Ephesians
Chapter 2:11-13

I. **Ephesians 2:11-12** [11]Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; [12]That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: [13]But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

a. Remember

I. **We've moved from just a dead in sin condition in verse 1 to a list of disadvantages for being a Gentile.**

II. **Israel was constantly called to remember what God had done regarding the deliverance out of Egypt.**

1. **Deuteronomy 5:15** [15]And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and *that* the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.
2. **Deuteronomy 9:7** [7]Remember, *and* forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.
3. **Deuteronomy 15:15** [15]And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

4. **Exodus 19:4** [4]Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

III. **Paul has used "remember" in a few places. Ironically, one of those was in Acts to this same group of Ephesians.**
   1. **Acts 20:31** [31]Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

IV. **II Thessalonians and II Timothy are a couple of other places where Paul isn't just telling them to remember that he is bonds, but a specific truth.**
   1. **II Thessalonians 2:5** [5]Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
   2. **II Timothy 2:8** [8]Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

V. **However, there is one time Paul used the word forget and that was in the present participle form of "forgetting". This was about not living in the past but moving forward.**
   1. **Phililppians 3:13-14** [13]Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do,* forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14]I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

VI. **Paul was wanting them to remember how exceeding God's grace is, by remembering the state of the Gentiles prior to the Mystery.**

b. Time Past

I. **Remember last week that we saw "ages to come" and tonight we will look at "time past" and "but now"**

1. **Ephesians 2:7** [7]That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
2. **Ephesians 2:13**[13]But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

II. **Time Past refers to God calling out a people and all other nations were referred to Gentiles. The crux of "time past" deals with those under the Mosaic Law with Moses. The context will bear that out as Paul begins a list of disadvantages of being a Gentile in time past.**

III. **The List of Disadvantages of the Gentiles**
   1. **Gentiles in the flesh**
      a. **Jews received the oracles of God**
         i. **Romans 2:14**[14]For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:
         ii. **Romans 3:1-2**[1]What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? [2]Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.
      b. **Were called dogs**
         i. **Matthew 15:22-27**[22]And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. [23]But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth

after us. [24]But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [25]Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. [26]But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs. [27]And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

2. **Called uncircumcision**
    a. **Genesis 17:13-14**[13]He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. [14]And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.
    b. **Exodus 4:24-26**[24]And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. [25]Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast *it* at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband *art* thou to me. [26]So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband *thou art*, because of the circumcision.
    c. **Acts 10:44-45** [44]While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. [45]And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter,

because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

d. **Acts 11:1-3** [1]And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. [2]And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, [3]Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.
    i. **Circumcision made without hands**
        1. **Colossians 2:11**[11]In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

3. **Without Christ**
    a. **Israel had the promised messiah**
4. **Aliens from commonwealth of Israel**
    a. **This deals with citizenship. We see how important Paul's Roman citizenship was. The Jewish citizenship provided benefits that weren't possible without it.**
        i. **Acts 22:25**[25]And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?
5. **Strangers from the covenants of promise**
    a. **Abrahamic**
        i. **Genesis 12:1-3** [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.

1. **See Genesis 15:18**

b. Mosaic/ Levitical

i. **Exodus 19:6**[6]And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

c. Palestinian

i. **Deuteronomy 29-30**

d. Davidic

i. **II Samuel 7:16** [16]And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

1. **See also I Chronicles 7:14**

e. Blessings and curses Deuteronomy 28-29

6. No hope

a. Nowhere to turn to for hope.

i. **Hebrews 9:27** [27]And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

7. Without God in the world

a. This actually means to be an atheist. Romans 1 shows this picture.

i. **Read Romans 1:18-31**

II. **Ephesians 2:13**[13]But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

a. Now

I. **There was a change for the Gentiles, but only if a Gentile is "in Christ". The requirement isn't just being a Gentile, but one who placed their faith in the gospel for the forgiveness of sins.**

b. Far off
   I. **That's the past condition. When one says they feel "far off" from God today as a believer, that is more of an identifying trait of one who isn't in Christ and not of one who is.**

c. Made nigh by the blood
   I. **Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin.**
      1. **Hebrews 9:22**[22]And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
   II. **Romans 3:25**[25]Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
   III. **Romans 5:9**[9]Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
   IV. **Ephesians 1:7**[7]In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
   V. **Colossians 1:14**[14]In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:
   VI. **Colossians 1:20**[20]And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

d. **Joel Finck put a list together in his Ephesians commentary of how the blood changed all 7 of the disadvantages.**
   I. **Gentile no longer disadvantage**

1. **Romans 11:13**[13]For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

II. **Circumcision no longer**
1. **Philippians 3:3**[3]For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

III. **We now have Christ**
1. **Colossians 1:27**[27]To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

IV. **Citizenship status (Heaven)**
1. **Philippians 3:20**[20]For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

V. **Access to the promise (promise of the Spirit through faith)**
1. **Colossians 3:14**[14]That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

VI. **Blessed Hope**
1. **Titus 2:13**[13]Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

VII. **No longer without God**
1. **Ephesians 2:18**[18]For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.