



Ephesians Sermon Series
Supports Session 4: Reconciled
Potential Sermon Title: The Good News of Peace
Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

Connection to Ephesians 2

Paul focused on how the same plan of salvation applies both to Gentiles (“you who were far away”) and to Jews (“those who were near”) (2:17). And since people in both groups are saved in the same way—by grace through faith for good works—they have a spiritual unity and are being “built together for God’s dwelling in the Spirit” (2:22).

Introduction/Openning

We’ve heard stories of people who most would consider far from God—drug dealers, murderers, prostitutes, you name it—who became faithful followers of Jesus. And we’ve also heard stories of people raised in church, children of missionaries, or active in church as teenagers who are also now faithful followers of Jesus. Jesus came to proclaim “the good news of peace” (2:17) to people who are far from God and to people who are near. In the original context that meant Gentiles and Jews, but this same gospel is available to all people today, whether they seem to be far from God or near (Isa. 57:19-21).

Outline

1. Peace to Those Who Were Far Away (Eph. 2:11-18)
 - a. The distance
 - i. Without Christ
 - ii. Excluded from citizenship
 - iii. Foreigners to the covenants of promise
 - iv. Without hope
 - b. The difference
 - i. Brought near by the blood of Christ
 - ii. Dividing wall of hostility torn down
 - iii. Laws and regulations made of no effect
 - iv. At peace
 - v. Reconciled to God

2. Peace to Those Who Are Near (Eph. 2:11-18)

a. The distance

- i. Their circumcision was only in the flesh (Rom. 2:25-29).
- ii. They were proud of having the law, but it did not bring them peace.
- iii. They needed to be reconciled to God.
- iv. They needed access to the Father.

b. The difference

- i. Peace
- ii. Reconciliation
- iii. Access to the Father

3. Privileges for Those Who Accept the Good News of Peace (Eph. 2:19-22)

- a. No longer strangers but fellow citizens with the saints
- b. Members of God's household (1 Pet. 2:9-10; 1 John 3:1)
- c. Part of God's holy temple in the Lord
- d. Part of God's dwelling in the Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:5-7)

Conclusion

Do you feel far away from God? Jesus proclaimed a message for people like you—a message of good news, a message of peace. You can be brought near by the blood of Christ. You can be reconciled to God because of the cross of Christ. Have you been hanging around pretty close to God? If you are not “in Christ,” then you are outside of Christ and just as lost as anyone else who is without hope and without God in this world. Jesus has a message for people like you—a message of good news, a message of peace. The same message for all: You can be reconciled to God through the cross of Jesus Christ, and *only* through the cross of Jesus Christ. Anyone who accepts His offer of peace can be a fellow citizen with the saints and a member of God’s family.

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