

Does the church of Jesus Christ today have any idea what has happened for them?

Do we understand fully what a blessing we have to enjoy?

Paul tells us that before Jesus Christ came on to the scene, we Gentiles were alienated from the life of God. That is the truth. We had no relationship with the Almighty and were in fact separate from Him as our creator.

In addition to being alienated, we were also enemies in our minds from the very life of God. Further Paul states that in Ephesians 2 that we were totally “without Christ” and considered by the children of Israel as no better than dogs.

We in the church today were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. We were total strangers from the covenants of promise (that is that we had no relationship what so ever to any promise that God made to anyone) and had no “hope” of things to change and we as a people were without God – period.

The great phrase “but now” because we are “in Christ” we are no longer afar off (that is- way away from Him) but now have been brought near to God by the blood of His Son Jesus and our belief in Him.

Because of what Jesus did, we now have peace in our lives. Why? Because God Himself has wrapped His arms around us and brought us together with His people Israel, and made us both one in the Church of Jesus Christ.

There used to be a wall separating the Jew and the Gentile that was not able to be penetrated by either party. That wall has been dissolved the result of which we are now one with His former “special people”. There used to be enmity between the two groups of people that is no longer there.

God Himself has taken these two groups of folks and brought them together as one people making a “new man” out of the two former rivals. These two classes of folks have now been brought together because of the cross of Jesus Christ thereby destroying the enmity or hatred or separation that used to exist into one new man.

We both groups now have access to the same Heavenly Father through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and are no longer strangers and foreigners but are actually fellow citizens, saints and members of the household of God.

Further we are being built together as the dwelling place for the Spirit of the living God.

Now beloved, if not careful we will become “puffed up” with this marvelous truth. We may even find ourselves as special ones above all other people on this earth. Believe me when I say that we are special to be part of the body of Christ – period. However, you might add, - what about the Jews who refuse to join us? What about their fate? Are they still considered God’s special people or are we the end of what He is doing?

Paul deals with that issue in Romans chapter 9.

Paul asks the question, have they stumbled to the point that they are unable to stand again? His answer is “certainly not”. That is not the case.

Actually they have been set aside to provoke them to jealousy while the church is being formed. As the Gentiles have been added into the covenants of promise by God, they are set aside for this period of time.”

Their fall according to Paul is “riches for the world” as the Gentiles are added into what God is doing. Obviously their failure is riches to the Gentiles also.

Paul further testifies that he hopes to provoke some of his brethren (the Jews) into jealousy that some of them might be saved and added to the church.

Today, they are being cast away. However in the future there will be a great awakening available to them as “life from the dead”.

Paul then used the olive tree to explain how what is happening today is the original plan. We the Gentiles, have been grafted into the olive tree and are now partakers of all of their promises of the root and fatness of the olive tree. He states that some of the Jews were branches and were broken off from the main tree. It was at this time that we (as Gentiles) have been grafted into the main tree. However.

We best not be proud and puffed up and boast against the broken branches. In fact, our testimony should be, “they were broken off in order for me to be grafted in”.

Because of their unbelief, they were broken off, but it was through this unbelief that we had the pathway to be grafted in. Results – don’t be haughty but rather fear that somehow we are not “broken off”.

Paul further in the Epistle tells us that there is a mystery coming. And, if we are not careful or wise in our own opinion there is something on the horizon regarding those branches that were cut off. These branches that have experienced this blindness have happened to these Jews. You will notice that Paul adds (in part) because some of them are in the church today.

The result of the removal of this blindness in part will come upon the Jews at the end of the Church age. When the last Gentile has entered the church, then God is going to deal with the cutoff portion of the Jewish nation. Or as Paul put it in Romans 9:25 and 26, When the fullness of the Gentiles has come into the church, He will go back and deal with the Nation of Israel and all of the nation of Israel will be saved in a day.

Concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they (the Jews) are enemies for your sake, but for election purposes they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

Further Paul notes that through their disobedience to God, we have obtained mercy; .Further those who are now disobedient will obtain mercy and be brought back into relationship with God. Please understand that they are not part of the church, because you must be “born again” to be in the church, but they are brought back in order to fulfill His original agreement regarding election.

This beloved is one of the reasons why I believe in the Pre-Tribulation rapture.

The Church is raptured and is now **in heaven**. We all await our turn at the judgment seat of Christ, and the marriage between His bride (the church) and the Lord Jesus

During this time here **on earth** it is time to deal with Israel and with those left on the earth. This is known as the tribulation period.

At the end of this 7 years, we along with our Lord Jesus will return to this earth so set up His kingdom reign for 1,000 years.

Another subject for another time.

Thanks Lord that you have included us in your wonderful plan. We are truly a blessed people.