

## "THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS" (9)

How The Gentiles Became Fellow Heirs (2:11-22)

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Evident that one of Paul's purposes was to help answer his prayer: that they might know such things as:
  - 1. What is the hope of His calling Eph 1:18a
  - 2. Riches of glory of His inheritance in saints Eph 1:18b
- B. Paul has previously spoken of the wonderful grace of God as expressed in their salvation Eph 2:1-10
- C. Paul now speaks of how Gentiles became "fellow heirs" Eph 2:12-22
- D. And it also makes clear what our condition can be today, either "without" Christ, or "through" and "in" Christ!

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. HOW DID THE GENTILES BECOME FELLOW HEIRS

- A. The Gentiles' condition "without" Christ (11-12)
  - 1. "Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel"
  - 2. "Strangers from the covenants of promise"
    - a. Promises and covenants not made with them
    - b. Such as "be their God" Gen 17:7-8
  - 3. "Having no hope" - hope springs from promises made
  - 4. "Without God in the world"
    - a. In one sense, they did have God, as "He did not leave Himself without witness..." Acts 14:17
    - b. But they did not have the true knowledge of God,
- B. The Gentiles' condition "through" Christ (13-18)
  - 1. Can now be "one body" with the Jews (13-16)
  - 2. Because of Jesus, who is "our peace" and who broke down the "middle wall" of division
    - a. "Law of commandments contained in ordinances" which once separated Jews from Gentiles
    - b. By His death on the cross, he abolished that which created "enmity" between Jew and Gentile i.e., the law of Moses given at Mt. Sinai
  - 3. Can share access to Father with Jews (17-18)
    - a. Because of Jesus, who came and "preached peace" to those "afar off" (Gentiles) and those "near" (Jews)
    - b. Because of Jesus, for "through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father" Rom 8:34; 8:26-27
- C. The Gentiles' condition "in" Christ (19-22)
  - 1. They are now "fellow citizens with the saints" (19a)
    - a. Before, they were "aliens" from commonwealth of Israel and "strangers" from covenants of promise
    - b. But now, "fellow citizens" with God's people

- 2. Now "members of the household of God" (19b)
  - a. Before, they were "without God in the world"
  - b. But now, they are members of "God's family"
- 3. Now part of "a holy temple in the Lord" (20-22)
  - a. Before, they "without God in the world"
  - b. But now, God dwells in them through His Spirit!

#### II. MAKING APPLICATION OF PASSAGE TO OUR LIVES

- A. Understand what one's condition "outside" Christ truly is
  - 1. A person is still an "alien" and "stranger", with no participation in covenants and promises that God has with His people today! Same condition as Gentiles Rom 3:23; 6:23
  - 2. Person has no basis for hope, and must go through life without blessing of God guiding them in world!
- B. Understand what's accomplished "through" Christ
  - 1. He has brought to an end the Old Law; we should not seek to be justified by the Law Gal 5:4
  - 2. He has sought to unite all into one body Eph 4:1-6
- C. Understand what we have become "in" Christ
  - 1. Become "fellow citizens with saints" in the wonderful kingdom of God; let's live accordingly! Rom 14:16-19
  - 2. We have become "members of God's household (family)"; let's behave and treat each other as the family of God! 1Tim 3:15; 5:1-2
  - 3. We have become "the temple of God" in which God dwells through His Spirit; let's be careful not to profane God's holy habitation! 1Cor 3:16-17; 6:19-20

### CONCLUSION

- A. Though Paul may have been speaking in "general" or "corporate" terms, I hope we have seen that the implications of what he has said affects each of us "personally"
  - 1. With salvation coming to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, we each benefit greatly on an individual level
  - 2. With salvation coming to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, we each bear an individual responsibility to live up to our "holy calling" as God's kingdom, God's family, and as God's temple!
- B. What is YOUR condition in regard to Jesus Christ?
  - 1. Are you still "outside" of Christ?
  - 2. Have you benefited from the work that was done "through" Christ on the cross?
  - 3. Are you living as a person should who is now "in" Christ?

(From mark Copeland's series - revisions by jlh)