



## **Saint James AME Church**

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Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

## **Women's Bible Study**

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Minister to Women

First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

May 19, 2020

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Facilitator

**Subject:** Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

**Book:** Ephesians 2:11-22

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### **Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)**

#### **Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ**

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup>remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup>by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup>built on the

foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

### New International Version (NIV)

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### **Subject of Consideration:**

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison between A.D. 60 and 63. Many biblical scholars believe that Paul spent two or three years in Ephesus. He was successful with spreading the gospel. Paul shares some rich biblical truths in Ephesians. In this Chapter he reminds the believers of our new identity in Christ Jesus. Paul gave this letter to Tychicus to distribute. He wanted believers to mature in Christ Jesus. In order to live out our lives victoriously, we must remember and understand who we are in Christ Jesus.

In Chapter Two (11-22), Paul explains that Jesus is our peace and our chief cornerstone. He said that Jesus, who is our peace, broke down the wall of hostility that divided the Gentile and Jewish believers and united us. We both are now one in Christ Jesus, the “church.” (v.14) We as Gentiles, the “uncircumcised,” did not previously share in the promises of the Old Covenant that God made with Abraham. (v.11). Those promises were reserved exclusively for the Jew, the “circumcision.” We were lost and without hope. (v.12). Then, at the right time, Jesus through his death on the cross, reconciled both the Jewish and Gentile believers. Through Jesus we both have access to Almighty God through the Holy Spirit. We are both Christians, heavenly citizens, and members of the household of God (vv.18-19). Jesus is the most important part of the church, the chief cornerstone. (v.20). The church consists of individual believers growing to become a temple by the Holy Spirit living in us. (v.22)

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What images does Paul use to describe the church in this passage?
2. How were Jews and Gentiles reconciled?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the chief cornerstone?
4. How can you have confidence that the Holy Spirit will lead you?

5. Are you asking for God's direction through the Holy Spirit?

***Homework Assignment***

*-Reflect on what it means to be a part of the Church.*

*-Pray that we, the church, corporately and as individual believers will lean on Jesus, our hope and chief cornerstone during these difficult times.*

*-Read Ephesians 3: 1-7*