

Ephesians 2B Review, Chapter 2:11-22

CHAPTER 2:11-22

Begin by reading these verses.

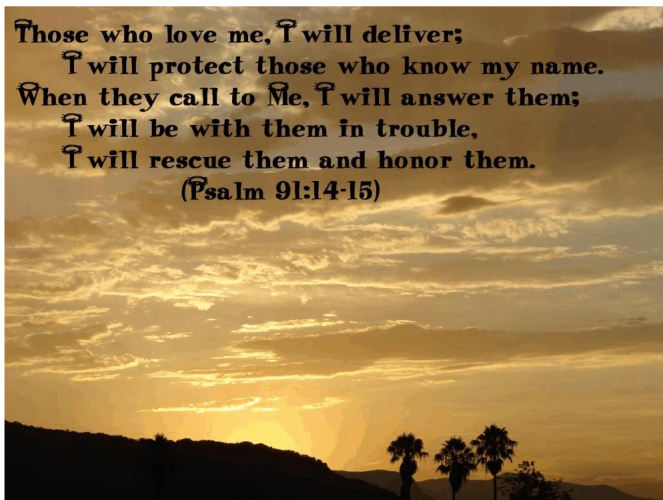
1. Again in this section, Paul moves from what was – the alienation of the Gentiles – to what they had become in Christ. Remember, “uncircumcised” was a term of derision. (See 1 Samuel 17:26)
2. One of the most specific indications of the fullness of God’s plan to include the Gentiles in the household of faith was Peter’s vision at Joppa recorded in Acts 10. (There are a number of “hints” about this in the Gospels, and even in the Old Testament.) If you’re not familiar with that vision and its meaning, read Acts 10.
3. The crux of the matter is that the Gentiles were “strangers to the covenants of promise.” What is a covenant? Do you remember the four major Old Testament covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses and David? What was the “sign” of each one? Read Jeremiah 31:31-33 in which the new covenant was foretold.
4. Paul said that without Christ, there is no hope. Jesus said the same thing in John 14:5-7. (John 14:6 is a good verse to commit to memory.)
5. Though Jews and Gentiles had been separated, they have now been brought together in Christ. Jesus had demonstrated this, and specifically foretold this. Read John 10:16. Peter had also indicated this in his great Pentecost sermon. Read Acts 2:39.
6. The unification of Jew and Gentile was accomplished by the blood of Christ, shed on the cross. (A significant time this week for us to remember that!) The paradigm for this is in the Old Testament sacrificial system. Hebrews 9:22 summarizes that.
7. Jesus is our peace – our “shalom”. Shalom is the Hebrew word that means not only peace, but also harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility. Our peace is not only with God through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1), but also with others.
8. The Old Testament Law, and even more so all of the traditions that grew up around it, served to separate the Jews and Gentiles. But in Christ, there is one new humanity. Not the Greek “neos” (new in terms of time), but “kainos” (completely different in form). What examples have you seen of the way Jesus Christ brings those of different backgrounds together?
9. Paul spoke about reconciliation in more detail in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.
10. In 2:18, Paul talks about the access that all believers have to God (through Christ, in

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the Holy Spirit). The Apostle uses the same Greek word for access (prosagoge) in Romans 5:2. Another translation of the word is introduction. Picture being before God and having Jesus introduce you!

11. This verse is also a reminder that, when it comes to the Trinity, we pray to God, through Jesus and in the Spirit. See also Hebrews 9:24 and Romans 8:26.
12. Remember that in biblical terms, “saints” are (literally) the “holy ones” and refers to all true believers.... those set apart for God. The word is always in the plural.
13. The “household of God” is literally being built.... both individually and collectively it is a process. This is sometimes referred to as “sanctification”.
14. Our foundation is the apostles and the prophets, that is the Word of God. Jesus talked about the importance of not just hearing and understand the words, but we also need to do them. Read Matthew 7:24-25.
15. The cornerstone of the building is Jesus Himself. Read 1 Peter 2:4-8. Why is the cornerstone so important?
16. The chapter concludes with a description of the church in verses 21 and 22. See Peter’s description in 1 Peter 2:9-10. Does this make you long even more for the time that we can be together as the church of God?

Verse of the week:



Until we are together again, may God be with you!

Pastor Bob