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Basis of the Mystery of the Gospel (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Introduction

In order to understand this passage in 2:11-22 one has to understand the disunity in the human race before Christ. Jews were chosen to be God's people to bring salvation to the world. They had a unique identity of customs, dress, diet, and worship. Yet, they were to be a missionary people (see Exod 19:6-8). Instead of developing their missionary purpose they developed a narrow nationalistic exclusivism (Exod 19:5) that may be seen in the ministry of the prophet Jonah. The Jews could not tolerate Gentile faith in Yahweh. Therefore, the Jews missed their missionary mandate and God ultimately raised up the Gentiles to bring salvation to the Jews, Romans 10:19 and 11:11.

- I. **The Former Sad State of Gentiles: A People "Without," 2:11-12**
 1. Gentiles: A People without a Messiah (uncircumcision), 2:11-12a
 2. Gentiles: A People without Citizenship (aliens), 2:12a
 3. Gentiles: A People without the Covenants of Promise, 2:12b
 4. Gentiles: A People without Hope, 2:12c
 5. Gentiles: A People without God in the World, 2:12d

- II. **"But Now": The Gentiles' New Status in Christ, 2:13-18**
 1. Those "far off" and brought "near" by the blood of Christ, 2:13
 2. Enmity and alienation of Gentiles replaced by peace, 2:14a
 3. Separation replaced in believers by status and unity, 2:14b-15a
 4. Commands (law) replaced by Christ's fulfillment of law (grace), 2:15b
 5. Jews and Gentiles both become one by faith in Christ, 2:16-18

- III. **Christ the Basis for Unity between Jew and Gentile, 2:19-22**
 1. Fellow citizenship for Jews and Gentiles in God's family, 2:19
 2. Foundational truth from prophets, and apostles of Messiah, 2:20a
 3. Jesus the Chief Cornerstone of this new unity, 2:20b
 4. Building fit together to grow into a holy temple of God, 2:21
 5. Believers built as a spiritual dwelling place, 2:22