

Aliens Among Us!

August 1st & 2nd, 2015

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So then...”

These are two of the most important words in this passage.

“So then” refers to all that God has done to this point in bringing us to Himself

- f* Because ... God has made us alive in Christ when we were dead to Him! *Ephesians 2:5*
- f* Because ... God saved and delivered us from the power of sin and Satan! *Ephesians 2:1-3*
- f* Because ... God created and designed us with a purpose for us to fulfill! *Ephesians 2:10*
- f* Because ... God, through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus, even though we were alienated from the truth about Almighty God, has brought us near to Him! *Ephesians 2:13*
- f* Because ... God has fulfilled His promise to Abraham (*Genesis 12:3*) and has blessed all nations through Abraham’s offspring by joining both Jews and Gentiles together in Christ! *Ephesians 2:15*
- f* Because ... God has given us access into His very presence! *Ephesians 2:19*

So then ... we are now His children and members of His glorious family!

“So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens,...”

Stranger: “...one who belongs to another country. ...”¹

Alien: “A foreigner; ...one who is not a citizen, or entitled to the privileges of a citizen.”¹

- ❖ We are all born “aliens” toward God!
- ❖ The Ephesian church was a Gentile church (like ours!)
 - f* Paul wanted them to remember the mercy and grace of God that had come to them.
“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.”
Ephesians 2:12
 - f* Paul wanted them to understand that now we, as God’s people, can enjoy all the privileges of being a part of God’s family!
“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
Ephesians 2:13

“Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God’s own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God’s [own] household.” Ephesians 2:19 Amplified Bible²

“...but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”

f “Saints” always refers to believers in Christ.

Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:10

- ❖ We, as Christians, are a living family – not an institution or a religious organization.
- ❖ We are a household! A household refers to domestic management and family affairs. We all have responsibilities and duties – each one doing their part to serve others out of love for the head of the household, Jesus!

“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ...”

- ❖ Every house has a foundation.

f God’s Word, through the apostles and prophets, is the foundation of the house with Christ Jesus being the cornerstone!

Cornerstone: “The stone that lies at the corner of two walls, and unites them; the principal stone...”¹

Cornerstone: “a stone representing the nominal starting place in the construction of a monumental building, usually carved with the date and laid with appropriate ceremonies.”³

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Isaiah 28:16 “therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ...’”

📖 1 Peter 2:6-8

“in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

- ❖ We are a living and growing holy temple!

f A temple is a place of worship.

- ❖ We are individually temples of God.

📖 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Romans 12:1 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

- ❖ We are corporately a temple.

f Every Christian is a “living stone” built together into a dwelling place for God!

1 Peter 2:4-5 “As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Let’s proclaim the message of God’s grace to all the other aliens among us here on earth!

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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³ “cornerstone.” *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 01 Aug. 2015.
<Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/cornerstone>>.

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