

No Longer Strangers

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Therefore points back *remember*--turn your mind back to the time when you were lost, w/o hope in this world--lost, lonely & a loser—lived for what you could get out of people-lived for pleasure, self willed--a walking corpse.

Paul concerned for the unity of believers-if not-Christ died in vain for those w/o unity, contentious, unloving toward brethren--*reject contentious man after the first and second warning*.

Jews were God's covenant people going back to Abraham—*Circumcision* the outward id of God's people-*the ticket to heaven*. No circumcised Jew would ever be sent to hell—if so, angel uncircumcised then sent to hell.

Gentiles in disrespect called *uncircumcised*—Jews hated Gentiles '*God created Gentiles as fuel for fires of hell*'. Unlawful to help Gentile woman in childbirth-*guilty of bringing another Gentile into world*. If marry a Gentile, funeral service held declaring Jew dead to family & community. If Gentile entered Jewish home it became unclean & needed cleansing.

Jews had turned privilege into pride—*sought to impress, claiming to be somebody*. God Intended they represent His mercy & love--instead divided the people. They were circumcised in flesh but not in heart, all outward show, no inward reality of knowing God & nor witness to what God is like.

Remember Paul tells them what they were before coming to Christ-*wall of division* between you & God & the people of God--w/o Christ, aliens & strangers from the promises of God (*covenants*) w/o hope, w/o God—a tragic declaration of the human condition.

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Stoic philosophy said history is cyclical after 3k years universe destroyed w/ fire, then same events w/ same people repeats itself. A sad indictment of man's gloomy belief system. **No** hope, **no** future, **no** God. Human philosophies are bleak & w/o hope yet the Bible is filled w/ hope—a contrast to a world in despair. The darker the night the brighter the stars. The darker the world gets the brighter the hope God declares in His scriptures.

Do you know the latest dark issue of governments? They will save us from the climate--that God created...people are dying so we will implement policy to save you & the planet.

A Giant climate hoax is coming—to shut down & control your life & those on planet earth. This is their plan for the world. A prelude to end times, one world government w/ the man of sin, Antichrist to be revealed & in charge. Climate does change & they will give themselves a victory lap when it's good & clamp down using **scare tactics** when disaster or bad weather hits. Putting more restrictions & greater control. To not go along is to be a deniers & be persecuted—A last days scenario. [Future Sunday message](#)

When the world is **w/o** hope it is **w/o** Jesus & being **w/o** Jesus it is **w/o** hope & makes way for one who is not God to enter declaring himself god. When a people are w/o God there is no way of interpreting nature, human existence & the future. If a world is w/o God, man will step in ordaining himself as god.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We were once separated, being apart from God--strangers & aliens but now brought near by the blood of Christ & a part of God's family

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14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” John 14:26–27

Peace w/in & peace w/out w/ others...How did He do it? *Broke down the barrier of dividing wall*--the *enmity*, which is the work of the law--it divides people--the haves & the have-nots. *Picture of temple that divided people*—outer court of Gentiles, then court of women, then court of Jews, court of priests--Holy of Holies (*presence of God*). 5 foot barrier dividing court of Gentile & court of Women. Sign *‘death to Gentile who passes beyond these walls’* Rom 7:1-6. Law never intended to make righteous but to show how much we fail & need a covering--sacrifice for our sins. Jesus put an end to the enmity—the separation between races & between us & God.

One new man—in Himself on cross—*no Jew or Gentile, bond or free, male or female, one in Christ*—God makes no distinction—we were all sinners--all the same, no difference—in need of Christ. Cross fulfilled the law, bringing salvation & destroying all prejudices & division. To fan the flames of discord & division toward bro/sis is to deny the power of the cross & Jesus sacrifice. Reveals the person still in sin--walking in the flesh

Jesus *reconciled* brought the two groups together who were at odds w/ one another. *Are you at odds w/ anyone?* Make it right—*if possible as much as lies w/in you be at peace w/ all men Rm12:18*--*some you can't they irreconcilable* Jews failed to keep the law & Gentiles failed outside the law--both because of sin nature--but now are one in Christ, in peace, one new man vs 15.

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Jesus fulfilled the law by His perfect life & death on the cross for our sins—*He died once for all*—We have been crucified w/ Christ-*vicarious* death w/ Him. He put to death the enmity-so no division unless we create it-*nurse it*.

17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Preached peace then died to accomplish it for those far away (*Gentiles*) and those near (*Jews*). Many roads **don't** lead to God, only Jesus Christ does. The rest are idols, false gods, *Satan's imitations*.—*1Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus* Jesus is the straight path the narrow gate that leads to eternal life the rest lead to hell & eternal damnation. The world preaches-crooked path—*good person, sincere*, these are false spirits only Holy Spirit bring us to Christ.

*19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow **citizens** with the saints, and are of God's **household**, 20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

In Christ we are *full citizens* of heaven, no longer **strangers** & **aliens**.

Uninvited strangers will not be in heaven—*Matt 22:12 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?'*. We tried at one time seeking entrance by good works, mystical ways, new age, religious affiliation, rituals. Now joint-heirs, fellow citizens, we are one--secure in His household

God's house built like no other on foundation of *Apostles*--writers of NT *Prophets* of OT spoke of & predicted the coming of Christ '*testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*'

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We are Gods building, dwelling place of God *1Pet 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Church exists for the **glory of God**, then for **building up** of body of Christ then to **reach a lost world**. We are the temple or dwelling place of God, His household. We must ask ourselves; is He at home, taking joy, comfortable?

If He walked in the door in His **glorified body** & wanted to sit down for lunch---how would He find us? Comfortable uncomfortable, loving cold, joy-filled sullen, encouraged discouraged. *He asks how have I affected your life?* Are you built up torn down, increasing in faith faith decreasing, loving more loving less, growing stagnating? What kind of living stone are you in temple of God—letting in light or obscuring the light.

Jesus the chief **cornerstone** supports main weight of structure--every part of building **oriented** to Him & He is oriented to all other stones & unifies the building. *When Nineveh excavated Royal names inscribed on cornerstone.*

[Psalms 118:22](#) *The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone*

To reject Jesus is to reject salvation & heaven after this life. When we orient ourselves to Jesus we orient ourselves to one another but when we don't we become prey to the devil.

James 3: 13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. Began w/ peace :14 now no longer strangers have His peace.