

5

Epistle to the Ephesians: Our Spiritual State in Christ (2.11-22)

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1. A description of our spiritual state without Christ (v11-13a)
 - a. 5 disadvantages of the Gentiles
 - i. Separate from Christ
 - ii. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
 - iii. Foreigners to the covenants of promise
 - iv. Without hope
 - v. Without God in the world
 - b. We were uncircumcised
 - i. We were non Jews, that is, Gentiles
 - (1) We do not belong to the people of God but were outside of God's blessings
 - (2) The Jews, on the other hand, were the chosen people of God and given all spiritual blessings
 - ii. To the Jews, God gave many blessings
 - (1) The Law of God was given to them
 - (2) They have the favour of God
 - (3) Prophets were sent to them to speak to them the Word of God; Priest to offer sacrifices on their behalf and pray for them
 - (4) Christ came to preach to them
 - c. We were without Christ, strangers
 - i. Strangers of Israel
 - ii. Strangers from the covenants of promise
 - iii. With no hope and without God
2. With Christ (v13b - 18)
 - a. We were brought near to God by the blood of Christ
 - i. He is our peacemaker between God and us
 - ii. He broke down all barriers between God and us
 - b. How did Christ do it?
 - i. He removed all the hatred created by our disobedience in the law of God
 - ii. He brought us together (reconciliation)
 - (1) A change from a hostile to a friendly relationship
 - (2) A bringing together again, a reuniting, a re-connecting
 - (3) Completeness of action
 - (4) One bringing the other into this position of complete amity and accord
 - (5) They are now re-conciled, brought back to where they were
 - iii. Slain the hatred
 - iv. All made possible by dying on the cross and preaching
 - (1) The work of Christ is revealed by preaching (Titus 1.3)

3.
 - (2) By believing in the Christ who is revealed by preaching

The result (v18 - 22)

 - a. We are no more strangers or foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God
 - i. This household is built upon the teachings apostles and prophets
 - ii. Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of this foundation
 - (1) I Cor. 3.11
 - (2) Psa. 118.22 (cf. Mat. 21.42)
 - (3) I Pe. 2.6-8 (cf. Isa. 28.16)
 - b. This household is the holy temple or the church where God dwells through the Spirit
 - c. Thus, the new humanity in the church of Jesus Christ with both Jews and Gentiles