

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Without" # 7
Eph. 2:11-12
8-20-17 Sun AM:

Did you know that to us Gentiles God made no messianic promises, but did promise a kingdom to the Jews?

After having telling what God did for sinners in salvation [2:1-10]; Paul discusses Jews and Gentiles in God's program.

NNIBC says, "In vv. Eph. 2:1-10, Paul taught the salvation of individual Jews and Gentiles by grace through faith. In the second half of chapter 2, he teaches the formation of one new and holy temple of God composed of former Jews and Gentiles now united upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the cornerstone."

TT: What is God's plan for Jews and Gentiles? When we understand the truths of Eph. 2:11-22, we will appreciate our salvation even greater.

Three words describe God's program or plan:

Separation [vs. 11-12].

Reconciliation [vs. 13-18].

Unification [vs. 19-22].

I. Separation: What Gentiles Were [vs. 11-12].

1. Gentiles were without [v. 11].

Most of the converts in the Ephesian church were Gentiles who knew that much of God's program in the O.T. involved the Jews.

The "circumcision" [Jews] looked down on the "uncircumcision" [Gentiles]. Circumcision was a mark of the covenant between God and the Jews. Believers who trusted Christ have received a spiritual circumcision "made without hands" [Col. 2:11].

2. What we were without? [v. 12]. 5 privileges God had given Israel.

(1). *Without Christ*- The Ephesian Gentiles worshipped the goddess Diana.

Did you know that false teachers are saying that whether one is a Christian, a Jew, or a Muslim, that they are children of God?

Jews were to reach out to Gentiles, but they did not. So Gentiles were "without," in the O.T "at that time"

(2). *Without a nation*- "Commonwealth of Israel"

God called the Jews and gave them a nation and gave them his laws and blessing. A Gentile could enter the nation as a proselyte, but was not born into the nation.

Israel was God's nation.

(3). *Without covenants*- "Strangers from the Covenants of promise"

God did not make any covenants with the Gentiles in regard to the Messiah and future glory. The Gentiles were aliens and strangers.

Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and the New Covenant.

Jer. 31:31-34, Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

(32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: (33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

In Gen. 12:1-3 God promised to bless the Gentiles thru Abraham, but did not make any O.T. covenants with the Gentiles in regard to the Messiah and future glory.

(4). *Without hope*- "Having no hope"

We were hopeless and helpless. No expectation of a personal Messiah-Deliverer and kingdom age.

Romans 5:7-9, For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

1 Thess. 4:13, But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

(5). *Without God*- "In the world"

No matter how religious or moral we Gentiles tried to be we did not know the true God.

God revealed Himself to the Jews as the one true God. He gave the Savior to the world thru the Jews that they might share him with the Gentiles. They rejected Him, and as a result, we were still without.

Paul painted vividly the bleak condition of pagans. They had no hope, for God had not reached out to them to establish a covenant relationship. However, the shed **blood of Christ** could bring the Gentiles [us] back to our Creator.

But Now [But God]! God made a way of reconciliation for those who were separated
“without.”

We will see the beginning of a new dispensation, the church age!