

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

***Ephesians 2:19-20***

**Part of the Family of God**

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**Key Concepts to Be Addressed**

- No one who knows Christ is ever a stranger in the household of God
- God changes former aliens who believe the gospel into citizens of His kingdom
- All Christians are saints
- The apostles and prophets of the New Testament uniquely spoke for God on behalf of Christ
- The foundation of God's building has been laid once for all and is being built upon

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**No Longer Aliens**

**Ephesians 2:19a (ESV)**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens...

- "No longer strangers" refers to vs 12
- "Aliens" is *paroikos* which means "sojourners" or "transients" (those with no settled habitation)
- This fallen world is not our home (we were aliens to the covenants of promise, not the rebellious world system)

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**Redeemed Citizens of the Household of God**

**Ephesians 2:19b (ESV)**

but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

- God's own possession (Eph. 1:14)
- This describes all who believe, Jew and Gentile ('one new man,' Eph. 2:15)
- "Saints" are all who are saved by the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7)

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## The Foundation

### **Ephesians 2:20a (ESV)**

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets . . .

- “Built” is a divine passive “by God”
- This is the beginning of the temple analogy that continues in vss. 21, 22
- These are the biblical apostles and prophets of the 1<sup>st</sup> century
- These are mentioned in Ephesians 3:5

## The Cornerstone

### **Ephesians 2:20b (ESV)**

Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone

- Christ is the cornerstone of the once for all laid foundation
- This is an allusion to Isaiah 28:16
- 1 Peter 2:6 applies Isaiah 28:16 to Christ
- The same term can be used for multiple analogies (see 1 Cor. 3:11)

## Implications and Applications

- Our status in Christ is a blessed gift from God to be cherished, nurtured and preserved.
- The foundation is laid by Christ and His apostles and we must not build on anything else.

## Don't Drift Away

### **Hebrews 2:1 (NASB)**

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

- “Pay attention” is a nautical term
- God has spoken (Heb. 1:1, 2)
- The winds of false doctrine and human wisdom want to blow us off course
- The word of God keeps us on course

## Do Not Neglect Salvation

### Hebrews 2:3a (NASB)

how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

- The implied answer: “we will not”
- This warning is in the context of having greater privileges than those under Moses
- “Neglect” means “to not care for or to show no concern”
- When Christians tire of hearing the pure word of God they are in danger

## Confirmed by Eyewitnesses

### Hebrews 2:3b (NASB)

After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

- These are the eyewitnesses who were taught and appointed by Christ
- The implication is that this word is divine revelation which is binding on the church
- The source of the biblical message means it must be taken with utmost seriousness

## God Endorsed Their Witness

### Hebrews 2:4 (NASB)

God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

- True signs “testify” that these witnesses were speaking the truth from Christ
- As there were signs when Moses received the old covenant, there were signs when Christ established the new covenant