

PAUL'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

(Ephesians 2:11-18)

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

II. THE BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST (1:3-3:21)

A. The State of the Union Address (2:11-18)

1. The Ephesian church was primarily Gentile; here Paul exhorts them to “*remember*,” to reflect on their past (2:1-3) before they had Christ. (v. 11a)

- a. Ethnically they were considered Gentiles; a title that represented the entire _____. (v. 11b)

- b. The Jews used a contemptuous term for _____ - _____; they were referred to as the “_____” (Gr. *akrobustia*) meaning “*foreskin*.” (v. 11c)

* What is the “real” circumcision that matters today for both men and women who are saved? (Rom. 2:25-29; 1 Cor. 7:17-20; Gal. 5:5-6, 11-12; 6:14-15; Philip. 3:2-9)

2. Israel was the _____ nation to have a personal relationship with Yahweh; which included numerous _____, a _____ system, and a Messianic _____. (v. 12)

3. Every heathen Gentile was _____ from the “citizenship” of Israel; they were considered “*strangers*” or foreigners to God’s _____. (v. 12a)

4. In this unregenerated condition, Gentiles had _____, because they were _____ God in their lives; this predicted their eternal destiny, which was also without _____. (v. 12b)

5. Paul uses two terms that strongly contrast each other- indicating that we were once “_____” but now, because of the shed blood of our Savior, we have been “_____.” (v. 13, cf. Acts 2:39; Heb. 9:22)

6. In v. 14 it is said that Jesus Himself is our _____; He has annihilated the _____ of _____ that stood between Jew and Gentile, and He has made the _____ into _____ new spiritual entity called the Church. (Isa. 53:5; Gal. 3:27-28)

7. Through His cross, Jesus has rendered the Law _____ or _____; He has created a “*new man from the two*,” as believers are now in _____ through Christ. (v. 15, cf. Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:11-14, 20-23)

8. Verse 16 informs us that Christ has single-handedly _____ saved Jews and Gentiles into _____, which is His Bride, the Universal Church. (Acts 15: 7-9)

9. Jesus is not only our peace, but He also _____ peace to those Gentiles “*who were afar off*,” and to those Jews “*who were near*,” thus it is only _____ that we have access to the Father by one _____. (vv. 17-18, cf., 1 Cor. 12:12-13)

* Shouldn't you be eternally grateful for what the Lord Jesus has done for you personally?