

"United in One Body"

Ephesians 2:11-22

Part 3

Introduction: Today we are returning to our study of the book of Ephesians. We have been away for several weeks, so I need to catch us up on where we are in our study. We are in Ephesians 2:11-22 and it is in these verses that Paul is going to teach his readers of the unity we have in the body of Jesus Christ. He started by reminding the Gentiles in the church at Ephesus of the great divide between them and the Jews.

There were two points here that we considered.

A. They were social outcasts.

Notice Ephesians 2:11

B. They were spiritual outcasts.

Notice Ephesians 2:12

1. Without Christ

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.

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."

3. Strangers from the covenants of promise.

There were 4 main 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.
- 4. **Having no hope.**
- 5. **Without God IN THE WORLD.**

This is the condition of every person who is not saved. They have NO eternal hope. All their hope is in this world and the things of this world which will one day all pass away.

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

I show you verse 13 to see that now that we have Jesus Christ, we now have an eternal hope.

1 Peter 1:1-4

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This is just some of our HOPE so, the question is, "How is this HOPE made possible?"

I. The Believer Brought Near

Notice Ephesians 2:13

When I read this verse, I am reminded of where I was before I was saved.

Isaiah 59:2-3

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

³ For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

We were all separated from God because of our sin. We were far off. But here in this verse we see that we were brought near. But we were not brought near by works, or by church attendance, or by baptism, or by confirmation, or by church membership. We were brought near by the BLOOD of Jesus Christ.

I would like to submit to you that the blood of Jesus Christ is the most powerful thing that has ever existed.

I say this because the blood of Jesus Christ did what nothing else or what no one else could ever do and that was to wash away our sins.

Revelation 1:5

⁵ *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

Let me show you what is said about the believers who will be martyred in the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:13-15

¹³ *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

¹⁴ *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

¹⁵ *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

The sin stained garments of these people will have been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb.

I want to take you on a little journey in God's Word to see how important the BLOOD is.

A. The Need for the Blood

Hebrews 9:22

²² *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

The word "REMISSION" means "forgiveness, release from enslavement". There is a trail of blood that runs through the Old Testament right up to the cross. Let me show you a few of the verses.

Genesis 2:19-22

¹⁹ *And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

²⁰ *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

This is the very first blood shed and it is to make a bride for Adam.

Genesis 3:6-7, 21

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

²¹ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Exodus 12:3, 5-7, 12-13

³ Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

They were protected by the blood.

Now let me show you something that took place with Rahab the harlot.

Joshua 2:12-13, 17-18

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

She was to display a SCARLET ROPE in her window, and it would be a token for her protection. This is a picture of the SCARLET BLOOD that protects. Let me show you one more.

Leviticus 8:22-24

22 And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

23 And he slew it; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put it upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

24 And he brought Aaron's sons, and Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

When we read this, you may wonder what this is all about. Let me explain this and then you will forever remember what is pictured here.

The blood was placed on the:

1. **Right Ear** - This tells us that a man cannot properly hear God until he is washed in the blood.
2. **Thumb of the Right Hand** - This tells us that a man cannot properly serve God until he is washed in the blood.
3. **Great Toe of the Right Foot** - This tells us man cannot walk with God until he is washed in the blood.

This then brings us to a question, "How does a man or a woman get washed in the blood?"

The blood is applied to your life when you repent of your sin and place your trust in Jesus Christ. After you place your faith in Him you are washed in the blood and then you are daily cleansed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6-7

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Why the need for BLOOD? Is there not another way?

There is no other way. God tells us the wages of sin is death. The life of the flesh is in the blood, so the blood speaks of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as He died for our sin.

Conclusion:

There is a story of a regiment in the Austrian army that was guilty of mutiny; and as they did not want to inflict the penalty of death upon the whole regiment, they decided that one man in ten should be shot. The regiment was drawn out in line, and the officer went along taking out the tenth man. There was a father and a son. The son knew he could be spared better than the father. He was so anxious that the father should not be shot that he watched the officer, and saw, as he came nearer, that it would fall on his father. So, the son stood behind the father, and pushed him into the place of life and took the place of death himself. So, it is with us. We were condemned to die, and there was no hope and no way of escape; and Christ said, "Father, let me go and take that place; and he left the throne, and he came from heaven and died in our stead.