**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

*“A Building Without Walls”*

**THREE KEY WORDS**

* **SEPARATION** (2:11-12)

**The Issue:** **Circumcision**

* **THE PRINCIPLE**
* The **cutting** away of the flesh to reveal the **source** of life.
* An **outward** sign of what was to be true on the **inside**.

*Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:*

*29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

* **THE PURPOSE**
* The **setting** **apart** of a people so that all nations (Gentiles) would see the **life** of God and the **glory** of God revealed in the Jews.

*Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved of Israel:* ***I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles****, That thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

* God’s plan was to **bless** the Gentiles through His people, the Jews (Gen. 12:1-3)

*Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

*2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

*3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

* **THE PROBLEM**
* The Jews viewed circumcision as a symbol of **spirituality**. (vs. 11a)

*1 Samuel 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for* ***who is this uncircumcised Philistine****, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*

* For many Jews, circumcision was only a **physical** thing. (vs. 11b)

**Two problems**

1) **Perceived** spirituality based upon the **physical**

2) No true **separation** of the heart

*Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:*

*29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

**Christianity today**

**Two problems**

1. No **separation** from the world
2. **Legalism**

 **While man may judge spirituality by the outward, God most certainly does not.**

*1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

* **THE PLIGHT (OF THE GENTILES)**
* No **Messiah**
* No **promises**
* No **hope**
* No **God**
* **RECONCILIATION (2:13-18)**
* Reconciliation of **Jew** and **Gentile** (vs. 13-14)
* In Christ, no one is **above** or more **important** than another. (vs. 13)

*1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

*Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus*.

* In Christ there are **no** **walls** between us. (vs. 14-15)

Note: The answer to any conflict is not to bring both parties to a meeting to **discuss** the issues. The answer, and only answer, is to bring both parties to the **cross**.

The source of every conflict (James 4:1-2)

* Reconciliation between **man** and **God** (vs. 15-18)

*Is. 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear.”*

*1 Peter 3:18*

*18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

* **UNIFICATION (2:19-22)**
* One **Nation** (vs. 19)

*1 Peter 2:9*

*9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

* One **Family** (vs. 19)
* One **Temple** (vs. 21-22)