

“THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS”

CHAPTER TWO

THEME: “RECONCILED TO GOD BY CHRIST” Verse 16

MAIN DIVISIONS:

1. “ALIVE FROM THE DEAD” 1-7
2. “MEANS OF REVIVAL” 8-10
3. “RECONCILED IN ONE BODY” 11-22

INTRODUCTION:

During the Mosaic period the world was divided into two distinct groups from a religious point of view: The Jews and the Non-Jews (Gentiles)

Religiously and morally the Jews were close to God because they had His laws and the Gentiles were far from God because they practiced what their forefathers had invented - Psalm 147:19-20, Psalm 148:14

Yet God wanted to attract people with good and honest hearts from both sides to Him – but since they were so divided and antagonistic towards each other, how was God going to do it?

Would the Gentile have to become a Jew or would the Jew have to become a Gentile?

BODY:

1. ALIVE FROM THE DEAD:

- a. Paul first addresses the Gentile and says that their spiritual death meant that they were alienated from God. Ephesians 4:8, Colossians 1:21
- b. However Jesus promised long before that He had the power to allow those who obeyed Him to pass from death to life. John 5:24
- c. He then also includes the Jew not for the fact that they were far from God like the Gentile but because even though they had the laws of God did not keep them and so became just as alienated from God like the Gentile. Titus 3:3
- d. Because of God’s great love for all mankind He set out to redeem all of them. John 3:16, Romans 5:8
- e. Not only did this kindness and love compel God to raise them to life again but He also made them sit together on a higher plane in the spiritual realm. Revelation 20:6

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind and by nature children of wrath

Walked according to the course of this world according to the prince of the power of the air

2. MEANS OF REVIVAL:



THE GIFT OF GOD

- a. Since man was dead there was nothing he could do to bring about this new life by himself but just have reliance on God to effect it. Romans 4:16
- b. It therefore could never be by works of merit that he would achieve this new standing with God and as a consequence cannot boast about any achievement of his own. II Timothy 1:9
- c. However God who arranged this new life has the right to direct man in response to his gratitude to go about doing certain good works which God dictates. Titus 2:14

3. RECONCILED IN ONE BODY:

- a. In order to achieve this feat God required of both Jew and Gentile to move to a new position than either of them occupied before. Acts 2:39
- b. Thus creating an organization where neither the advantage of the Jew nor the disadvantage of the Gentile played a part. Galatians 3:28, 6:15
- c. The one thing that stood as the embodiment of the disparity between the Jew and the Gentile was the law that God had given to the Jew with which God had to do away, thus creating peace between Jew and Gentile as well as between God and man. Isaiah 57:19
- d. The result was that both Jew and Gentile now had access to God through one Spirit. I Corinthians 12:13 and would now be known as the household of God. Hebrews 12:23
- e. The apostles and prophets would have the task of presenting this new body with a new law thus equipping them for growth. I Corinthians 3:9-10
- f. This spiritual house is the organization that is God's dwelling place.

g. II Corinthians 6:16, I Peter 2:5



THE HOUSE OF GOD

CONCLUSION:

- ❖ Peace can only be achieved if both parties in the war relinquished something.
- ❖ The Jew had to become something other than a Jew and the Gentile had to become something other than a Gentile to be able to enjoy peace.
- ❖ Jesus paid the supreme sacrifice in order to enable man to have peace with God.
- ❖ Now that the design of the plan was manifested both parties could through one Spirit enjoy fellowship with God.