

Without Jesus = Without Hope

Sermon Based Life Group study for the week of April 28

Getting To Know Each Other

- From where did your ancestors emigrate? Did they become citizens of this country? Share the story.
- Have you ever been treated poorly because of your ethnic, racial, religious or political background. Share. Have you seen those walls of division/persecution removed?

Into the Bible

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

- Verse 11, the verse begins with the word, “Therefore.” Why is the therefore, there for? List at least three major points from Ephesians 2:1-10.
- Why does Paul urge us to “remember” our separation from God? See verse 11 and 12. Why is it important to know our sinful state before coming to Jesus?
- Describe the conflict between the Jews and the Gentiles in the 1st century Roman world. How have you seen major conflict today between different people groups? Share.
- What does the word “Gentile” mean? Are you ethnically a Jew or a Gentile?
- Read Matthew 7:22-23. In what possible ways are church goers today also separated from Jesus? What can we learn about practicing religious activity?
- In verses 11-12, list the things that Gentiles miss out on in faith.
- How did Jesus intervene? What was the source of our possible reconciliation? Verse 13
- Explain spiritually what happened when we accept Jesus’ shed his blood for us. How has our position changed?
- In verses 14-18, what is the benefit that Jesus bought for us on the cross?
- In verse 14, what are the two effects of peace? Discuss what the barrier was, both physically and spiritually.
- In verse 15-16, what is the “new man” God created for us through Jesus?
- What do all people now have access to? See verses 17-18
- Read Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:6-7. Explain the difference between the “peace with God” and the “peace of God.”
- What is the metaphor that Paul uses to describe our relationship with each other? V 19
- Explain the three parts of the foundation of God’s house. What do the apostles, prophets and Jesus represent?
- In verse 21-22, what does the church become? Who dwells in us?
- Application: If Paul wrote our church a letter today, what conflict or division would he address? How open would our church be to responding to being changed? Discuss
- Application: What relationship in your life still has walls to be knocked down? Share
- Application: Share the time when Jesus brought you, from afar, closer to Him.
- Application: What “shaky” parts of your life needs to rest on the foundation of the Old and New Testament, with Jesus holding it all together?