

SERMON NOTE: We Are Citizens of GOD's Kingdom

By Rev Raymond Ho

Bible Ref: Ephesians 2:11-21 NIV

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.



<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.2.11-21.NIV>

Jews were the Nation chosen, near to GOD, But in CHRIST, both Jews n Gentiles were made one.

Paul reminded the Ephesians- that once there were an alienated humanity.

We were barricaded from GOD by the Jews
as uncircumcised

A Church should not separate ourselves from the world, even the Church member have very good fellowship and really love one another among members.

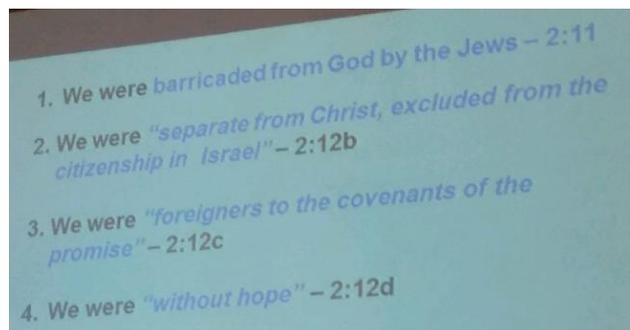
we were separated from CHRIST, excluded
from the Citizens in Israel
we were foreigner to the covenant of promise

1 Cor 8:5- had many gods n lords

1 Corinthians 8:5 NIV

For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “Lords”),

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1co.8.5.NIV>



Archeologists have dug up first-century cemeteries in various places in Greece and Rome and have found many tombstones which bear upon them the Greek or Latin words for "No hope."

In the Roman world of that day, despair reigned everywhere. If we read the writings of the Roman philosophers and thinkers of that day, we find always a philosophy of despair relating to a meaningless existence.

In America, some brilliant scientists have devoted themselves to a project called "Cyclops." It involves spending large sum of money to explore the universe with telescopes and other means in an effort to discover a higher level of civilization than we know here.

That shows how pagan the world has become once more - drifting back into darkness, loneliness, hopelessness...

What JESUS CHRIST had done ?

Ephesians 2:13-18 NIV

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.2.13-18.NIV>

Deuteronomy 4:7 NIV

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

<https://bible.com/bible/111/deu.4.7.NIV>

Psalms 148:14 NIV

And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord .

<https://psalm.bible/psalm-148-14>

In Deut.4:7, Moses says, "What great nation is there that has a God so near to it as the Lord our God is to us?"

Psalms 148:14 - "The people of Israel who are near to him."

By contrast, the Gentile nations were "far away," peoples who had to be summoned "from afar" (Isaiah 49:1).

But God promised in Isaiah 57:19 that one day he would speak, "Peace, peace, those far and near," a promise which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Eph.2:17).

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

<https://hebrews.bible/hebrews-4-16>

V19a

GOD'S Kingdom

V19b

Colossians 3:11 NIV

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/col.3.11.NIV>

Galatians 3:28 NIV

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all

one in Christ Jesus.

<https://galatians.bible/galatians-3-28>

V16- HE reconcile the Jews and gentiles to GOD

We now became the New Society

Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.2.19-22.NIV>

Are we talking our GOD'S Kingdom citizenship for granted?

Just think of our rights compared to those of the immigrants?

How much more are we as citizens of GOD'S Kingdom?

So if we are citizens of GOD'S Kingdom, we should learn to live as one, to love one another, and be GOD'S Holy Temple

The foundation - the apostles, the teaching of apostles (from CHRIST)

The Corner Stone - is a huge stone serve as Foundation and also lays the assignment of the building.

And CHRIST is the Chief Corner Stone.

The Stones - we are to be the stones the sticks together to form the structures of the building, like a wall, if one stone is took out from it, well not the wall collapse?

Conclusion

Remember we were once alienated from GOD and HIS chosen people.

we now being to the New Society in GOD'S Kingdom

we are fellow citizens with GOD'S people.

We belong to GOD'S Family,

We are HIS temple.