

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 2:11-18]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your personal devotion with the Lord, what has the Lord revealed to you through His word this past week? If not, what is keeping you from the Lord?
- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Who can give us a recap of Ephesians up to this point?

[Key Themes: Called, Predestined, Sealed by the Holy Spirit, Inheritance, Illumination, Dead in our trespasses, Mercy, Grace, etc.]

2. Let's read our primary text. What theme is evidenced in this text? What key words/phrases do you see that lead to you to that conclusion?

Unity - [Example: v.14 who has made us both one, v.15 create in himself one new man, v.16 reconcile us both]

3. Verse 11 is referring to different people groups. Who is Paul referring to here? Why were terms like circumcision used?

Gentiles were those who were not Jewish. They were also called "the uncircumcision" (a term of derision) by many Jews because Jewish people were regarded as God's covenant people and they practiced circumcision as instructed by God (Genesis 17:10). Therefore, Gentiles were outside of this covenant and were an uncircumcised people.

4. In this letter, what people group is Paul primarily addressing? Why does he say that his audience "were at one time separated from Christ?"

Paul is addressing a primarily Gentile audience. As alluded to in the previous question, to be separated from Old Testament Judaism was to be separated from Christ. As describe in Scripture, "salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22, Romans 15:1).

5. This block of text describes a change that occurred in the spiritual status of a Gentile believer.

What changed? What did this change imply?

Jesus' blood unified all people groups and provided reconciliation for all, even those who were far off (Acts 2:39). His death brought Gentiles near, which equaled access to God, which also meant that salvation was available to them.

6. Christ breaks down the dividing wall of hostility, killing it. He also abolishes the law of commandments (v.15). Does this mean Christ did away with the Ten Commandments?

No. Christ abolished the ordinances that restricted Gentiles from approaching or drawing near to the Temple of God. Christ puts this to death, both in the physical and spiritual realm. All can now draw near to the throne of grace through the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

7. What does the word Gospel actually mean? What kind of news was this for the Gentiles?

Good News. The "good news" of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

8. BONUS TRIVIA:

- Who is best known for taking the gospel to the Gentiles? Paul.

- In what book and chapter did God reveal that the gospel is for the Gentiles also? Acts 10.

- How did God first initiate this good news and with what person? Peter received a vision from the Lord.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.