** *“WELCOME HOME!”***

 **Ephesians Chapter 2:11-22**

***> (v11-13) FROM NO GOD TO KNOW GOD!***

**(v11-12) Paul reminds the gentile believers of *“5 Divisions”* between *Jew and Gentile*:**

**#1 – Gentiles were *without Christ* – The Gentiles worshiped manmade gods made of wood, clay, stone, silver and gold; they also worshiped nature and all elements of the universe. They were without a Messiah, a holy Savior due to their rejection and rebellion against a holy God and Creator. The Ephesians worshiped the goddess Diana before the coming of the Gospel and knew nothing about Christ. (Acts 17:16-34)**

**#2 – Gentiles were *aliens from the commonwealth of Israel* – *“Commonwealth”* (Gk. *politeia*) has two senses: (1) state or nation, and (2) citizenship or the rights of a citizen. The Gentiles were outside the community of God’s people except for a few proselytes.**

**#3 – Gentiles were *strangers from the covenants of promise* – Did you know that there are *Eight Major Covenants* found in the Bible? C.I. Scofield summarizes them well:**

**- *Covenant #1* - The *EDENIC COVENANT* (Gen. 2:16) conditions the life of man in innocence.**

**~ Relation of Christ: To the *Edenic covenant*, Christ, as the “second Man” and the “last Adam” (1 Cor. 15:45-47), takes the place over all things which the first Adam lost (Col. 2:10; Heb. 2:7-9).**

**- *Covenant #2* - The *ADAMIC COVENANT* (Gen. 3:15) conditions the life of fallen men and gives promise of a Redeemer.**

**~ Relation of Christ: He is the Seed of the woman of the Adamic Covenant (Gen. 3:15; Jn. 12:31; Gal. 4:4; 1 Jn. 3:8; Rev. 20:10) and fulfilled its conditions of toil (Mk. 6:3) and obedience (Phil. 2:8; Heb. 5:8).**

**- *Covenant #3* - The *NOAHIC COVENANT* (Gen. 9:16) establishes the principle of human government.**

**~ Relation of Christ: As the greatest Son of Shem in Him was fulfilled supremely the promise to Shem in the Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:16; Col. 2:9).**

**- *Covenant #4* - The *ABRAHAMIC COVENANT* (Gen. 12:2) founds the nation of Israel and confirms, with specific additions, the Adamic promise of redemption.**

**~ Relation of Christ: He is the Seed to whom the promises were made in the Abrahamic Covenant, the Son of Abraham obedient unto death (Gen. 22:18; Ga. 3:16; Phil 2:8).**

**- *Covenant #5* - The *MOSAIC COVENANT* (Ex. 19:5) condemns all men “for all have sinned” (Ro. 3:23; 5:12).**

**~ Relation of Christ: He lived sinlessly under the Mosaic Covenant and bore for us its curse (Gal. 3:10-13).**

**- *Covenant #6* - The *PALESTINIAN COVENANT* (Dt. 30:3) secures the final restoration and conversion of Israel.**

**~ Relation of Christ: He lived obediently as a Jew in the land under the Palestinian Covenant and will yet perform its gracious promises (Dt. 28:1-30:9).**

**- *Covenant #7* - The *DAVIDIC COVENANT* (2 Sam. 7:16) establishes the perpetuity of the Davidic family (fulfilled in Christ, Mt. 1:1; Lk. 1:31-33; Ro. 1:3), and of the Davidic kingdom over Israel and over the whole earth, to be fulfilled in and by Christ (2 Sam. 7:8-17; Zech. 12:8; Lk. 1:31-33; Acts 15:14-17; 1Cor. 15:24).**

**~ Relation of Christ: He is the Seed, Heir, and King under the Davidic Covenant (Mt. 1:1; Lk. 1:31-33).**

**- *Covenant #8* - The *NEW COVENANT* (Heb. 8:8) rests upon the sacrifice of**

**Christ and secures the eternal blessedness, under the Abrahamic Covenant (Gal. 3:13-29), of all who believe. It is absolutely unconditional and, since no responsibility is by it committed to man, it is final and irreversible.**

**~ Relation of Christ: His sacrifice is the foundation of the New Covenant (Mt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25).**

**#4 – Gentiles were *without hope* – No hope for the afterlife until they heard the gospel of Christ, the hope of the resurrection! (Jn. 11:25; Acts 2:31; 4:2; Ro. 1:4: 1 Cor. 15)**

**#5 – Gentiles were *without God in the world* – *“without God”* (Gk. *atheoi*, atheists) (Ro. 1:18-32)**

**(v13) Gentiles were BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST - A well-known rabbinical maxim, recognized by the author of the epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 9:22), was *"Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."* The life is in the blood, as is often declared by Moses; the life of the sacrifice was taken, and the blood offered to God, as a representative and substitute for the offerer.**

**The Bible makes it clear that the satisfaction or payment for human sins was made by the death of a specified animal substitute: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul"* (Leviticus 17:11).**

**In the New Testament, this Old Testament idea of sacrifice is applied to Christ's blood. References to the *"blood of Christ"* always mean the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross.**

**References to the blood of Christ were made by PAUL (Romans 3:25-26 - *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*); PETER (1 Peter 1:19 - *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*); JOHN (Revelation 1:5 - *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood*) and the author of Hebrews (Hebrews 9:14-15 - *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?).* Although all have sinned, *"we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"* (Ephesians 1:7).**

***> (v14-18) FROM NO PEACE TO KNOW PEACE!***

**(v14a) The word *“peace”* is found 407 times in the Bible; in Hebrew we hear the familiar greeting “shalom”, but here we discover true everlasting peace *for Christ Himself is our peace!***

**Isaiah prophesied of this Messiah of peace when he wrote, *“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. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7)**

**At our Lord’s birth announcement we hear, *“and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”* (Luke 2:13-14)**

**(v14b) Jesus *broke down the middle wall of separation* – How?**

**(1) There is a wall of separation between mankind and God - Isaiah 59:2 - *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.***

**(2) There was a wall of separation between Jew and Gentile at the Temple; the Gentiles had an outer court.**

**(3) There was a veil in the Temple that separated all from the holiness of God except for once a year the High Priest was allowed to enter in on the Day of Atonement (Ex. 3:10; Lev. 16; Heb. 9:7); Jesus tore down that veil (the veil was 60 feet high, 4 inches thick) as He died for our sins granting all by faith to enter in, to go to Heaven! (Matthew 27:50-51 - *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*).**

**(v15) What is ENMITY? It is a deep-seated animosity or hatred. The apostle Paul declared that the human mind in its natural state has a natural "enmity against God" (Romans 8:6-8 - *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.)* This enmity can be changed only through the redemptive power of Christ. Warren Wiersbe writes, “The word *abolish* simply means *"to nullify."* The Law no longer holds sway over either Jew or Gentile, since in Christ believers are not under Law but under grace.”**

**(v16) Christ reconciled us both to God through the cross! (Colossians 1:20-23)**

**(v17) Jesus preached PEACE to the Gentile (those who are *“far off”)* and to the Jew (*“those who are near”;* Heencouraged and blessed all believers by declaring, “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* (John 14:27-28) When Jesus forgives your sins you will be at peace (Luke 7:36-50). Christ’s peace reigns over nature (Mark 4:35-41).**

**(v18) By believing in and confessing Christ as our Lord and Savior (Ro. 10:9-13) we are *“born again”* of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3-7) and we can access our heavenly Father through Christ Jesus our Lord!**

**Christ brings unity amongst Jew and Gentile: *"made both one"* (Ephesians 2:14); *"one new man"* (Ephesians 2:15); *"one body"* (Ephesians 2:16); *"one Spirit"* (Ephesians 2:18).**

***> (v19-22) FROM NO HOME TO WELCOME HOME!***

**(v19) If you are a Christian “Welcome home!” you’re a citizen of Heaven and a family member of the household of God. If you are not a Christian come home to God our Father today!**

**(v20-22) The true worldwide church (Jew and Gentile) is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone! We are growing into a holy temple in the Lord; ultimately, we are told in Philippians 3:20-21 - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.***