

“Gentiles Reconciled to God” (Ephesians 2:11–18)

Big Idea: Once far from God and his people, Gentiles are now reconciled in Christ crucified.

I. Meaning of the Text

a. The uncircumcised Gentiles were cut off from God and his covenant people. (verses 11–12)

i. The lack of bodily circumcision once excluded the Gentiles from Israel. (verse 11)

1 Corinthians 10:18; Romans 2:25–29; Philippians 3:2–3; Colossians 2:11

ii. The Gentiles had no claim on Israel’s Christ. (verse 12a)

iii. The Gentiles had no claim on Israel’s citizenship. (verse 12b)

iv. The Gentiles had no claim on Israel’s covenants. (verse 12c)

Romans 9:3–5

v. The Gentiles were part of a hopeless world without God. (verse 12d)

b. The crucified Christ reconciles Gentiles and Jews to God as one new man. (verses 13–18)

i. Christ’s blood atonement has brought Gentiles to God in Christ. (verse 13)

Galatians 3:13–14

ii. Christ’s bodily death has abolished the law which kept Gentiles separate from God and his people. (verses 14–15a)

iii. Christ’s bodily death has created a new body of humanity reconciled to God. (verses 15b–16)

iv. Christ’s gospel voice announces peace to Gentile and Jew alike. (verse 17)

Isaiah 9:6–7; 56:3–8; 57:15–21

Romans 10:14–17; John 10:2–4, 14–16, 27–28

- v. This peace is open access in one Christ and one Spirit to the Father. (verse 18)

II. Applications of the Text

- a. Sinner, trust Christ as your only claim upon God.

Philippians 3:3–9

- b. Christian, cherish the cross as your only peace with God.

- c. Christian, cherish the church as Christ's unified body.

Ephesians 4:1–6, 15–16; Romans 15:5–7