

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 8/3-8/4 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 2:11-22

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon pm; 85309150746 Tues am!

Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZMlCuGuqj8tHNeJYqMIZbE8IKiMqtpYL88G/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvpj4iHNCrTx-ERpwEGo_4We7wiClago1Ytib0LixpYCauOslLH6NrAOH8

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Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

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Weekly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEud-CpqzstHtJOOKSAdUVq16dSqlryu7Iw/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrTsjG9GVtx2BRpwMA4igXevwmGJagrd3szDOMAFXVzXnZ7RGAaNzAsHF>

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OPENING PRAYER

"Cornerstone" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) Hillsong
(3:28)

Eph. 2:20 – Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone!

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 2:11-22

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

One in Christ – Outlining what the NT church is and its function Brought Near By His Blood!

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

(Col 2:11) In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

Eph 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- God describes how He has brought us as *Gentiles* (non-Jews) near to God. There was a great gap between *Jews* and *Gentiles*. The Gentiles knew nothing of Yahweh, Abraham, David or Daniel. They had no promised Messiah in the future. They were in a sad place, being spiritually dead, without access, they had ***no hope and without God in the world!***
- That is how unbelievers are today! It hasn't changed, the Gentiles were ***without Christ; being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel; strangers from the covenants of the promise; having no hope and without God in the world*** (loneliness, suicide)!
- Now 2000 years later, how much prejudice is there in our nation and the world? Race, social status, wealth, nationality; but the Church is to be the place where those walls are to be broken down. Not phony, religiously empty, but alive, life changing and powerful!
- How much of the way of the *Gentiles* is in my life? What is your hope? Do you have the hope of *Christ*? Can you say, "All in my life is now changed through *Christ*"?

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus (because of Him alone) you who once were far off (neither were saved; the Jews having great Biblical knowledge) have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- ***But now!*** As in the earlier "***But God!***"! Another awesome contrast as he draws the dark picture of your past as a Gentile, stranger, alien, without God, without hope! Then – ***were far off***; but now - ***brought near!*** Before, after! So much different! We were in the world; but now, are in ***Christ Jesus!*** If God can save you Gentiles (and me), there is hope, He can save anybody!
- It is the power of God that has done it. Nothing else could do it, nothing else could bring *Jew* and *Gentile* together in a common act of worship. That is the power which brought Christ from the dead, nothing less than that!
- The only way to be ***brought near*** to God is "***in***" or "***by***" ***the blood of Christ***. What Jesus did on the cross, suffering as a guilty sinner in our place, brings us ***near*** to God. Once, hopeless and helpless, living in the darkness of

the world, but now you have been drawn near to God through the **blood** of Jesus Christ. Our gospel is a gospel of **blood: blood** is the foundation; without it there is nothing. This is absolutely essential!

- By His **blood!** The veil was torn down by His **blood**, Jewishness put to rest, the way for both **Jew** and **Gentile** was made open by the **blood of Christ!** It is so important to connect the ideas of the great love of Jesus and His sacrificial death. Some think that preaching Christ crucified is all about a bloody, gory Jesus. But the point of Christ crucified, is not gore, but love! Preaching Christ crucified means we preach Jesus full of love, sacrificial, giving, saving love.

Christ our Peace!

Eph 2:14 For He Himself (He alone!- not our church, not religion) ***is our*** (*Jew & Gentile*) ***peace, who has made both one*** (*vs. 14, 15, 16, 18 - unity, this coming together!*), ***and has broken down the middle wall of separation***,

- Paul is writing this from a Roman prison, because he had been wrongfully accused of bringing a Gentile into the temple in Jerusalem, crossing over a 4.5-foot wall separating **Jew** and **Gentile**. Now Christ has broken down separating walls!
- Illustration – suppose a fabulously rich, Jewish father would adopt the worst young Gentile into his family and say to his only natural born son, this is your new brother, I adopted him today! What would his natural son say?
- That’s what God did when He came in and saved **Jews** and **Gentiles** on the same level! The **Gentiles** say, “Praise the Lord”, having no struggle whatsoever! But the Jew had to really work through this! Wait, you’re bringing them into the family? You care about Your name?
- Now that we’re all the same diverse family, how does He enable us to get along? Look at the tremendous diversity in the body of Christ! ***He Himself is our peace!***
- For Jesus ***is our peace***. He has made us ***both one***. (***Col 3:11***) *where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all*. He is our ***peace***. He has broken down the walls that once separated us. He has made us one.
- Christ ***Himself is our peace***. It’s all in Him. He makes ***peace***. When God makes peace, He does something inward, something vital. Not merely that we should not fight each other but that we should love one another, being in unity and oneness, totally turning, transforming us, from hatred, to love!

Eph 2:15* having abolished in His flesh the enmity (hatred), *that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

(Gal 6:15) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

- ***abolished*** (made inoperative) ***in His flesh the enmity***, (the hatred). Through His death, Christ abolished OT ceremonial laws, feasts, and sacrifices which was a huge wall separating Jews from Gentiles.
- ***One new man (in quality) from the two, thus making peace*** - How did He make one family? The best way to make ***peace*** is to eliminate both ***Jew*** and ***Gentile*** and just make a new man. If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation.
- By giving us a brand-new identity! Not ***Jew*** or ***Gentile***, Protestant or Catholic, but now, ***one! We are Christian!*** Disciples of the Lord Jesus!
- Christ has made us all ***one!*** He is the common denominator. I am in Christ. You are in Christ. We are ***one!*** And that's exactly how He wanted it to be. That we do not have divisions and walls built up between us, but we just feel that openness of love for each other. He abolished in His flesh, the enmity that separates man.

Eph 2:16* and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body (the church) through the cross, *(Col 1:20-22) and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. [21] And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled [22] in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

thereby putting to death the enmity. (Rom 6:6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- ***Reconcile*** means a change from a hostile to a friendly relationship; bringing together again, a reuniting, a re-connecting; completely laying aside ***enmity***, that total peace and harmony follow. It is a restoration of something that was there before, brought back to where they were.
- ***Separation*** from God through sin is the basic and fundamental problem

among men, quarreling and fighting with one another, divided against each other and separating from one another. Unity among men is only possible as men are reconciled together to God. Man has to be right with God before he can be right with others.

- The worst thing about sin, is that it means **breaking fellowship with God**, cut off, out of relationship with Him! We are without God! How can this fellowship be restored? How can it be brought back again? Reconciliation' at once brings us face to face with the fact that we have been out of fellowship and that we need to be restored to fellowship.
- How can we walk in fellowship? We should stop praying about that particular thing that gets you down; but rather pray, now I am with Him and I must do nothing in His presence that He will dislike or that will hurt Him. Think positively in this regard! Remind yourself that Christ is always with you, and then you will begin to hate the thing and it will become unthinkable.
- **reconcile them both to God.** As *Jews* and *Gentiles* are brought to God through Christ Jesus, they are brought together with each other in the "church". This was accomplished by the cross where Jesus taking God's wrath satisfying divine justice and reconciliation with God became a reality.
- He reconciled both *Jews* and *Gentiles* to Himself in the church by the death of His own cross, **putting the death the enmity**, abolishing the hatred! He has reconciled all, everybody, Jew, Gentile, old, young....All have been reconciled to God, through Christ! He has broken down the wall between culture, society and race, all torn down. **He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, by giving them the same Savior!

Eph 2:17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

- We see here how the *Jews* and *Gentiles* are brought together. **Peace** to both!
- **He came and preached peace**, bringing or announcing good news to those **who were afar off**, the *Gentiles*, **and to those who were near**, the *Jews*, that sinners can be reconciled to God by the salvation which is through Jesus Christ. In this context, Christ, the One who "**Himself is our peace**" also announced the good news of **peace**, telling us it is now available!
- **Peace** is the need of all men! The *Jews*, who were near, needed the message just as much and in exactly the same way as did the *Gentiles* that were so far off. But the *Jews* could not see that they were in need. That was their problem. Of course, *Gentiles* might need this, but they felt that God was not interested in any people but themselves.

- Christ, and Christ alone, offers and is able to give this *peace* to all who see their need of it. That is what the apostle is glorying in. Christ has made and opened up the way. No man on his own can find God by seeking Him. Nor can man *reconcile* himself to God. But, as we have seen, Christ has made *peace* between man and God by the *blood* of His cross.
- Now you can take your problems and troubles to Him and leave them with Him. You have an abundant, open, free entry, by the *blood* of *Jesus Christ*. Go to Him, look to Him, stay your mind upon Him, and begin to enjoy His blessed *peace*. Christ gives *peace* with God, *peace* with others, *peace* within ourselves. It is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Do you have this *peace*? Are you rejoicing in it? It can be yours now, and evermore.

Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access (*Joh 10:9*) *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

by one Spirit to the Father. (*1Co 12:13*) *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

- ***Through Him we both have access*** - The Son has taken us by the hand and has introduced us to the Father! He gives us *access* to something that we could never, ever have had! All by His *blood!* By His work! Whatever we are! All prejudices fall away because we have *access* by the Son! *Access* by the Spirit to the Father!
- Those *near* and *far* enjoy the same *access* to God, ***by one Spirit to the Father.*** Not only are *Jews* and *Gentiles* saved by the same gospel, but they also have the same essential walk with God and *access* to Him. One group does not have a greater *access* than the other does.
- How does He unite us? He makes us **all part of the same family!** That we all share the same Savior, the same *Father*, the same Holy *Spirit!*
- He gives us realities in our lives as a Christian that are so great, that they **are greater than** any individual thing or combination of things that would splinter us in the body of Christ! The truths that He has given us.
- Anywhere in the world, all those born again by the Holy Spirit, have an instant bond! Because of what we share in our Savior, the person of the Holy Spirit and in our heavenly Father, **is greater than all** those things that divide us!
- ***access by one Spirit to the Father*** Notice the proof of the *holy Trinity*. *Jews* and *Gentiles* are to be presented unto ***God the FATHER; the SPIRIT of***

God works in their hearts, and prepares them for this presentation; and **JESUS CHRIST Himself** introduces them.

Christ our Cornerstone!

Eph 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- ***You are no longer strangers and foreigners:*** You're family! You are no longer outside! You are no longer a stranger! You are part of the family! Welcome! The door is open. Come on in. You are part of the family, full and equal members of God's ***household***.
- ***fellow citizens with the saints.*** God's kingdom is made up of the people from all time who have trusted in Him. There are no ***strangers, foreigners***, or second-class ***citizens*** there.
- ***members of the household of God.*** Redeemed sinners not only become heavenly ***citizens*** but also ***members*** of God's own family. The Father bestows on all believers the same infinite love He gives His Son.
- Christian Unity - Nothing else can ever truly bring men together but this gospel. We discover that in this way, that nothing but the power of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit in the gospel can ever really bring men and women together.
- ***the responsibilities of all this?*** Because of all this, (***Mat 5:16***) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* With regard to every decision, we need to ask 'Is that sort of thing worthy of my Father's Son? Is it consistent with the family to which I belong, the Father who has put His own name on me and whom I represent among men?'

Eph 2:20 having been built (Mat 16:18) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being (1Pe 2:4) Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, (1Co 12:28) And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,

after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

- One of the great blessings we have is that we have a foundation. That's wonderful for our life's needs right now and in the future Jesus speaks of the **importance of the foundation: (Mat 7:24-27)** *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: [25] and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. [26] "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: [27] and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*
- The rock of course is Jesus, as we obey what He has commanded, building our lives on God's word! No matter how big the storms are, His word will never move under our feet! As believers we now have something we never had before – a firm, never changing, **foundation!** God's word will outlive every single thing that comes our way. We can stand on His every promise!
- **Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets:** Because we are *one* body and have the same access to God, it also follows that we are all built upon a common **foundation**. That **foundation** is the original **apostles and prophets**, and their enduring revelation, recorded in the New Testament. The **foundation** is already set. No one may ever lay any other **foundation**.

the chief cornerstone, (Psa 118:22) *The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.*

- The most important stone in any building was and is the **chief cornerstone**, from which every other stone is measured, thereby resulting and ensuring the whole building is perfectly and safely built!
- Before we came to the Lord, we had no **cornerstone**, but now we have Jesus! God saves us and then He gives us the life that we can measure against Him, everything we think, we do, we say and every motive of our heart. Would Jesus think that? Do that? Do say that? If He wouldn't, then it doesn't measure up! I'm not going to do that! Or vice a versa!
- The church is to be a safe place! Can you believe that you have Him for life? That God has in His heart a desire to make me like Him! What an infinite blessing, that blessing alone! Is Jesus Christ, the all-important **chief cornerstone**, the most important thing in your life?

Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together (join together with chosen, picked), grows into a holy

temple in the Lord, (1Co 3:16-17) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [17] If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

- As we keep to our common ***foundation***, the ***whole building*** of God's people grows together in a beautiful way, as a ***holy temple*** where God dwells in beauty and glory. The Church is a ***whole building***, perfectly designed by the Great Architect. It is not a haphazard pile of stones, randomly dumped in a field. God arranges the Church for His own glory and purposes. (***Rev 21:3***) *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God*
- In our lives, everything is measured off Christ! The way we live morally, love people, forgive people, our attitudes, Lord should I do this? Is this what You want me to do?
- As we each individually take and measure our life, individually off of Jesus Christ our ***chief cornerstone*** we don't have to worry about the whole rest of the ***building***, all the other "stones". I'll end up in my place! You'll end up in your place, the ***whole building*** gets perfectly built, ending up being a totally safe building, built ***together*** just right, all measured off the one true spot – of the ***Chief Cornerstone***, Jesus Christ! - ***in whom the whole building, being fitted together, (1Pe 2:5) you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

Eph 2:22 in whom you also are being built together

- ***for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Joh 17:23) I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (1Co 6:19-20) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? [20] For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (2Co 6:16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK***

AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

- ***You also are being built together*** When Solomon's temple was built, the stones were prepared at a place far from the temple building site. There was no sound of a hammer or ax or other iron tools at the site (***1Ki 6:7***). In the same way, God **prepares us first**, and **then He fits us** into His building
- The Church is a ***dwelling place***. The term for ***dwelling*** connotes a permanent home. (***Rev 21:3***) ***And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. God the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in His earthly sanctuary, the church, the vast spiritual body of all the redeemed!***
- How well do you know ***God***? Are you confident that you've been born again? Going from being dead in your sins and being reborn in the Spirit to now being alive forever! Do you fear death? Do you know where you be when you take your last breath?
- (***1Jn 5:11-13***) ***And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. [12] He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. [13] These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.***

Closing Prayer: