

Ephesians 2:11-22



The text – Ephesians 2: 11-22

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. This passage in Ephesians commences with the word “therefore”. Why? What is the “therefore” referring to?
2. Who are “Gentiles”? Ephesians 2:11-13 is about the Gentiles. In what sense were Gentiles “far away” from God?
3. Ephesians 2:14 uses the word “our” rather than “you” – “he himself is our peace”. What does this mean?
4. In what sense has “the law with its commands and regulations” been set aside?
5. Note and discuss the references to God as Father, Son and Spirit in 2:14-18.
6. Ephesians 2:19 again makes reference to “you” – “you are no longer foreigners and strangers”. Who is being referred to as “you”?
7. Ephesians 2:19-22 is one of the great descriptions of the church in Scripture. Discuss the images that are used to describe the church in the passage.

The Scriptures – Ephesians 2: 11-22 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Read and discuss Genesis 17:1-14. This is the passage in which the covenant sign of circumcision is introduced. What do you learn about God’s dealings with Abraham and subsequently Israel from this important passage of Scripture?
9. The Law was given to Israel after the Exodus from Egypt. It made Israel unique among all the nations. How did that Law become a barrier between Israel and other nations? Read and discuss, for example, Deuteronomy 7:1-6.
10. Old Testament prophets promised that there would be peace between the nations. In Ephesians 2, this peace is realised (and will be fully realised) through Jesus. Read and discuss, for example, Isaiah 2:1-5.
11. Where do the images of “foundation”, “chief cornerstone”, “building”, and “holy temple” come from in Old Testament Scripture? Find some references that inform this passage in Ephesians.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 2: 11-22 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. What do you love about the church? What do you find frustrating or disappointing?
13. How do you respond to the vision of the church as “the new humanity” in Ephesians 2? How can it be realised in our churches?
14. How will this study of Ephesians 2:11-22 impact your discipleship? What will you do as a result of this study?