

Ephesians 2:11-22

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 8-5-15

Historical, Social, and Religious Background

Alien = belonging to a _____ country or nation

- _____ alienation in Ephesians
 - From _____ (4:18, and inferred in 2:1-10's emphasis on reconciliation)
 - From _____ (2:12ff.)

Jews relationship to the Gentiles

- Israel and the twisting of privilege = radical cultural and religious favoritism
- Heathen as "dogs"
- Dividing wall - a symbol of this division
- Enmity = state of being actively opposed to someone, i.e. hostile

Notes:

Three Chapters of Salvation Biography

1. Formerly an Alienated Humanity - the five disabilities of Gentiles (v. 12)

- "separated from Christ" - No hope/expectation of a coming messiah.
- "excluded from the commonwealth of Israel" and "strangers to the covenants of promise" - excluded from the theocracy
- "having no hope" and "without God in the world" - no awareness of God's plan or personal relationship with God
- A description of _____ before Christ!

2. The Reconciling Work of Christ (vv. 13-18)

- Parallel within chapter 2
 - "Dead" (vv. 1-3) and "alienated" (vv. 11-12)
 - "But God" (v. 4) and "but now" (v. 13)
- V. 13 - brought near. How near? We have _____ to the Father in the Spirit (v. 18)
- Made possible "in Christ" and "by the blood of Christ"
 - The blood speaks to his _____ on our behalf (universal)
 - "in him" speaks to our ongoing _____ to him (exclusive)
- "He himself is our peace"
 - Not found in any other (cf. Acts 4:12)
 - Hypostatic union - God-man
 - Only by his blood have sins been atoned for
 - Abolished the law (i.e. the ceremonial)
 - Only in his one body where the dividing wall has been destroyed
 - "Making the two into one new man" - a single new _____ (cf. Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11)
- Christ is our peace (v. 14), he preached peace (v. 17), and he established peace (v. 15)

3. God's New Society (vv. 19-22) - 3 metaphors

- God's kingdom (v. 19a) - God himself _____ his people
 - "No longer relying on passports. We now have birth certificates!"
- God's family (v. 19b) - More than a citizen. You are his _____.
 - That makes us _____!
- God's temple (vv. 20-22) - God's presence _____ in the world
 - Foundation = prophets and apostles
 - Those who pointed _____ to Jesus - prophecy
 - Those who point _____ to Jesus - witness
 - The word of God is the _____ of the church
 - Held together by the cornerstone - Christ holds the unity of the church together
 - Joined together and _____
 - It's purpose? To be the _____ of God on earth (v. 22)

Notes: