

## What Is a Christian?

Ephesians 2:19-22 Sunday AM, July 9, 2023

### Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

(NASB95) Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> AND 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 our access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Praise God for these believers in Ephesus! After listing the blessings given them in Christ, Paul prays for them that God would give them a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened to know the “hope of His calling” and the “riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” Why do we need to remember this? Because otherwise, the life we were saved from becomes more attractive than the blessings of an eternal God! How does this happen? Because we fail to tie these blessings to a position requiring faithfulness to responsibilities given us. Saved people are called to serve under One who is Master not merely over you and I, but over the whole world. And not merely over the world NOW, but the world from Creation to Final Judgment and the renewing of heaven and earth. When we fail to value fellowship with God as the essence of salvation, we shrink the world to the size of our desires and fears and serve inside that small world. While God cares for these, He cares for much more, and calls us to serve His eternal will only possible to those who not only look to Christ, but who depend on Him as the only means to please God. Therefore, when Paul reminds these blessed believers of their former status before Christ, it was not to make them feel worthless, it was to clarify true hope and true good. **Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, . . . were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, Saved people think much of Christ. He is part of all conversations about life, love, goodness, strength, AND direction. Look to Christ and be satisfied.

### \*Hymn #446 (Red): Satisfied

Looking to Christ, while done individually puts us with others called by God, drawn from across every line we’ve used to divide ourselves, and broadens our world to be part of something larger than ourselves. <sup>18</sup> for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, God’s household! Wow! But while it sounds nice on paper and perhaps in our minds, it never seems to work out this beautifully in real life—what THEY think they need and what you think you need can often drown out what God says we need. So our passage tells us not merely to look around you, but to look before you—there’s a foundation with solid footers—<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and even greater, look eternally, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.** Think about this foundation of the apostles and prophets and worship Christ Jesus as the cornerstone.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): We Worship Christ the Cornerstone

### \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn

### Scripture: John 15:1–27

(NASB95) “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. <sup>12</sup> “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> “You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. <sup>17</sup> “This I command you, that you love one another. <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> “But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. <sup>22</sup> “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> “He who hates Me hates My Father also. <sup>24</sup> “If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. <sup>25</sup> “But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’ <sup>26</sup> “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, <sup>27</sup> and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Bear fruit or you are not His. How? Abide. How? Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone—we derive life, love, meaning, purpose, duties, and responsibilities from same place, all because of a restored relationship. **You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.** Don’t let your feelings about yourself or their feelings about you make you forget your hope is not in your love for Christ, but in His love for you. **If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.** The fruit you must bear comes as you are dependent. You show His fruit because it came from your asking Him, **so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.** Our Scripture passage ended with the reminder that He has given the Helper—the Holy Spirit. How will He help? By testifying about Jesus. You will be so encouraged by all given you in Christ that YOU will testify about Jesus. **Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.**

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Hear the Words of Love

What is this building of which Christ is the cornerstone? It is the united people of God. <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

If you would be built together as God intends, you need His provision. As pastor preaches about the identity and purpose of a Christian, ask God for you to see more and submit to your place in His building.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Speak O Lord

### Message: “What is a Christian?” Ephesians 2:19-22

### \*Hymn #277: The Church’s One Foundation

### \*Prayer