

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:11-13.**
- B. Even while dead in our sins and transgressions, God saved us on the basis of His grace.
- C. We have now been created in X Jesus as His workmanship for good works. To more fully appreciate this one needs only to look back at the condition of man before his conversion. Remember what you were!
- D. What the Gentiles were, were spiritually, physically and politically bankrupt unto God. When one really understands this pitiful plight he can better appreciate what he now has in X.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE (Eph. 2:12-13).

- A. **First, you were separate from X:**
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. This means no longing for a Messiah.
 - 2. No atonement for sin.
 - 3. No assurance of pardon.
 - 4. No hope of eternal life....this is a life destitute of peace and hope.
- B. **Second, you were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel:**
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. A commonwealth is a nation or state with self-government united by common interests.
 - 2. Aliens to that in this case does not mean hostile but strangers to.
 - 3. The Jews had a law, a temple, Sabbaths, ordinances and a religious life not known or practiced by the Gentiles.
- C. **Third, you were strangers to the covenant of promise:**
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. All of the Messianic prophecies were made to the Jews alone!
 - 2. So in effect the Jews had all the blessings, all the prophecies and all of the revelation about God (see Rom. 3:1-2).
- D. **Fourth, you had no hope in the world:**
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. Hope equals desire plus expectation.
 - 2. Hopelessness is no desire plus no expectation.
 - 3. The text here probably means to have no basis or ground on which to build hope. The Jews had such a basis for hope in X, the Gentiles did not.
 - 4. The Gentiles were in a hopeless condition (fortunately some of the Law of Moses contained prophecies about the Gentiles not to them for future salvation).
 - 5. In X we have hope for all things including eternal life.
- E. **Fifth, you were without God in the world:**
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - 1. The Greek here literally means atheist, that is, without God or the effects of God.

2. Being an atheist has the following results:
 - a. No evidence of His favor.
 - b. No assurance of His love.
 - c. No hope of dwelling with Him.
 - d. No worship that is pleasing.
 - e. No reverence of His will.
 - f. No confidence in His promises.
 - g. No altar on which to adore and praise.
 - h. No sacrifice to make one acceptable.
 - i. No hope in this life or beyond.
 - j. No counselor in perplexity.
 - k. No support in death.
- F. Once again all of this means that without X, as a Gentile we are completely physically, politically and spiritually bankrupt unto God. Remember what you were!

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The good news of all of this is found then in 2:13. It would be good to preach all of 2:13-18, but for now my we understand the power of change that is available in the blood of X (Eph. 2:13).
(Eph 2:12-13) ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- B. Bankruptcy now turns into wealth! We now have:
 1. X, and are no longer separate from Him.
 2. Spiritual Israel, the church, to live in (Gal. 6:16).
 3. A covenant better than the old one with better promises (Heb. 8:7).
 4. A great hope in which we are saved from sin (Rom. 8:24).
 5. Every spiritual blessing in this life to take us to heaven (Eph. 1:3).
- C. When it comes to money 99 out of 100 people will choose wealth over bankruptcy; yet when it comes to Xianity it seems that 99 out of 100 people choose bankruptcy over wealth!
- D. Choose wealth with God over the bankruptcy of sin.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.