

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 2:11-13 (Pt.2)

From Far to Near by the Blood

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**Remember What God Has Done
for Gentile Christians**

- We were without Messiah
- We were alienated from citizenship (Israel)
- We were without hope
- We were without God
- We were “far away” from knowing God
- We were “brought near” by God’s grace
- We were spared from God’s wrath by the blood of Christ

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1

Aliens to the Promise

Ephesians 2:12c (NASB)

and strangers to the covenants of promise

- “Strangers” is *zenos* (adjective) = “alien”
- These covenants were given to Abraham and his descendants
- “of promise” is literally “of the promise” which is the Messianic promise

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2

Without Hope

Ephesians 2:12d (NASB)

having no hope

- The present active participle “having” describes our previous lost condition
- Hope is grounded in the promises of God
- This hope is the hope of eternal life which God promised to believers (Titus 1:2)

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3

Without God

Ephesians 2:12e (NASB)

and without God in the world

- “Without God” is *atheos* (adjective) the source of our word “atheist”
- Ephesus had various deities but none had the essential attributes of God
- This ignorance of the true God is morally culpable ignorance (Ephesians 4:18)

From Far to Near in Christ

Ephesians 2:13a (NASB)

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near

- “Far” and “near” are relational and not geographical
- “Brought” is literally “became” and this is by God’s doing in Christ
- God is near to those who call on Him (Psalm 145:18)

The Blood of the Covenant

Ephesians 2:13b (NASB)

near by the blood of Christ.

- Covenants are ratified with blood (Exodus 24:8; Matthew 26:28)
- Ephesians 1:7 spoke of forgiveness and redemption through His blood
- The blood of Christ cleanses us from the inside out (Hebrews 9:14)

Implications and Applications

- Even aliens and strangers can have hope if they trust in Christ
- God cleanses believers from the inside out
- We must draw near to God through the blood of Christ

The Messianic Blessing

Galatians 3:14 (NASB)

in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- Galatians 3:8 links this to Genesis 12:3
- This did not come through circumcision but by faith (Romans 4:12)

The Cleansed Conscience

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- Jesus' perfect sacrifice makes inner cleansing possible for believers
- Only God can truly change us

Draw Near to God

Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 10:22 (ESV)

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.