Sunday, March 14, 2021

You are Included in God's Covenant

Ephesians 2:11-18

David H. McKinley

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11-13Do not lose sight of the fact that you were born "Gentiles," known by those whose bodies were circumcised as "the uncircumcised." You were without Christ, you were utter strangers to God's chosen community, the Jews, and you had no knowledge of, or right to, the promised agreements. You had nothing to look forward to and no God to whom you could turn. But now, through the blood of Christ, you who were once outside the pale are with us inside the circle of God's love and purpose. 14-18For Christ is our living peace. He has made a unity of the conflicting elements of Jew and Gentile by breaking down the barrier which lay between us. By His sacrifice He removed the hostility of the Law, with all its commandments and rules, and made in Himself out of the two, Jew and Gentile, one new man, thus producing peace. For He reconciled both to God by the sacrifice of one body on the cross, and by this act made utterly irrelevant the antagonism between them. Then He came and told both you who were far from God and us who were near that the war was over. And it is through Him that both of us now can approach the Father in the one Spirit. —Ephesians 2:11-18 (J.B. Phillips New Testament)

1Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3… in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
—Genesis 12:1-2, 3b

"Gentile believers are not merely outsiders participating in the promise. They are counted as the children of Abraham; they are part of restored Israel. They aren't merely beneficiaries of the promise made to Abraham; they are the children of Abraham... The restored Israel consists of both Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus." —Thomas Schreiner

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his Offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your Offspring," who is Christ. —Galatians 3:16

Notes:

1. _____ Anxiety

[28]For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. [29]But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
—Romans 2:28-29

"Apart from Christ, you are farther from God than you feared. In Christ, you are closer to God than you hoped."
—Mark Driscoll

2. _____ Idolatry

[27]For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28]There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29]And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. —Galatians 3:27-29

3. _____ Community

[9]After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10]and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
—Revelation 7:9-10

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David H. McKinley, Pastor-Teacher

davidhmckinley.com

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