

**"United in One Body"**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Part 2**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Ephesians we looked at some very important background before we looked at Ephesians 2:11. We considered the animosity that existed between the Jews and the Gentiles. In the Old Testament the nation of Israel had been chosen by God to be His earthly representatives. With that responsibility God fully equipped them to manifest Him to the rest of the world.

**Romans 9:4-5**

*<sup>4</sup> Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;*

*<sup>5</sup> Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

Israel was blessed with:

1. The adoption. - They are called the first-born son of God.
2. The glory. - This is a reference to the presence of God abiding with them.
3. The covenants. - These were the covenants which God had made with the nation in which there were many promises contained.
4. The giving of the law. Israel was given the law which instructed them about living which would cause them to be different from the world.
5. The service of God. - They had the opportunity to serve God in the Tabernacle and the Temple.
6. The promises.
7. From them came the patriarchs.
8. From them came the Messiah.

They were to live different from the Gentile nations and in so doing they would be ask why they were different, and they could then tell people they were different because of their God. They would be different through their dietary laws and their moral laws.

But instead of being humbled by God's choosing they became proud and looked down upon the Gentiles. They were extremely critical and boasted in keeping the Law which they could not do. The Gentile were able to see through their hypocrisy and this then caused great contention.

The Gentiles saw the Jews as slaves and they continually oppressed them, and they killed them. The Jews saw the Gentiles as fuel for the fires of hell.

So, there was a great divide between the Jews and the Gentiles. But now as Paul writes to this group of Gentile believers, he is going to explain the unity that we have in Jesus Christ. This unity is spelled out in Galatians.

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> **For ye are all** the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Paul is on a mission to teach this Truth to the Ephesians and as he does, he begins by reminding them of the past again just as he did at the beginning of the chapter.

#### **I. They were Social Outcasts**

##### **Notice Ephesians 2:11**

The Jews viewed the Gentiles and referred to them as the uncircumcised. This was a term used by the Jews to belittle the Gentiles. It was used as a bitter reminder to the Gentiles that Israel was God's chosen nation and they were blessed, and the Gentiles were not. One person has said that this term would be equivalent to the use of the "N" word toward a black man today.

There was something else that was far worse than being a social outcast.

#### **II. They were Spiritual Outcasts**

##### **Notice Ephesians 2:12**

Now before we look at closely at this verse let me just say that this was the condition of every person before salvation and it is the condition of every person who is not saved today. There are 5 points to see in this verse.

##### **1. Without Christ**

We need to get the context and the interpretation correct here before we can make an application.

Gentiles were without Christ **not** in the sense that they did not have a saving relationship with Him (although that is true) but it is not the meaning here. Israel had the promise of the Messiah. From the nation of Israel there would come a Redeemer to be their Savior.

### Matthew 1:21

<sup>21</sup> *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Listen to the words of Eadie:

*"The Jewish nation had Christ in some sense in which the Gentiles had Him not. It had the Messiah—not Jesus indeed—but the Christ in promise. He was the great subject—the one glowing, pervading promise of their inspired oracles. But the Gentiles were "without Christ." No such hopes or promises were made known to them. No such predictions were given to them, so that they were in contrast to the chosen seed—"without Christ." The rites, blessings, commonwealth, and covenants of old Israel had their origin in this promise of Messiah. On the other hand, the Gentiles being without Messiah, were of necessity destitute of such theocratic blessings and institutions."*

### Application:

We, the Gentiles were without Jesus Christ as compared to the nation of Israel. But not only were we without Christ in promise BUT something even more alarming is that we were WITHOUT CHRIST for salvation. That is a frightening thought for me as I look back over my life before I was saved. I did somethings that were very foolish, and I could have very easily ended up in the fires of hell had it not been for the mercy of God. Looking back on my life I realize I was only one step from entering into hell for a Christ less eternity. At the time it was not alarming to me because I did not understand my true condition but now, as I look back, I can clearly see how dangerous the situation was that I was in.

If you are not saved, I want to help you to understand what it means to be WITHOUT CHRIST. You are only one step from an eternity separated from God and sentenced to the Lake of Fire. Let a clearer picture. et me break it down so that you can g

You see, if you are not saved:

- a. All your sin is still on your account.
- b. God requires that all your sin must be paid for.

### Romans 6:23a

<sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death;*

Now, just in case you are thinking that God will ignore your sin then all we need to do is look to the cross. God sentenced His only Son to death to pay our sin debt.

**Isaiah 53:6, 10-11**

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

<sup>10</sup> *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

<sup>11</sup> *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

The most frightening thing in this world is to be WITHOUT CHRIST. If something happens and your heart quits your chances for salvation are over.

**Job 14:1, 5**

*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*

<sup>5</sup> *Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*

You have an appointed day to die and you don't know when it is.

**Hebrews 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

**2. Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.**

This has the idea of being excluded from the worship of the only TRUE GOD, Jehovah.

Listen to the words of **Barnes** on this statement:

*"This means more than that they were not Jews. It means that they were strangers to that arrangement by which the worship of the true God had been kept up in the world, and of course were strangers to the true religion. The arrangements for the public worship of Jehovah were made among the Jews. They had His law, His temple, His sabbaths, and the ordinances of His religion. To all these the heathen had been strangers, and of course they were deprived of all the privileges which resulted from having the true religion."*

**Application:**

Before we were saved, we may have attended church and even prayed in certain situations, but the bottom line was that we were not worshipping the True God. We had no relationship with Him. We were dead in our sins so we could not even come into His presence. If you are unsaved today, then you need to know that you can attend church and you can read your Bible and pray but your worship is not accepted by God. You do not have a relationship with God because you are WITHOUT CHRIST and you are an enemy of God.

**Romans 5:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

<sup>9</sup> *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

<sup>10</sup> *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

**John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

**3. Strangers from the covenants of promise.**

**Let me show you 4 Covenants given to Israel.**

- a. **The Abrahamic Covenant** - promises of a nation, a land and salvation.
- b. **The Land Covenant** - promise that Israel would possess their land.
- c. **The Davidic Covenant** - promises of a Kingdom and an Eternal King.
- d. **The New Covenant** - promises the forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Spirit, and a new heart.

These were all promises to the Israelites not to the Gentiles. Let me take you to the next point and combine the 2 points.

**4. Having no hope.**

Before we were saved, we thought we had a hope, but our hope was only in this life and what we could accomplish and gather here. We could look ahead in life and we could plan and look forward to what we had planned but all of that was emptiness.

Solomon came to the most accurate conclusion.

**Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, 15-19**

*<sup>10</sup> And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

*<sup>15</sup> Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.*

*<sup>16</sup> For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.*

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.*

*<sup>19</sup> And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.*

The unsaved person lives for what is here and we know that everything here is going to burn up some day.

**2 Peter 3:10**

*<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Our hope was in this world and therefore we had no hope. We had no promise of heaven or eternity with God.

**5. Without God IN THE WORLD.**

How frightening is this thought? It is one thing to be without God, but it is completely different to be without God IN THIS WORLD.

If you are without Christ, then you are without God. You are just drifting through this world with no direction, no purpose, and no hope. You are God's enemy and you are under the control of Satanic and demonic forces. The course of this world is the rudder that steers you and while you may have some good times God is not working in your life like He does the lives of His children.

**Romans 8:28, 35-37**

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

**Conclusion:**

Without Jesus Christ you are like an abandoned ship in a storm on the ocean. The ship is driven by the winds with no purpose or direction. In your life it is the winds of selfish desires that drive you. You have no hope beyond your earthly hope. Without Christ, eternity for you is eternal torment in the Lake of Fire. You desperately need Jesus Christ.