

Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

Title: God Want's You

Summary: You are the dwelling place of God! The Holy God, dwells in you, and if you are wondering what all the means listen on as we study what that means. As we have said in a prior study, there are only 3 things that matter in real estate, and every real estate agent confirms..... location, location, location. When looking for a place to live, dwell, the number one thing is always location..... this is where I want to live. Whether it is one reason or a thousand reasons, we come to the place of..... this is where I want to live. God, the creator of the universe, He who sits upon the throne, wants to live with you and in you.

How does just that thought make you feel today? How long has it been since you “remembered that”? When we find the perfect house, we say I want this house, I am willing to buy this house, because I really want this house. God wants you. Maybe you don't feel wanted, maybe you feel second in everyone's life, maybe it isn't even a feeling but a demonstrated fact, that you are second, or a demonstrated fact that you are unwanted. BUT GOD..... says to you today in this passage, I want you!

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

***We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ***

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 2:11–22 (NKJV) ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called *Uncircumcision* by what is called the *Circumcision* made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you 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. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Continually Remember

In our passage today it begins with the words “therefore remember”. The verb structure in the original Greek language, is what is called the “present imperative”, and therefore what it means is “continual remember, keep on remember, don’t forget this”. So there is a calling for us to continually remember, keep on remembering, to not forget..... The things we are going to read here in our passage today.

Here are 5 things we are to continually remember:

- We were once without hope (2:11-12)
- We were once far off (2:13)
- We were once walled off (2:14-18)
- We were once outside the building (2:19-21)
- But Now – we are the Dwelling Place of God (2:22)

You are the dwelling place of God! The Holy God, dwells in you, and if you are wondering what all the means listen on as we study what that means. As we have said in a prior study, there are only 3 things that matter in real estate, and every real estate agent confirms..... location, location, location. When looking for a place to live, dwell, the number one thing is always location..... this is where I want to live. Whether it is one reason or a thousand reasons, we come to the place of..... this is where I want to live. God, the creator of the universe, He who sits upon the throne, wants to live with you and in you.

How does just that thought make you feel today? How long has it been since you “remembered that”? When we find the perfect house, we say I want this house, I am willing to buy this house, because I really want this house. God wants you. Maybe you don’t feel wanted, maybe you feel second in everyone’s life, maybe it isn’t even a felling but a demonstrated fact, that you are second, or a demonstrated fact that you are unwanted. BUT GOD..... says to you today in this passage, I want you!

God wants you, and went to great lengths to get you, to buy you, and as we look at our passage today and remember where we were, we are reminded the great distance He overcame to get us, to have, to make us His.

3P's of the Passage

Person

- A New Person
- No Longer Strangers
- No Longer Foreigners
- Is the Dwelling Place of God

Position

- In Christ Jesus
- With Christ Jesus
- Brought Near to God
- Standing on Solid Ground
- Is the Dwelling Place of God

Promise

- A Promised Covenant
- Hope
- Peace with God
- The Law Against Them Abolished
- The Wall of Separation Abolished
- Is the Dwelling Place of God

We were once without hope (2:11-12)

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you 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.

Look at Condition

Look at our condition in these verses:

- Without Christ: called Uncircumcision.... you were without Christ.
- Without Citizenship: being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.
- Without Covenants: strangers from the covenants of promises of God.
- Without Hope: having no hope.
- Without God: and without God in the world.

Temple Still Standing / But Peter has Been Sent to Gentiles / But Jew & Gentile Still Greatly Divided

The Temple in Jerusalem is still standing at the time of this writing. The temple was destroyed around 70AD, and this epistle was written around 60AD. But to both the Jew and the Gentile the Temple stood for a religion dedicated to the Jews only, and not the Gentiles, at least not in equal standing. In Acts 10-11, Peter is given the vision that salvation is for the Gentile also, and that God tells him to go witness to him. This happened approximately 35AD. So we have only about 25 years here, and Paul is writing this letter to reassure, and counter any thoughts that the Gentiles are not called to God also. Consider America, and how long it took to break through the racial walls in this Christian nation. There were slaves in Jamestown in the 1600, a civil war among the states in the 1860's, and Martin Luther King Jr. in the 70's. And even still, today there is a remnant of racism. Consider how radical it was for the Gentile to accept that God has called them just as He calls the Jew; think how radical it was for the Jew after 4000 years. Paul writes so that all may know.

Acts 10:44–46 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

For the Jew:

- It was forbidden to give good advice to a Gentile (according to the Talmud).
- If Jew married a Gentile their family disowned them.
- The Jewish mentality was that the Gentiles were made to keep the fire of hell hot.
- The Jew would burn their clothes if they touched a gentile, and then go through ceremonial cleansing afterwards.

Circumcision - Goliath

The Shepherd boy David, before he became King, sums up circumcision:

(1 Samuel 17:26 KJV) And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

To call someone uncircumcised is to put them in the category of Goliath, a Philistines (who in Biblical typology represent the flesh), an enemy of God who deserves a rock in his head.

Imagine the Gentiles Getting this Letter

Imagine the excitement running through the Gentile world as they read this letter, God has opened His arms up to them, the great Apostle Paul, (once a leader among the Jewish religious) says so. Paul writes this epistle from prison. A gentile prison, he is at the mercy of them, yet he will write of their position in Christ. If you go to Rome today you can see the ruins of those ancient prisons, the kind Paul would have stayed in. They were rock cells, side by side, with a common sewer running through all the cells. Day and night, never ceasing he would endure the stench of his living condition, yet he still wrote about the blessings given to all believers, even the gentiles that were holding him.

Maybe after being raised in America all of our lives it is hard to believe that we were not always called, but it is true. God reminds us of our past, so we can cherish our present and future. The fact being, before we had accepted Christ, we were Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants (where God says to Israel you will be My special people – the Gentiles didn't have that promise, were outside of that covenant promise), Without Hope, Without God. So these verses were not that far off for us.

Imagine this story:

One night a Pastor falls asleep on Christmas Eve. He dreams He is awakened by a knock upon the door. He is summonsed to a deathbed. Upon the way on the street he thinks it is odd that he sees there are no children playing with Christmas toys, no wreaths on the door, no Christmas trees in the windows, no church bells ringing, no carolers singing, no smell of Christmas turkey and hams. As he arrives to the hospital, opens his Bible to read the encouraging words of Christ that brings hope and peace; but instead he opens his Bible and finds no New testament, rather it ends with the Book of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. He looks at the dying person and sobs, for he has no words of comfort, any promises of eternal life. He runs home and looks for all his commentaries he has on the New Testament, Matthew, Ephesians, Revelation; but finds nothing, and realizes that it is not Christmas Day, cause the Christ child was never born, the Messiah never came - no Messiah, no hope.

Just this thought alone should be breaking forth our hearts with joy and thanksgiving; I also want to always remember that there are people around me today who think that God will have nothing to do with them. They say or think, “look at me, I'm dirty, rotten, I've made a mess of my life, God doesn't want people like me”. We have to show them that they are wrong in their thinking, and show them the Word. Also, inside this church, we have to always remember that for some people this is their last stop, they have tried everything else to get their life right; Programs, and peoples, and even churches where they were not welcomed, and in their last hope they try your church. Brethren leave your comfort zone and clicks, and look for them every time you come to church.....and when you are out living in the world outside these church walls.

Dispelling the Past:

Look at what both the Jew and Gentile had to overcome after 4,000 years of conditioning:

The Jews were the chosen Nation of God, but they confused the calling of being a witness, to being better than the Gentiles, looking down at them, thus becoming prideful and arrogant. The sign of circumcision was given to set them apart, but not above the Gentile. The Jews should have looked at the Gentiles as an opportunity to communicate the true and Living God to them, but instead looked down upon them.

God commanded the Nation Israel in the law to love all strangers who lived among them:

(Leviticus 19:34 NKJV) 'The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Circumcision means to, cut off, destroy. The covenant was given then as a symbol of not following the flesh, but living for the spiritual; much like baptism is today for believers.

Gen 17 – tells the story of the covenant of circumcision between God and Israel.

(Genesis 17:11 KJV) And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Side Note: Genesis 17:12, They were commanded to circumcise the child on the 8th day. Doctors have confirmed that it is on the 8th day that the body reaches its mature level of Vitamin K, which is necessary for blood clotting. God never does anything in vain; He always has a purpose in His ways. Some may look at circumcision as a cruel requirement from God, as if to be with Him, pain is a prerequisite.....not so. Circumcision comes with a great health benefit; a study was done back at the turn of the 19th century when it was recognized in New York City a high rate of women dying from cervical cancer. As they did their study they found the rate was high among all women except Jewish women. So they looked at the Jewish and non-Jewish husbands and saw the difference came down to circumcision, and found that non-Jewish men carried more bacteria, and it in turn was infecting their mates.

So this is who we, the Gentiles were..... Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants, Without Hope, Without God.

We were once far off (2:13)

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

you who once were far off have been - We were "Far Off", which means a distant journey. The word picture here is like wandering in the Sahara Desert, you keep walking, and walking; the heat pounding down upon you, your body thirsting for water but your canteen is empty. You see a hill far off thinking beyond that hill the journey ends, but when you reach its peak, all you see is sand and more sand. That was the Gentile, "meandering", just being blown around (as we studied in Ephesians 2:1-3).

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

have been brought near. - "brought near", literally means "in the hand". We are in God's hand, He holds you at this very moment. Isaiah 49:15-16 Yet I will not forget you. See I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Beloved, the Lord is holding you in the same hands that were pierced with nails on Calvary, yet it wasn't the nails that held Him to the cross, but His love for you.

Isaiah 49:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

by the blood of Christ - It is only by the blood of Jesus that man can be redeemed. People say that is too narrow; they are offended that the way to God is too narrow if Jesus is the only way...they say that is too narrow. They miss it, the world should rejoice that there even is a way.....how narrow it may be....yet still wide

enough that whom so ever shall believe, shall be saved. Man has offended the Holy God of the universe, yet He still provides a way to be right with Him.

Why Blood? / That is How serious sin is

Why blood, why a sacrificial system? That is how serious sin is to God, that only blood can take it away. Hebrews 9:22....without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Propitiation

Propitiation means complete emotional satisfaction. God has no ill feelings towards us. The work of Jesus Christ on the cross completely satisfied God's penalty for man's sin. We can rest now and have peace with God, there are no works that we have to do to satisfy God.

(Romans 3: 23-25 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Therefore / Back to Ephesians 2:8-10

In verse 11 it started with, therefore, and every time you see the word therefore in the scripture we need to ask, what is it there for? It usually takes us back, and forward. It takes us back to what has just been told, and then ties in with what is currently being told. So we are currently being reminded of where we once were, but may we not forget the context that we are in is in the context of verses 2:8-10.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

You are God's Poem, you are His workmanship, you are His masterpiece. You are His trophy of grace, as you have been saved (made safe and secure) by grace, through faith, not of works, but a free gift of God. All that is through, we have been brought near, by the blood of Christ.

It is a gift, a free gift, that we cannot, nor need to, earn..... But simply receive. He says to us, your sin separates you from me (Romans 3:23), you have broken my holy commandments, and with breaking any law there is a penalty to pay (Romans 6:23), but God demonstrated His love for us that Jesus took the penalty, paid the price, and offers it as a gift for anyone who desires to receive forgiveness for their sin against God.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In our last study a giftwrapped box was used as an illustration, where it was simply held out and offered as a gift..... just that simple. But here is something truly amazing, and every one of us needs to be reminded (continually reminded) God offers the gift, yet He considers us the gift, the treasure, the jewel!

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:45-46 (NKJV) ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

I have a box under my Christmas tree each year, it is the first gift put under the tree and the last to be put away, and it is a beautiful gift box, that the lid can be taken off, and we hand it to visitors and tell them this is what God considers His most precious gift, and when they open the lid mounted to the bottom of the box is a mirror, and the person sees themselves in the mirror, and thus they see God's greatest gift, treasure, jewel, and what He was willing to give to have..... His Only begotten Son:

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We were once walled off (2:14-18)

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

For He Himself is our peace - Jesus reversed the rolls. For us to be brought near, He had to be far off.

(Matthew 27:46 NKJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

God in His holiness can not look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13 / Isaiah 59:1-2),

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.....

(Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

God had to turn His back on His Only Begotten Son while He bore our sins on the cross. It was the only way to bring us to peace with God. Isaiah 53:4-6.

(Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

has broken down the middle wall of separation, - When Jesus died on the cross man had peace with God, and peace between the Jew and Gentile. The temple divided the Jews from the Gentile. The Gentiles were allowed in what was called the "Outer Court or Court of the Gentiles", but they could enter into the temple itself. Archeologist have discovered the inscription from Herod's temple, and it reads like this:

No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.

God is saying throw that sign away, there is no longer a wall separating the two, both have equal access to me.

Story- Moved the Fence

I am reminded of the story:

It is said that during the Second World War some soldiers serving in France wanted to bury a friend and fellow soldier who had been killed. Being in a foreign country they wanted to ensure their fallen comrade had a proper burial. They found a well-kept cemetery with a low stone wall around it. It was a picturesque little Catholic church with a peaceful quality. This was just the place to bury their friend. But when they approached the priest, he answered that unless their friend was a baptized Catholic he could not be buried in the cemetery. He wasn't. Sensing the soldiers' disappointment, the priest showed them a spot outside the walls where they could bury their friend. Reluctantly, they did so. The next day the soldiers returned to pay their final respects to their fallen friend but could not find the grave. "Surely we can't be mistaken. It was right here!" they said. Confused, they approached the priest who took them to a spot inside the cemetery walls. "Last night I couldn't sleep," said the priest. "I was troubled that your friend had to be buried outside the cemetery walls, so I got up and moved the fence."

You know what Beloved, God doesn't just move fences to bring us in, He demolishes them.

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Jesus broke down the Ethnic Walls, and the Gender Walls:

Gender Wall broken down: (Galatians 3:28 NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ethnic Wall broken down: (Colossians 3:9-11 NKJV)since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

God brought all, Gentile, Jew, Male, Female, Free, and Slave together into one new man. When Jesus was on the cross what was he wearing? Forget the pictures you see, go to the scriptures, He was wearing nothing. Clothing in our culture signifies where we are from.

- A sombrero - Mexico
- A kilt – Scotland
- That big hat - China
- That furry hat - Russia
- Blue Jeans - America
- Grass skirt - Tahiti
- Dhoti - that colorful headwear – India
- Saree - that colorful clothe wrap - India

When Jesus was hanging there naked, he was saying He is cross- cultural, He brings together groups that are against each other culturally, racially, by birth and he brings them together. He can bring them together because they have one thing in common - Sin, and he destroyed sin by taking it upon himself. Jesus in one act removed our separation from God, and the walls built between men.

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.
Ephesians 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Harrison Ford / Tom Brady

Jesus preached peace, told every man, woman, and child there is a way to have peace in life and peace with God. Harrison Ford, the wealthiest and most successful actor in Hollywood, when asked what he lacks, he said peace. Tom Brady, known as the greatest of all-time said:

But he was interviewed on 60 Minutes a few years back..... And he says, why do I have these Superbowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me? Maybe a lot of people would say, hey man, this is what it is. I reached my goal, my dream, my life. Me, I think, God, it's gotta be more than this. I mean, this isn't what it all is, this isn't what it's cracked up to be. Wow. So the interviewer said, well, what's the answer? Brady responds, I wish I knew. I love playing football, I love being a quarterback for this team. But at the same time, I think there's a lot of parts about me that I'm trying to find.

Harrison, and Tom, the answer is Jesus Christ. No Jesus, No Peace....Know Jesus, Know Peace.

Notice the Trinity

Notice the trinity (v.18) here at work in our salvation, and coming before the Lord.

Access - Protocol

Access is from the Greek word, prosagoge – it is where we get our word “Protocol”. Today when the government announces a dignitary entering a room, they ring bell, or in Britain they stomp the staff on the floor, and announce, now enteringMr. so and so. The honorary looks forward to with great anticipation and excitement of the person coming. The door is opened to them 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is the word God is using here, "Protocol".

This verse, this word "Protocol", has revolutionized my prayer time. The thought that God is anxiously waiting for me to come to Him, like I am some dignitary, makes me look forward to our prayer time together. I have access right into His presence. The Creator of the Universe has been waiting, and is ready to hear.....the bell rings, the angel stomps his staff, now entering.....and God says I've been looking forward to our time together. Andrew Murray said, *"this is the glory of the inner chamber, to converse with God the Holy One."*
(1 John 5:14 - 15 NKJV) *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

If you were to go to the White House today, desire to enter the Oval Office and speak with the President, you would have a lengthy protocol to go through to get that entrance before the President. Now the Secretary of Defense, the Vice President, they too have to go through a protocol to enter into the meet with the President, but of course theirs is much more fast-tracked than ours would be. However, you know who needs no special permissions, no preapproval, no visitor requests to see the President, you know who can come in anytime they want???????? The Presidents Bride (wife), and the President's children's (sons and daughters). So there is a picture for you and I as sons and daughters, as the Bride of Christ, He says boldly (with confidence) come into to see me, at any time, for any reason.

Remember the theme of this book is spiritual blessings, Paul is saying don't live like paupers when you are millionaires. What is at my disposal?

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

I have fellowship with someone who is Wonderful, a great Counselor, Mighty in Power, a Loving Father, and brings Peace. Prayer focuses all of our attention on God, lifting its burden off of us. Prayer is a specific divine appointment with God.

We were once outside the building (2:19-21)

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

But Now – we are the Dwelling Place of God (2:22)

v.22) for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. In past times God dwelt (meet the people) in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, then the Temple in Jerusalem, then from the Throne of Heaven he came and dwelt in a dirty manger in Bethlehem. In a sense, He still dwells in dirty managers, He takes the dirty managers of our hearts, cleans them up, and now dwells in them.

The "HOLY OF HOLIES" was the innermost sanctuary of the Temple. Separated from the other parts of the Temple by a thick curtain, the holy of holies was specially associated with the presence of God. The High Priest, and only the High Priest, would enter only once a year to make atonement for the people. When Jesus died on the cross the veil was ripped in two, showing that man no longer needed a High Priest to come before God: (Matthew 27:50-51 NKJV) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Matthew 27:50-51 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

But, God still dwells in that Holy of Holies today, and that is "you" and His "church" which is you with all the other believers "you" around you.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Verse 19 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, - God says you are a citizen of heaven, members of His household, and that you are seated in the heavens;..... yet, while you are living here on earth, he considers your body the Holy of Holies, and that He dwells there. God is saying my glory will radiate from your very being as you live out your calling here on earth.

Citizen Makes Us Ambassadors

If I am a citizen of heaven, then that makes me an Ambassador here on earth. Webster's definition of Ambassador is, Diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative; or sent on a special or temporary mission; an authorized messenger or representative. Paul ends this book speaking about being an ambassador:

(Ephesians 6:19-20 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Verse 20 - having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone - These promises are true and time-tested. We have the Word of God to back all these promises, with Jesus' resurrection as the final proof that His Word will never fail. It has been said that the Bible is the anvil that has broken all the hammers. (Ephesians 3:5 we will look more deeply into this statement about apostles and prophets).

Verse 21 - being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, First a new man, now a new building. Verse 22 is in the present and on-going tense. The building is growing, we are growing as we each grow in the Lord. Now since the people next to me are growing also, there will be some friction, rubbing together as we grow. We may rub each other the wrong way. God will put people in your life to knock the rough edges off so that we might fit better together. Don't try to run from people who rub you the wrong way, stay and let God work in your life. 1 Kings 6: As they were building the Temple, all the hammering and chiseling went on in the pits, away from the temple mount. Jesus is building the perfect body. I would suggest to you that the hammering and chiseling for the new temple is going on right here on earth, as we are being fit together in Christ Jesus.

1 Kings 6:7 (NKJV) ⁷ And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

So this is who we, the Gentiles were..... Without Christ, Without Citizenship, Without Covenants, Without Hope, Without God.....BUT GOD. Heaven is reality, and this is what God thinks of you. Forget the world's view of you, and what they think. Einstein said, I wish I knew the mind of God, for everything else is just details. Here we have the mind of God, His Word, and He considers you His temple, He has broken down the separation between man and God, and man and man. He has provided access for us to come before Him and have fellowship with someone who is Wonderful, a great Counselor, Mighty in Power, a Loving Father, and brings Peace.

Hopelessness, God can make a way, when there is no way. We were hopeless, yet God in His Love, broke down the walls and brought us hope through His son Jesus Christ. Today, whatever seems hopeless to you, whether it is your job, relationship, finances, he still brings hope, and He still breaks down walls. What is that troubles you today, whatever it is, Let Go and Let God. Stand on these promises that we have been brought near, we have peace with Him, nothing separates us from Him, we have full access to Him, and that we are His temple, His dwelling place.

Because God Wants You

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study