

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 2:11-13 – a dramatic change in status because of Jesus Christ!

Today’s Message:

“But Now”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded of our lost condition before God intervened. We were dead in trespasses and sins. But God! Few passages show man lower, God higher, and grace greater. Today, we have come to remember and thank God for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the passage before us is exactly what we need to help us do just that! Now when the Bible says, “But God,” the emphasis is how God intervenes when man reaches his limit. However, when the Bible says, “But now,” the emphasis is a dramatic change in one’s position or standing with God! This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text Ephesians 2:11-13**

A. THE LOST CONDITION – remember the dire Gentile situation without God.

1. We, as lost Gentiles, **were** in a **HOPELESS** condition **far** off from God!

CONTEXT
Gentiles
 Non-Jews
Uncircumcision
 Title given to Gentiles
 by Jews (despised)
Circumcision
 Jews by outward sign
 of fleshly cutting

- **Ephesians 2:11** – Wherefore REMEMBER, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
- **Ephesians 2:12** – That **at that time ye** were...
 WITHOUT Christ,
 BEING ALIENS from the commonwealth of Israel,
 and STRANGERS from the covenants of promise,
 HAVING NO HOPE,
 and WITHOUT God in the world:

LOST CONDITION
 It seems clear and obvious that the Holy Spirit has summarized a situation that is dire indeed – you were FAR AWAY from hope and help!

“Without Christ” – outside of a saving relationship with the Jewish Messiah; without life
 “Aliens from...Israel” – excluded from covenant privileges and spiritual national blessings
 “Strangers from the covenants of promise” – no direct participation in Israel’s promises
 “Having no hope” – living without any certain expectations of eternal salvation or promise
 “Without God in the world” – no relationship with the Creator; yet being given His light!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Colossians 1:21** – And you, that were sometime **alienated** and **enemies**...
- **Isaiah 59:2** – But your iniquities have **separated** between you and your God...

“... having no hope, and without God in the world:”

A person may sit in church weekly and still feel uncertain, unsettled, and distant from God.
Sin separated you from God. The door to heaven was locked! You could not get in on your own!
 Now imagine one day as you are on the outside looking in... suddenly, the door opens before you...

B. BUT NOW – the decisive turning point in the life of a Christian!

2. “But now” is a repeated phrase that marks a dramatic **CHANGE** in position with God!

- **Ephesians 2:13** – *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were FAR OFF are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

WHAT CHANGED?

What was true is no longer final.

What sin wrote and destroyed is now interrupted by God’s grace.

What looked permanent and hopeless has NOW ALL CHANGED by God’s grace!

Searching the Scriptures

▪ A **CHANGED** condition.

- ✓ **Ephesians 2:13** – those who were far away from God are now made near by Christ!
- ✓ **Romans 6:22** – those who were in bondage to sin are now made free by Christ!
- ✓ **Colossians 1:21** – those who were enemies of God are now reconciled by Christ!
- ✓ **Galatians 4:9** – those who were lost and did not know God are now known of God!

▪ Revealed truth.

- ✓ **Romans 3:21** – *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...*
- ✓ **Romans 16:26** – *But now is made manifest... made known to all nations...*
- ✓ **2 Timothy 1:10** – *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus...*

▪ Divine interruption.

- ✓ **Isaiah 43:1** – *But now thus saith the LORD that created thee...* It was bad, but now!
- ✓ **Isaiah 16:14** – *But now the LORD hath spoken...* Pride interrupted by the word of God.
- ✓ **Jeremiah 3:4** – *Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me...*

▪ Grace that is stronger than the past.

- ✓ **Hebrews 8:6** – *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry...* Greatest ministry!
- ✓ **Hebrews 9:26** – *But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared...* Final sacrifice!
- ✓ **John 9:25** – *...whereas I was blind, now I see.* Former blindness replaced by absolute certainty!

▪ Resurrection power.

- ✓ **1 Corinthians 15:20** – *But now is Christ risen from the dead...* “Mic drop” as they say!

Key Truth

- The cross and death of Jesus Christ looked final – **but now** is Christ risen! Amen!
- “But now” never merely introduces information – it announces **dramatic** transition!

LOST CONDITION

Without Christ
Aliens from Israel
Strangers from promises
Having no hope
Without God
No relationship with God!

SAVED CONDITION

In Christ
Join heirs with Christ
All spiritual blessings
Eternal Hope
Known of God
Relationship with God!

C. WHAT NOW – it is time to rejoice in the riches of God’s grace!

3. The Christian’s position has not merely improved – the distance has been **REMOVED**!

- **Ephesians 2:13** – *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were FAR OFF are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Comparing Scriptures

- **Hebrews 10:19** – *Having... boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*
- **1 Peter 1:18-19** – *... redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ...*

“... YE who sometimes were FAR OFF are MADE NIGH by the blood of Christ.”

*People try to get near God on their own by effort, morality, works, family religion, and more.
The Holy Spirit of God says there is only one way to get near God – the blood of Jesus Christ.
The empty tomb was God announcing the blood was enough! Has the blood been applied to your life?*