

“WITHOUT CHRIST”
Eph.2:1-3,11,12
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Have you ever stopped to give serious consideration to what it means to be “without Christ”? or not being “in Christ”?
2. To help impress one and all with the seriousness of being “without Christ” and/or not being “in Christ”

II. DISCUSSION

A. WE FIRST NOTE THE SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE EPHESIANS BEFORE THEIR CONVERSION AND THEIR SALVATION FROM PAST SINS AS RECORDED IN Eph.2:1-3,11,12.

1. They were at that time “without Christ” , i.e., apart from Christ, V.12a.
2. They “were dead in trespasses and sins,” V.1.
3. They were walking “according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the air, the spirit that...worketh in the children of disobedience, V.2.
 - a. They were of the world – in alienation from and opposition to God. Cf. Jno.8:23; 1Cor.2:12; Gal.6:14; Col.2:8; Jas.1:27; 1Jno.4:15; 5:19.
4. Their manner of life at that time was “in the lust of the flesh, fulfilling the desire of the flesh and the mind; and were by habitual practice the children of wrath,” V.3.
5. They were aliens.
 - a. An alien is a foreigner who belongs to another.
 - b. If one is without Christ, he is an alien; he belongs to another.
 - c. The one to whom he belongs is Satan, “the prince (god) of this world,” V.2; Cf. 2Cor.4:3,4.
 - d. The alien is a child of the devil; the devil is his father; he is under the power, authority, dominion of spiritual darkness, the power of Satan, Jno.8:44; Ac.13:10; Col.1:12,13; Ac.26:17,18.

6. They were strangers from the covenants of promise, V.12.
 - a. That is, in their spiritual state of being “without Christ” and “aliens,” they were also estranged from God’s promise of salvation and eternal life.

7. They were without hope – “having no hope,” V.12.
 - a. If one has no hope, he is without an “anchor of the soul,” Heb.6:18,19.
 - b. Without an anchor – a spiritual anchor in Christ – one would be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and (in) cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive,” Eph.4:14.
 - c. Without Christ or without being in Christ, it isn’t possible to have any true, genuine hope.

8. Being “without Christ,” being “aliens,” “strangers,” and “without hope,” they were also “without God in the world,” V.12.
 - a. Imagine if you can what it would be like to be without God, without a spiritual father, and without any possibility of a spiritual inheritance. See Gal.3:6; Rom.8:16.
 - b. Note how Mt.7:13,14 and 1Jno.2:16 describe the way of the world.

B. SECONDLY, WE NOTE WHAT ONE IS WITHOUT, WHAT ONE IS DENIED, BY NOT BEING “IN CHRIST”, ACCORDING TO Eph.1:3 – “ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS” Not some, but ALL of them!

1. He is denied or is without ‘redemption’ which is in Christ, Rom.3:24; Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; 1Pet.1:18,19.
 - a. Redemption is something all are in need of because all have sinned and been brought in bondage to sin, Jno.8:34; Rom.3:23; Gal.3:22; 1Jno.1:8.

2. One who is not “in Christ” is without the possibility of actual “forgiveness of sins” because this also is one of the spiritual blessings all of which are found in Christ, Eph.1:7; Col.1:14.
 - a. Again all need forgiveness of sins because all have sinned, Rom.3:23; Gal.3:23.

- b. And forgiveness of alien sins is obtained by believing and obeying the gospel, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; 22:16; 1Pet.3:21; 2Th.1:6-10.
- 3. One who is not “in Christ” can have no hope of eternal life in heaven; for like all other spiritual blessings it too is promised only to those who are in Christ, 2Tim.1:1; 2:10; 1Jno.2:24,25; 5:11,12,20.
- 4. One who is “without Christ” or not “in Christ” is without or denied “salvation” which is in Christ, with eternal glory, 2Tim.2:10.
 - a. To obtain the salvation which is in Christ requires one’s obedience by faith, for Christ is “the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him,” Heb.5:8,9; Lk.6:46; Mt.7:21,24-27.
 - b. But how does one get into Christ where all spiritual blessings are located? Gal.3:26,27; Rom.6:3-6.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. How can any responsible, reasonable person who believes that God is, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of sinners, and that the Bible is God’s revealed will to man, fail to be seriously impressed by what it means to be “without Christ,” or apart from Christ, and by what one is denied who is not “in Christ”?
- 2. How, then, can you continue to ignore and/or refuse his invitation to come to him and be saved?