

Ephesians
Lesson #9, Chapter 2:11-22

Read all of Chapter 2 before beginning today's lesson. Ask God to embed these truths into your heart.

1. Briefly summarize the contents of verses 1-10.

2. Based on all the truths of verses 1-10, what are you supposed to remember (verses 11-12)?

3. Who are the *uncircumcision* and who are the *circumcision*? Where did these names come from? See Gen. 17:10-11; Ex. 12:48; Judges 14:3; 1 Sam. 14:6; Gal. 2:9.
 - a. Why does Paul call one group the *so-called* circumcision? See Rom. 2:17-29; Phil. 3:3.

4. In verses 11-12 Paul explains that the Gentiles had no hope of knowing the One True God, who had revealed Himself to the Jewish nation, but verse 13 explains that a change took place. What happened?

5. How is the blood of Christ able to bring the Gentiles near? See also Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9.

6. What do you learn about Christ and what He did in verses 14-16?

7. Why did the Jews and Gentiles need to know those truths from verses 14-16? Why was this information crucial to the early church?

8. What do the following verses teach you about the unity of the body of Christ and how we are to treat each other? See 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:16-17; Gal. 6:15; Col. 3:10-11.

9. Maintaining the unity of the body of Christ is not a first century concept; it is still to be applied today. When do you find it a challenge to remember that when we are true believers in Christ, we are one body together?

10. Verse 16 reminds us of what needs to happen first before there can ever be true unity of believers. What is it?

11. Define *reconcile* [Strong's #604]. Also look at Col. 1:20, 22 to see how the same Greek word is used.

12. Paul is quoting Is. 57:19 in verse 17. What point is Paul trying to make as he quotes that Old Testament passage? Also look at Rom. 10:12-15 and note how it is similar to Eph. 2:17.

13. Verse 18 tells us because we have received the good news preached to us, we have *access* to God. Define *access* [Strong's #4318].

14. Before you were reconciled to God through Jesus Christ's death on the cross were you able to have access to God? Why? See 2:3.

15. Look up the following verses and explain what you learn about the person who desires to have access to God and the results of being able to have access to God. See Ps. 24:3-6; 42:1-2; 65:3-4; Jn. 14:6; Eph. 3:11-12; Col. 1:21-22; Heb. 10:19-22.

16. Have you thanked God for allowing you to enter into His holy presence through Jesus Christ? Write out a short prayer of thanksgiving for this privilege.

17. Because Christ has reconciled us to God through His blood on the cross, what is true of you? Verse 19.

18. Briefly describe what it is like to be a *stranger* or an *alien* in a foreign land.
 - a. Now describe what is like to no longer be that stranger or alien, but a *citizen* of that land and not only a citizen, but a member of the royal household. See also Phil. 3:20.

19. What is happening to God's household according to verses 19-22?

20. According to verses 21-22 *when* is all this being done?

21. What is the building's purpose (verses 21-22)?

22. How should knowing your purpose as part of the building change your daily life?

23. We've all heard the phrase, "It's not all about you." If ever that statement was true, it is true regarding the Church. Through salvation individuals become one body to give glory to God. What are some specific ways you can apply what you have learned in this lesson the next time you gather together with the Saints for worship?

"For as a kingdom, divided into many shires, and more towns and villages, is called one, because it hath one and the same king, one and the same law; so the church is one, because it lives by one and the same Spirit, and is ruled by one and the same Lord, and professes one and the same faith; has one and the same hope, and has been baptized with one and the same baptism." ~Nehemiah Rogers¹

¹Nehemiah Rogers, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, Ed. I. D. E. Thomas, (The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989), 54.