



## Daily Manna for Wednesday

July 14, 2021

Prepared for you by

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### Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup>Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

You can hear so clearly in this passage the hope of reconciliation between people who are divided. Ephesians is a word for us today to be sure. The points of division may have been different for the people in the early church, but similarities are there. We know from Biblical studies that people divided along lines of religious heritage, ethnic background, class distinctions, Biblical interpretation, etc. Some of these divisions were very serious and could result in excluding some, withholding grace from others. Ephesians describes the result in the metaphor of a dividing wall. And then the definite message we get is that the wall is not of God, and in fact that in Christ that wall has been broken down. This is strong language. Walls don't come down easily. This wall of hostility came down at the cost of the cross and the reconciling love of Jesus Christ. And because of that love and that reconciliation we are built into a holy temple for the Lord, with Jesus as our cornerstone. And then my favorite part of this lesson just soars into the heights of spiritual affirmation by saying that you, yes, you also, are being built into a dwelling place for God. Awesome, beautiful, amazing! You, a dwelling place for God. Amen!