

Outsiders No More

Ephesians 2:11-22

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

Introduction

I The Plight Of The Gentiles

- A. The life of a Gentile
 - 1. Socially rejected
 - 2. Spiritually underprivileged - Rom 9:4-5
 - 3. Physically uncircumcised - Col 2:11; Rom 2:25-29
- B. The spiritual condition of Gentiles
 - 1. "Separate from Christ" - Eph 4:18; Col 1:21
 - 2. "Excluded from citizenship in Israel" - Rom 9:24-26
 - 3. "Foreigners to covenants of promise" - Gen 17:7-8
 - 4. "Without hope" - 1 Thess 4:13
 - 5. "Without God in the world" - Gal 4:8

II The Inclusion Of The Gentiles

- A. Jesus brought them near through His own blood
- B. Jesus gave them peace - Is 9:6-7; 53:5
- C. Jesus destroyed the barrier of hostility
 - 1. By abolishing the law - Matt 5:17; Gal 3:24
 - 2. By reconciling Jew/Gentile - Jn 10:16; 1 Cor 12:13
 - 3. Through His sacrificial death - Rom 5:1-2; Col 1:20
- D. Jesus gave them access to Father - Eph 3:12; Heb 4:16
 - 1. Through Himself by the Spirit - Ro 8:26-27, 34

III The Privilege Of The Gentiles

- A. Now "fellow citizens of God's kingdom" - Phil 3:20
- B. Now "members of God's household" - 1 Pet 2:9-10
- C. Now "a holy temple in the Lord" - 1 Cor 3:16
 - 1. The apostles and prophets are the foundation
 - 2. Christ is the cornerstone - Ps 118:22; Is 28:16
 - 3. We are living stones joined together - 1 Pet 2:4-5
 - a. Rising to become a holy temple - 1 Cor 3:16-17
 - b. A dwelling in which God lives - 1 Cor 2:12

1. Share a time when you felt like you were on the "outside looking in". How do you think the Gentiles felt about being on the "outside looking in"?
2. Have you ever been "at odds" with loved ones? What impact did it have on you? What would you have given to be reconciled and at peace with them? How can you compare that to spiritual separation from Christ?
3. Paul states that Jesus abolished the law with its commandments and regulations. If this is true, are there any OT commands that we must still keep? Which ones and why?
4. In Eph. 2:19 we are described as foreigners and aliens to the kingdom of God. What would this life be like? But now in Christ we are citizens and members of God's household. Imagine and discuss the range of emotions connected with that amazing inclusion.
5. Paul says that the church is a growing, interrelated, temple made up of living stones in which God lives by His Spirit. Does it make a difference to the overall building integrity if some of the stones are weak or made of inferior materials or improperly cut? How can you relate this to church and your role as a living stone?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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