

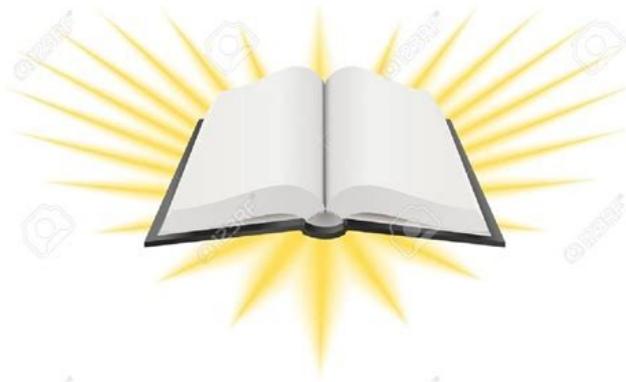
that they may be one

John 17:20-22 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

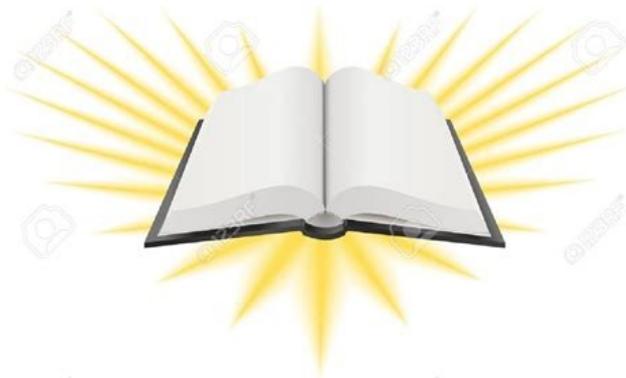
Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- 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 through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.



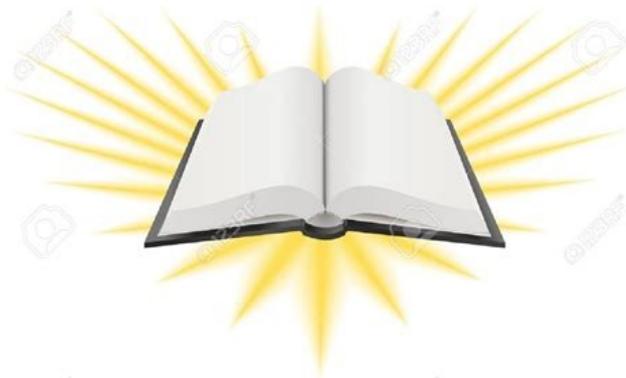
Ephesians 2:11-22

His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this 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.



Ephesians 2:11-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's 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.



Therefore,
remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth

Therefore, because we are God's workmanship
Remember ... (still to come – something else to add first)
Addressing Ephesian majority – gentile background.

Why remember – what you used to be



and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)--

The Jewish attitude/view of Gentiles

Uncircumcised – not part of God's people/ unclean outsiders ignorant of God and his laws

Circumcision = the Jewish people

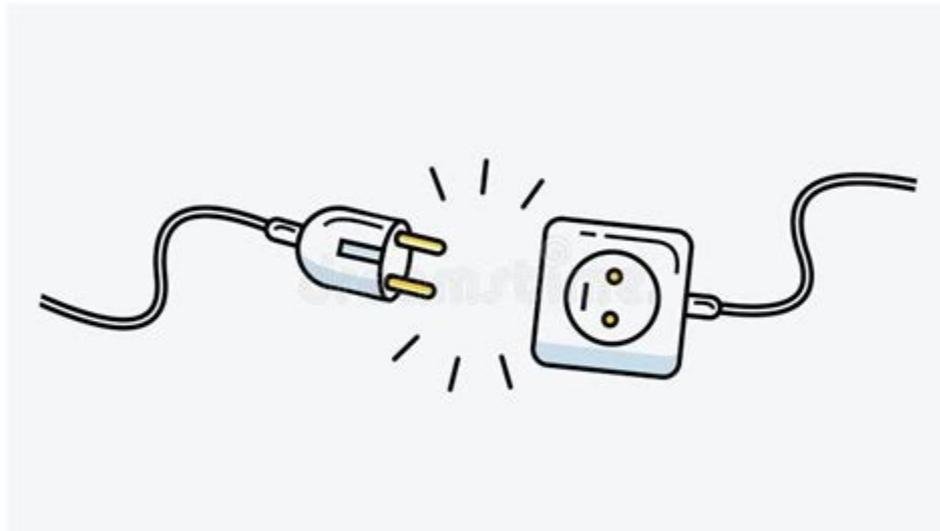
Insight to real circumcision – not something simply external – done by humans



remember that at that time you were separate from Christ,

Remember – appreciate what has been done for you

You were separate from Christ (no knowledge of, or relationship with this most wonderful person)



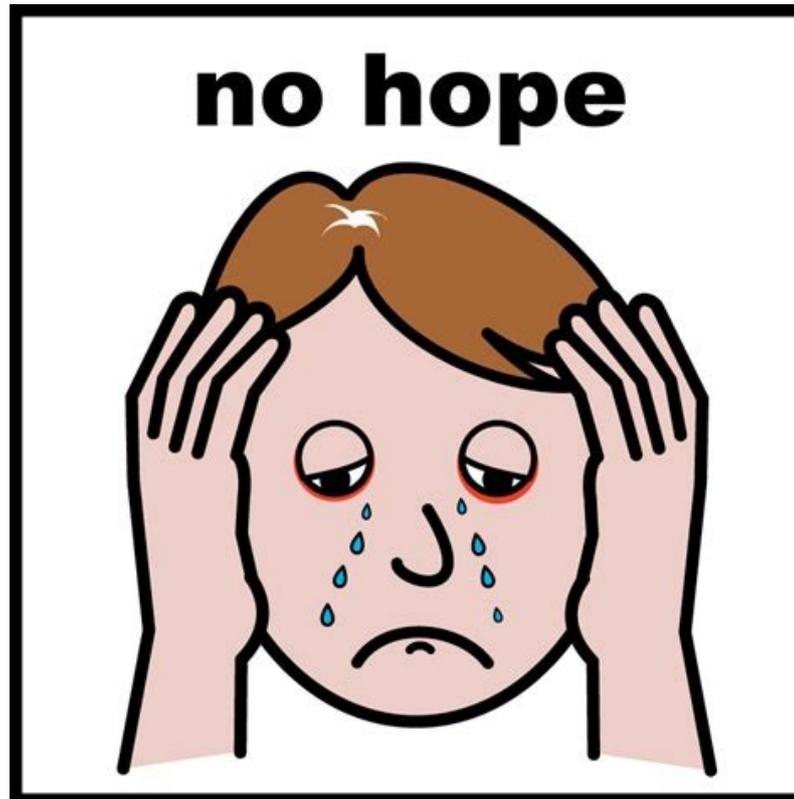
excluded from citizenship in Israel
and foreigners to the covenants of the promise,

As a result of our separation from Christ
We had no part in membership of God's people Israel.
As foreigners the covenants and the promises they
contain didn't apply to us
You gentiles didn't belong



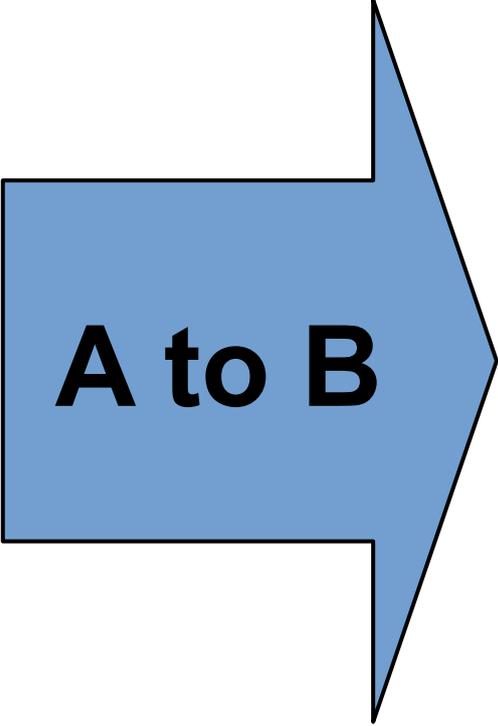
without hope and without God in the world.

The desperate and sorry state of the non-Christian
Lost, hopeless – purposeless
No link to God - the only help in a dangerous world



But now

What a contrast – when God steps into our lives
and circumstances – things are very different

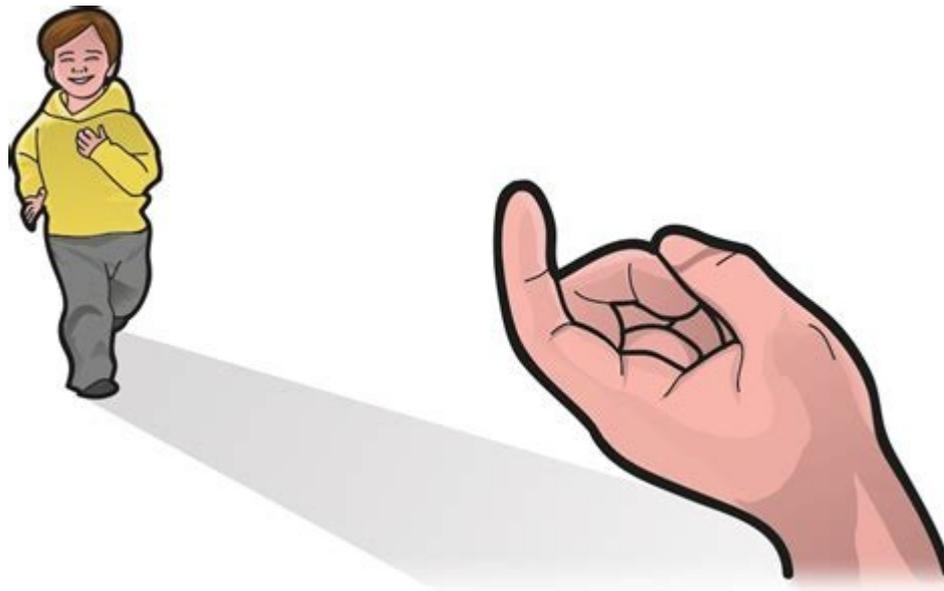


A to B

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away
have been brought near

In Christ Jesus – through our union by faith in this amazing
person – Jesus the Messiah (promised and appointed by God)

Far away – completely outside
Brought (his doing) near (the result) close to God and his people.
Welcome home to the family.



brought near through the blood of Christ.

This is the heart of the atoning work of Jesus his sacrificial death on the cross for us.



For he himself is our peace,

Having him in our lives brings us the knowledge of the forgiveness he provides

We have peace with God when we have him.

Peace – shalom – absence of conflict and complete wholeness.



For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one

He has brought the war to an end by uniting the
opposing groups

We are one with fellow believers – practice needed!



and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,
by abolishing in his flesh
the law with its commandments and regulations.

The cause of the conflict – them and us
By his atoning sacrifice – physical death
He bore the curses and penalties of the law

We all come to recognise we have broken God's laws
and are completely unable to keep them in order to get
the blessings. We all stand on the same ground.

Jesus didn't come to destroy the law – but to fulfil its
requirements for us



His purpose was to create in himself
one new man out of the two, thus making peace,

God's plan -

A new creation of a new humanity from Jew and
Gentile – living at peace



and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God
through the cross,

Both Jew (near) and Gentile (far) need saving by
reconciling us to God (the sin question had to be dealt
with) by means of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
Faith in what Jesus has done for us brings us into a living
relationship with God



through the cross,
by which he put to death their hostility.

The cross reveals that it isn't 'them and us' but that we
are all sinners - 'us'



He came and preached peace to you who were far away
and peace to those who were near.

He came from heaven into our world's battle ground
And preached (the power of God's word – the truth)
Peace message to the world of Jew (near) and Gentile(far away)

Application to people we come across – the religious, kindly soul,
and the down and out



For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Jesus is 'the Way' - access – available for both groups

Note the Trinitarian relationship

Through Him – Jesus God's Son

The Father – we come to know him

By the working of the one – Holy Spirit.



Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens,

As a result of what he has done
We are no longer outsiders



but fellow citizens with God's people
and members of God's household,

But part of God's family (his people)
United with fellow believers – not second-class citizens

We belong!

The peace and security in knowing who we are by God's grace.

We belong
together

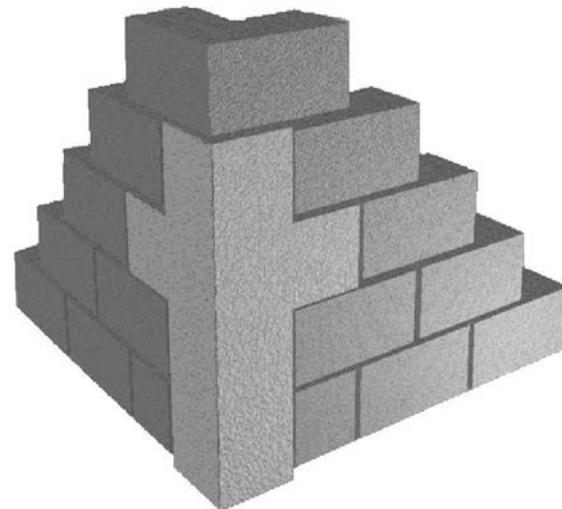


built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Paul moves from the family analogy to the idea of a building work

The foundational truths as given to the apostles and prophets (NT?) the one and only revelation.

All on the basis of the person and work of Jesus Christ.
The cornerstone is vital in the building work since it sets the angles for the corners.



In him the whole building is joined together
and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

This is the reason that Paul moves to a building analogy.
The ultimate temple (dwelling place) of God is in his
redeemed people. 2 Corinthians 6:16

The tabernacle, the temple were temporary means by
which God could meet with his people but the ultimate aim
is to be as it was in the Garden, and is seen fulfilled in the
city of Revelation 21:22 , where there is no physical temple
but God dwelling amongst his people. Cf the promise
running throughout the bible

“I will be their God and they shall be my people”



And in him you too are being built together
to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5 living stones

At present God has come to dwell in us so that we
may worship and serve him in this world.

The individual believer is a temple

The church on earth– gathered assembly, functions
as a temple

Those in heaven gather to worship in glory
cf. Hebrews 12:23– the church of the firstborn



in which God lives by his Spirit.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring the reality of this life to us

