



Daily Manna for Thursday

July 15, 2021

Prepared for you by

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Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Remember 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—¹²remember 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. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵He 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, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Undisputed and Disputed Authorship

Our readings from Paul this upcoming Sunday is from Ephesians but is it actually from Paul? And does it matter? Romans through Titus in the New Testament are attributed to the Apostle Paul. All of these are letters are communications by Paul, either to early churches or to people that Paul knew. That could include other leaders or Apostles like him, but a few are disputed whether they were actually written by Paul. There are 6 disputed letters 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus. These are disputed due to their style and word choice in comparison to Paul. So what does that mean for their content? Well while they are perhaps not written by Paul they are still canonical to the Bible and they all share a similar theme. They are all meant to lead and encourage the growing early Church. Just because the letters are disputed in authorship does not dispute their value. In Ephesians we hear an excellent message, one that wishes for a breakdown of barriers. The theology tracks well with Jesus’s own words and gives an important view into an issue of the Ephesian Church. The question of “who are the chosen people”? those who are circumcise, or not? Or those who were once Jews or the newcomer Gentiles? The questions were answered well in this passage, that all are citizens with the saints. As well as impressing on those members that there are validities between both groups but both are welcome at the table.