But Now In Christ Jesus…

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 2:11–22

INTRODUCTION

- But what I want for you is for you to be in Christ. And that's what this lesson is about.
- I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling.
- Because misplaced values and worldly affections often prevent the proper perception of these things.

1 Remember You Were Separate From Christ

Ephesians 2:11–12; 1 Peter 2:11

- Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ. Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.
- None of these should appeal to us. None of these should seem desirable to us.
- You were separate. You were on the outside looking in.
- Better to be strangers in this world as they look at us than to be strangers to the covenant of promise.
- Without God, there's no worse condition than that.

2 But Now, Brought Near by the Blood of Christ

Ephesians 2:13–14; Acts 2:39; 1 Peter 1:18–19

- But now, you who were formerly far off, have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- For the promise is for you and for those who are afar off. As many as the Lord our God shall call.
- Don't ever forget the fact that we come into Christ at great cost. The blood of Christ.
- But what about being invited to the table of the King of Kings? And the Lord of Lords. That's the invitation of the gospel.
- He himself is our peace. He brings us into union with a perfect God, though we have been imperfect.

3 Thrive in Our Upward Calling as Fellow Citizens

Ephesians 2:19–22; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 3

- You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints. And are of God's household.
- There is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, bond or free, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Fellow citizens, now with this glorious purpose, we are people in whom God resides.

- And with that comes tremendous responsibility, a tremendous sense of purpose to what Jesus calls us to be and how he calls us to think.
- Coming under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit, living as he directs.

4 How Do I Come Into This Sphere?

Revelation 1:5; Romans 6:3–4; Galatians 3:26–27

- You should notice that all the good stuff is in Christ.
- No other sphere of belonging rivals this or is anything close.
- We're released from our sins by the blood of Christ.
- We die to sin because we believe he died for us. We died to sin. We're buried with him in baptism.
- As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

And number two, are you appreciating where you've come? And is that evident in how you're living? And what you're emphasizing in your life.

MY NOTES