

A STUDY OF EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Review

Chapter 1

Paul greets the church at Ephesus and thanks God for their witness.

Chapter 2:1-10

We were children by nature children of God's wrath, dead in our sins, and controlled by our minds and flesh as well as the "spirit" of this world. We were sinners in a sinful world, deceived into thinking that we were free when in fact we were enslaved.

But because of God's great love and grace, He sends Jesus Christ to make us alive again so that we might be free in Him and be a witness to the world by being the church and doing the works He prepared for us from before the foundation of the world.

The text

¹¹ *Therefore remember that at one time*

-you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

- ¹²remember that you were at that time

-separated from Christ,

-alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise,

-having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus*

-you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

-¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances,

-that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

-¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

-¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

-¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

-¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

-Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

-²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

-²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

What seems to be the big message or messages of this section of Scripture? *Remember that we have not studied the passage yet and what we say here is likely to change in at least small ways.*

THEOLOGY QUESTIONS – Who has God made us to be?

In verse 11, Paul begins to tell the Ephesians about the great workmanship that the church will be.

He reminds the Gentiles that

they were separated from _____ and from _____.
they were not part of the _____ and had no _____.
but Christ has
brought the _____ near
broken down the _____ between Gentiles and Jews
reconciled everyone to _____
given everyone access to the _____ in one _____

The workmanship that Paul is writing about in verse 10 is not believers individually, but who God is making all believers to be. We see this more in verses 18-22.

God's workmanship is described as

the household of _____
built on the _____ and _____ with Christ the _____
the holy _____ in the Lord
a dwelling place for _____ by the _____.

Paul is addressing the division that would have been foremost in the church at Ephesus (and in fact in many of the churches of that day). What is that division and why was it so important for Paul to address?

We do not have this specific division in our church today, and most Gentile Christians do not feel like many of the first Gentile Christians felt with regards to being second class members of the household of God. What value is this teaching to us then? What is the fundamental principle that Paul is applying to the specific situation of the church at Ephesus in the first century?

Presuming that this principle is correct, what "walls" does Jesus need to tear down in our churches today?