

Peace Through Jesus

July 22, 2018 – Ephesians 2:14-20

“For He Himself is our peace, Who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone.”

In Zambia where my wife and I lived, we had 8 foot walls around the house with 2 feet of razor wire on top of that and guard dogs inside that enclosure together with steel bars on the windows and steel doors to keep the AK-47 brandishing thieves out of our house. Walls divide.

The wall may not necessarily be made of brick.

People build walls between one another when they are jealous, angry, and resentful of others.

There was a wall that divided the Jews and the Gentiles, and that same wall divided all mankind from God, and it was God Who needed to do something about it because we could not and cannot tear it down.

Vs. 14 - For He Himself is our peace, Who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Vs. 15 - by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,

Vs. 16 - and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden, they broke the law, and with breaking the law they separated themselves from God. In becoming separated from God, they really became friends of Satan.

In the congregation in Ephesus there was a wall between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians.

The Jewish Christians felt that because the Jews were God’s Chosen people from whom the Savior came, they felt they were better than the Gentiles.

This attitude was of course picked up upon by the Gentile Christians, and so in one congregation there was division. It was as though there were two separate congregations.

God in Christ, tore down the wall that divided the Jews and the Gentiles.

God in Christ, tore down the wall that divided ALL Mankind from God.

How did God tear down that wall of hostility between the Jews and the Gentiles?

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away **have been brought near through the blood of Christ.**”*
(Ephesians 2:13)

Where did Christ do this?

*“His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, Vs. 16 - and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God **through the cross**, by which He put to death their hostility.” (Ephesians 2:15b-16)*

Not only did God break down the wall of hostility between fellow human beings, but even more important God in Christ broke down the wall of hostility between Himself and mankind by the holy precious blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross of Calvary. **Do we build the Wall up again dividing One from another, or ourselves from GOD?!**

In the Lord's Prayer we pray: *“Our Father Who art in Heaven... Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*

How is it that God forgives us all our sin, yet we cannot forgive our fellow human being or our fellow Christian, our fellow neighbor, or relative?

Thank the Lord God that Christ Jesus reconciled us to God and in Christ we are no longer aliens, but fellow citizens of Heaven.

Vs. 17 - He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Vs. 18 - For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Vs. 19 - Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

Thank God that He has sent His Servants to preach the Word of God so that we also have had the opportunity to hear and believe.

Vs. 20 - built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone.

Thus we have Peace through Jesus now and forever in heaven! AMEN.