

The Great Peace Mission – Ephesians 2:11-22

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Introduction

1. In the first ten verses of Ephesians 2, the apostle Paul describes what God has done for us through Jesus. We were dead, but God made us alive.
2. In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul teaches us about our new position corporately. We have been brought into salvation (2:1-10). But we are not left alone. We have been brought into salvation to be united with other believers. The Church!

I. Separation: What The Gentiles Were (2:11-12)

- a. ***Without Christ.*** Before the gospel the Ephesians worshipped the goddess, Diana and, knew nothing of Christ.
- b. ***Without Citizenship.*** Israel was God's nation and the Gentiles were excluded.
- c. ***Without Covenants.*** They were aliens and strangers and the Jews never let them forget it.
- d. ***Without Hope.*** People in these times longed for hope but before Christ there was none (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- e. ***Without God.*** They had plenty of gods (Acts 17:16-23; 1 Corinthians 8:5; Psalm 115) and yet they did not know the true God.

II. Reconciliation: What God Did For The Gentiles (2:13-18)

a. The Enmity Between Jews & Gentiles (v13-15)

- i. You were separated, without hope, and without God. "But now in Christ Jesus" all of that has changed. In Christ Jesus a dramatic change has occurred.
- ii. They have been brought near by the blood of Christ. The cross was the high cost of reconciling man to God. Salvation for the Jews and Gentiles are on the same terms (Acts 15). Grace through faith!
- iii. Christ is our peace and He made peace (2:14-15). Jesus has brought us together by the cross. Our love for His grace binds us together and once we experience His love we can't help but share that love with one another in the church.

b. The Enmity Between Sinners & God (v16-18)

- i. Both Gentiles and Jews needed to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:23)! Jesus paid the debt and became our peace with God and each other (Romans 5:1-2; Luke 2:8-14; 4:16-19).