

Week 4, Ephesians: Chapter 2, Part 2 (Vs 11-22)

v11 Paul reminds the Non-Jews (Gentiles) that God had _____ worked with and through the Jewish people and that the Gentiles were once _____ all together from God's dealings with humanity.

Paul reminds the self-assured Jews that they were a _____ vessel that God used in history past. He reminds them that God's use of them did not gain them spiritual _____.

Paul reminds the self-assured Jews that their physical connection to God (circumcision) in history past did not guarantee a spiritual relationship with God now.

v12 Paul again reminds the Non-Jews of their lot in life before Christ. He tells them that they were utterly _____ and truly _____.

Paul says that there was an incredibly wide _____ between the Gentiles and God.

Paul infers that unbelieving Jews were also part of this helpless group, who were cut off from God... although God did use them in the bringing about of the covenant promises. Paul says that the Israelites had access to God, but that did not ensure friendship with God... whereas the Gentiles did not even have access to God.

The conclusion is that regardless of their proximity to God, both groups of people were under the _____ of sin and death, and both group were _____ off spiritually from God.

v13 Paul reminds both the Jew and the Non-Jew of what God has done for them _____ Christ. By the shedding of his blood; those who were cut off have now been brought near!

Paul says that through Christ the vast chasm between God and sinners (Jew/Gentiles) has now been filled.

v14 Paul _____ this new relationship between God and the believers... with the new relationship he wants between Jews and the Gentiles.

Paul says that there was/is a vast chasm between the Jewish people and the Gentiles.

But the same sacrifice that Christ made that brings both Jews and Gentiles near to God... should bring the Jews and Gentiles near to each other.

The argument is that if God was willing to overcome his differences with humanity, then the Israelites should be willing to overcome their differences with Gentiles.

v15-16 Paul says that this occurred not because the Jews had followed the rules so _____ or because the Gentiles acquired the _____ of the Jews.

Paul says that God brought this about by ending the _____ of commandments and rituals and by _____ his Son to die for both groups of people.

v17-18 Again, Paul says that the Israelites were _____ in proximity to God... but their nearness was unable to _____ them salvation.

Paul says again that the Gentiles were further in proximity to God... and were all together cut off entirely from God. Both groups of people were under the curse of sin and death and both were cut off spiritually from God. God brought both groups of people back to himself through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

v19 Because of this great salvation the Gentiles are no longer _____ to God and _____ of Israel... they are now God's holy people.

V20-22 Paul says that the two peoples are now one in Christ. And they are now God's building, or God's workmanship. And God is crafting them into a holy dwelling for himself.

What are **the implications** for us?

It can be easy to think that your _____ or _____ makes you better than other people.

It can be easy to think that your _____ or your proximity to the things of God makes you _____ than other people.

It can be easy to think that your _____ or _____ makes you better than other people.

It can be easy to look down on those who act different, and it can be easy to look down on those who look different...

But the reality is, regardless of our nationality or ethnicity, customs or culture, background or behavior... We were all cut off from God at birth... and our sins have separated us from God.

God loves all of us and sent his son to die in our place. Whoever is willing to believe in the _____ and the _____ of what he did, can be brought near to God.

God wants all of us to come together as one holy people. God wants us to love each other as he loved us. God wants us to serve one another as he served us.

PRAY – RELY – LOOK AROUND YOU – INITIATE – DON'T GIVE UP