 - d. Therefore, the OT law was nailed to the cross (**Col. 2:13-15**).
 3. The purpose è **RECONCILIATION** (**vs. 15-16**).
 - a. That he might create in himself of the two **one new man**, so making peace (**vs. 15**). - No longer any difference in Christ (**Col. 3:11**).

RECONCILED TO GOD!

- b. That he might reconcile them both **in one body** unto God (**vs. 16**).
 - the body of reconciliation is **the church** (**Eph. 1:22-23**).
 - reconciled to God outside the church? (**Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23**).
 - **Is there more than one body? One church?** (**Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 1:10**).
- 4. **vs. 17**. When this was done “peace” was preached to both Jew and Gentile.
 - a. Through the apostles (**2 Cor. 5:18-21**).
 - b. As they were guided by the Holy Spirit (**1 Cor. 2:12-13**).
 - c. Through Christians (**Phil. 2:15-16**).
 - d. Through the church (**1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:10, 20-21; Rev. 22:17**).
- C. **vs. 18**. THIS IS PAUL’S EXPLANATION OF HOW BOTH JEW AND GENTILE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD.
 - 1. Through Christ (**John 14:6**).
 - 2. In one Spirit (**1 Cor. 12:13**).
 - 3. **In one body** (**Eph. 2:16**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. WOULD YOU BE A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF THE RECONCILED, THE CHURCH?
- B. HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT BECOMING ONE?