

## Class Notes | Ephesians 2:11-22 | 10-05-23

### PAUL IS CONTRASTING 2 SEASONS & 2 PEOPLE GROUPS

1. BC & AD (an-no-domini - "in the year of our Lord")
2. Jews & Gentiles

*Q. What is the overarching theme or message in this passage of scripture?*

### THERE ARE 2 OVERARCHING THEMES IN THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST (*Unity in Christ*)
2. We are the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Holiness in Christ – being made whole*)

#### HOPELESS AND HELPLESS | BC TO AD (VS. 11-13)

<sup>11</sup> Don't **forget** that you Gentiles **used to be** outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision\* (*that done in the body by the hand of man*), even though it affected **only their bodies** and **not their hearts**. \*COL 2:11

<sup>12</sup> In those days you were living **apart** (*estranged*) from Christ. You were excluded from **citizenship** among the **people of Israel**,

*Q. Whom do you see as the linchpin in the passage?*

#### LINCHPIN | THE BARRIER BREAKER | SEPARATION ERADICATOR - AD

<sup>13</sup> **But now** you have been **united with Christ Jesus**. Once you were **far away from God**, but now you have been brought **near to him**\* – (*how?*) through the \_\_\_\_\_. \*ACTS 2:39

#### UNITY IN CHRIST

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has **brought peace to us**<sup>9</sup>. He **united** Jews and Gentiles into **one people**<sup>9</sup> **when**, (when did this happen?) in **his own body** \_\_\_\_\_, he **broke down the wall of hostility that separated us**.

- How did He do this? – \_\_\_\_\_ – abolishing the law that caused it.
- what caused the barrier in the first place? \_\_\_\_\_

**(His body BROKEN)**

1 Corinthians 11:24 - *and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* –

*Isaiah 53:3 - But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.*

<sup>15</sup> **He did this** - by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **He made peace** - between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

<sup>16</sup> Together as one body, **Christ reconciled both groups to God**<sup>o</sup> by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other (IN THE FLESH) was put to death.

<sup>17</sup> He brought this **Good News of peace** to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup> Now all of us **can come** to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what **Christ has done for us**.

**Q. What role does He (Christ) play? <sup>o</sup>**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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**INCLUSIVENESS VS. EXCLUSIVENESS - THE WALL OF HOSTILITY**

- Jews were not the only people that built walls and created an exclusive culture
- This was a common practice in the ancient world in many cultures
- Jesus came to abolish all barriers in humanity
- Unfortunately, these practices of walls, barriers & fences are by no means confined to the ancient world.
- We see this clearly around us today

**Q. From Paul's writing, what was Christ's purpose and mission?**

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## FAMILY & DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer **strangers and foreigners**. You are citizens\* along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

<sup>20</sup> **Together**, we are **his house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the **cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself**. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully **joined together in him**, becoming a **holy temple for the Lord**. <sup>22</sup> **Through him** you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling **where God lives by his Spirit**. *\*PHP 3:20*

### Thought Questions for Ephesians 3:1-13 - 10/11/23

1. What was the mysterious plan that God revealed to Paul?
2. How is Paul able to serve God?
3. What is the difference between God's purpose and his plan?

## RHETORICAL DESIGN OF 2:11-22 | BC TO AD

*This entire paragraph is designed as a symmetrical flow of thought, where each section contrasts with its partners.*

11 and 20-23: They used to be outsiders based “*in the flesh*,” but now they are part of the messianic new temple *in the Lord/in the Spirit*.

12 and 19: They were once estranged, foreigners, and without God, but now they are fellow citizens and members of God’s family.

13 and 17: They were once far off, but now they are brought near.

14 and 15 and 16: The two that were separated have become one in the Messiah.

<sup>11</sup> Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be **outsiders**. You were called “**uncircumcised heathens**” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

<sup>20</sup> Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully **joined together in him**, becoming a **holy temple** for the Lord.<sup>22</sup> **Through him** you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

<sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were **excluded from citizenship** among the people of Israel, and you **did not know the covenant promises** God had made to them. You lived in this world **without God and without hope**.

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no **longer strangers and foreigners**. You are **citizens along with all of God’s holy people**. You are **members of God’s family**.

<sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>17</sup> He brought **this Good News of peace** to you Gentiles **who were far away from him**, and peace to the Jews who **were near**. <sup>18</sup> Now **all of us can come to the Father** through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. **He united Jews and Gentiles into one people** when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

<sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **He made peace between Jews and Gentiles** by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

<sup>16</sup> **Together as one body**, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.