

A close-up photograph of a sandy surface. In the center-left, a rusty metal cross is partially buried in the sand, with a trail of red, blood-like substance leading from its base towards the bottom center. To the right, a crown of thorns with sharp, dark brown thorns and some red, blood-like substance is visible. The background shows more sand and some wooden logs or branches.

IN: (PART 12)

“The Spiritual Exercise of Remembering”

Ephesians 2:11-12

Central Thought:

Focal Thought: We have a tendency to lose passion for who saved us (Jesus) because we forget what He saved us from. Or, in our lives, we look down upon those without Christ. Thus, REMEMBERING our destitute condition will intensify our love for Jesus, flood us with joy in our salvation, and cause us to be desperate for Him!

Ephesians 2:11-12

“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

Paul was showing the mystery of the gospel was that salvation was for God's people which also included Gentiles.

The Gentile inclusion was not a replacement program for the Jewish one. It was an expansion of the original plan to make one people from all the nations of the earth.

The utter lost condition of the Gentiles was not due to God but their own rebellion (Rom. 1:18-23). It's not a story of people having many gods only to discover the one true God but rather a people with one God and deviating to having many gods!

“Remember”

(μνημονεύετε) is in the imperative. It’s a command!

Problems Posed:

The Jews were looking down upon the Gentiles

Lived by external profession not internal life change

They were living as God's people religiously but not morally. (i.e. nationally and ritually but not morally)

They were supposed to be a channel of God's revelation and blessing but were not.

Now, the Gentiles needed to be reminded of how separated and hopeless they were before Jesus.

Why Is This So Important?

1. If you don't begin to try to fathom how utterly hopeless and helpless you were, you will never understand how GREAT He is.
2. We will live less powerfully because we will be more apt to rely on our own strength and not live from His provision of righteousness and power.
3. We will live lives that under appreciate Jesus and over estimate ourselves.

Why Is This So Important?

- 4. A sense of entitlement will creep into our walk with God.**
- 5. We may live feeling sorry for the “lost” but not with sorrow for the “lost”.**
- 6. Understanding how destitute we were will help us glory in nothing but the cross.**

Galatians 6:14-“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Remember The Misery of Who You Were By Nature:

1. **“Uncircumsion”**
2. **“Separated”**
3. **“Alienated from the commonwealth of Israel”**

There is no implication that the condition was the breakup of an original union; Israel is the covenant name of the Jewish people

4. **“Strangers to the covenants of promise”**

5. **“No hope”**

6. **“Without God in the world”**

Not without knowing about Him at all but living with no regard, desire, or attention given to Him.

Apply:

1. We should look in our hearts and see if we are living by an external profession or internal possession.
2. We don't live by ritual but love.
3. We are not to look down upon people outside of Christ. We are to be the blessing to them. We are to convey to them: Jesus, who He is and what He has done!
4. Regularly stop and remember your previous spiritual state of desperation especially when you sense you are becoming lukewarm toward Jesus.
5. Live with passion for Jesus because HE literally is YOUR LIFE!



THE SANCTUARY