

The King's Highway

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Gentile Believers In Christ

by Rev. F. A. Dunlop

Whatever smattering of Jewish Christians may have been in the Church at Ephesus, the Ephesian letter was definitely written to non-Jewish Christians.

Chapter two is a "before and after" word picture. What they were and what they are is graphically set forth. The key phrases are: "In Christ", "without Christ". These facts spell out what they were and what they now are.

"Without Christ" presents a sordid picture of sin, servitude, fleshly lusts, and spiritual death. Conforming to sin and Satan, and feeding every unholy desire was in keeping with their very nature. They walked "according to the course of this world", they lived under the "wrath of God". This is the picture Paul holds before them and in it they have no difficulty recognizing themselves, as they were.

But if the phrase "without Christ" presents a sordid picture, the phrase "in Christ" presents a spiritual sunburst. Verse 19 to the end of the chapter describes the difference.

Verse 19 sets forth their exalted status in Christ. "No more strangers and foreigners". The word "now" in this verse suggests that this has not always been their position. Not belonging to God's chosen people they knew nothing of God's covenants of promise; having neither prophets nor seers they had no inspired word from God. Visiting Jerusalem, if they ever did, they were shut off from the true worshipers - the middle "wall of partition" was very evident. Until the Christian evangel came to them they had no hope, and no God. But now, "in Christ Jesus" peace with God and peace with the people of God is theirs. All distinctions are abolished. Saul the one-time religious bigot, was now, a brother beloved in the Lord. Whatever Christ as Saviour meant to any man, He meant as much to every man. Christ has spoken out of the new Covenant: "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and there shall be one fold and one Shepherd". The ground is very level at the Cross!

Second, they are now "fellow-citizens with the saints." God, in Christ, had been at work for some time building a Christian Society. Some illustrious names were on the National Roster. The list is much too long to call, but Paul boldly affirms that every believer in Ephesus is a citizen of Heaven and is eligible for high office. These Believers, are "fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." Even Jerusalem had little to offer these folk—their Capital had been moved to the Skies.

Third, they belong to the "household of God". Something mighty has happened to allow for this. Men who were by nature, "children of wrath" have become son's of God. Such a transition was a costly process. To make

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An Amazing Offer

It is an amazing thing that the Lord has spoken. It is more amazing that He still speaks.

A few weeks ago the Lord gave me this promise. "The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow." Deut. 28:12.

Less than a week later I received, in writing, the following proposition from the Presque Isle Industrial Council. They agree to give us fourteen buildings and grounds on the following conditions. "Our only requirement would be that the Bible College show us that they would use the buildings, keep them in good repair and maintain the grounds."

Later in talking with the director of the Council he said, "We will lease this property to you for two or three years and then we will give you a deed of it. "This property I would estimate cost half a million dollars to build. It is pleasantly located and is in a good state of repair.

What would you suggest that we do with this promise and proposition? Rev. L. H. Hicks
Pastor, Fredericton, N. B.

Prayer for Holiness

Savior from sin, we Thee receive
From all indwelling sin;
Thy blood, we steadfastly believe
Shall make us thoroughly clean.

Since thou wouldst have us free from sin,
And pure as those above,
Make haste to bring Thy nature in
And perfect us in love.

—Charles Wesley.

it possible Christ had to sleep the sleep of death. When on the Cross, His side was opened by the spear (like Eve was taken out of the side of the first Adam) a new race was born—born "flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone." The very life of Christ had flowed into them making them partakers of the Divine nature, implanting within them characteristics akin to the spirit of God. God wanted them citizens, loyal, good, but God wanted them to come closer - very much closer. Yes, He is God, reigning on His throne, but He is more than this to the believer: He is a Father, delighting in the love and fellowship of His family. Today, the family is divided, many are with Him in Glory, others are scattered over the face of the whole Earth, but they bear one name (Ephesians 3:15) and belong to one household. Ever the number in Heaven increases. Soon, very soon, we shall take our place with them - then we shall appreciate for the first time our full status "in Christ".

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