

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian  
"Brought Near"  
Eph. 2:13-18  
8-27-17 Sun AM

1. 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.

2. Three words describe his program or plan:

Separation: Gentiles Were Without [vs. 11-12].

Reconciliation: What God did [vs. 13-18].

Unification: Jews and Gentiles both in Christ [vs. 19-22].

The key word in these verses is the word "enmity," or hostility. Jesus not only is reconciling Jews and Gentiles to each other, but both to Himself in one body, the church.

**TT-** I want to share three results:

**1. Jesus Brought us Near** [v. 13].

Bringing those "afar off" to be near was prophesied in Isaiah 57:19 [v.13].

**Isaiah 57:19**, I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

While we were separated and afar off, God intervened. "But now" parallels with Eph. 2:4.

**BBC says**, "The Ephesian Gentiles had been rescued from that place of distance and alienation, and had been elevated to a position of nearness to God. This was brought about at the time of their conversion. When they trusted the Savior,

God placed them **in Christ Jesus** and accepted them in the beloved One. From then on they were as **near** to God as Christ is, because they were **in Christ Jesus**. The cost of effecting this marvelous change was **the blood of Christ**. Before these Gentile sinners could enjoy the privilege of nearness to God, they had to be cleansed from their sins. Only **the blood of Christ** shed at Calvary could do this. When they received the Lord Jesus by a definite act of faith, all the cleansing value of His precious blood was credited to their account.

**1. Jesus Brought us Near** [v. 13].

**2. Jesus Gave us Peace** (v. 14-17). How?

(1). *He Broke Down the Wall* [v. 14].

There was a literal wall of separation in the Temple that separated the court of the Gentiles from the court of the Jews. There was also a curtain veil between the holy place and holy of holies.

Gentiles were different socially, religiously, and spiritually.

It was this spiritual wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles that Christ destroyed at the cross. Now both Jews and Gentiles have access to God the same way- by faith in Jesus Christ. It took some time for the church to understand God's new program.

(2). *He Abolished the Enmity* [v.15].

Jews sought to keep the law and Gentiles were unconcerned about the Law. There was a hostility between the two, not the law.

**Col. 2:14-17**, Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (16) Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: (17) Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

It was this wall that had to be destroyed. Jesus rendered it inoperative and fulfilled the law by living a holy life. He bore in his death the curse of the law for us, He removed the wall that separated us.

Man in his unregenerate state was incapable of obeying the Law. The Law pointed man to Christ and their need for a savior. The Law reveals sin and Calvary reveals salvation.

The law is still God's standard, but is fulfilled in the believer by the Holy Spirit. We don't worship the shadows but the substance.

**Rom. 8:1-4**, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Rom. 10:4**, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

(3). *He Reconciled us to God* [vs. 16-17].

Reconcile means "to bring together again." Both Jews and Gentiles needed to be reconciled to God.

How does a Jew get saved? By realizing they are sinners and Jesus is the Messiah.

No such thing as "Dual Covenant" theology or being saved by the Abrahamic Covenant. We should be friends with Jews, but we should understand that we must give them the gospel.

If Christ is our peace and peacemaker, and He preached peace, then why is there no peace in the world? Why is the world in havoc?

1. You can't have peace among nations till you have peace with God in men's hearts.
2. One can't have the peace of God till they have peace with God. We see a world without God, who hate and don't submit to Him.

**1. Jesus Brought us Near (v. 13).**

**2. Jesus Gave us Peace (v. 14-17).**

**3. Jesus Gave us Access (v. 18).**

The Trinity works in salvation to bring us to the Father with access. When the temple veil was rent it spoke of unlimited access to the Father.

Through Christ and Christ alone both Jews and Gentiles have access by one spirit to the Father (Rom. 5:1-2). The NT believer has unlimited access to the Father!

**Next Time:** We Have a New Family (vs. 19-22).