

Route 66 Ephesians 2

Pastor Jonathan Velasquez August 23, 2023

Paul continues a little with the self-reflection...

Ephesians 2:11-12

"Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time **you were separate** from Christ, **excluded from citizenship** in Israel and **foreigners to the covenants** of the promise, **without hope** and **without God** in the world." (Self-reflection)

-How does that relate to us today? -What does that look like for those who don't know Jesus? -How should we respond?

But Paul gives the Ephesians and us some hope... Ephesians 2:13 *"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been <u>brought near by</u>*

What draws us Near to God?

Colossians 1:20

the blood of Christ."

"...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

1 John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Romans 3:24-25

"...and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished."

But we are saved, forgiven, free and brought near because of Jesus' Sacrifice for us.

Look how Paul continues... Ephesians 2:14 "For he himself is our peace,"

Who is our peace? Is peace a what, Or a who?

Ephesians 2:14 "...who has made the two groups one..."

What are the 2 Groups?

Ephesians 2:14-16

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.** His purpose (Whose Purpose?) was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility."

How did he reconcile both the Jews & the Gentiles? Setting aside the law.

What is His hope? That we would become, 1 humanity & 1 body.

Ephesians 2:17-18

"He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

What does it mean that we have access to the Father? How do we have peace? John 14:6, John 10:9, Ephesians 2:8

Paul continues...

Ephesians 2:19-20

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, **but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.**"

Have you ever stopped and thought about who we share citizenship with?

Ephesians 2:21-22

"In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **And in him you too are being built together** to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

-Are you a part of the building that is adding integrity/value to the building? -How Might we add value & integrity to the Kingdom of God?