

Small Group Study Guide- Ephesians 2:4-10

Extra Notes:

Wherever God rules over the human heart as King, there is the Kingdom of God established. –Paul W. Harrison

1) At one time: life in the flesh. (Eph. 2:11)

- Paul said Israel had a label for the Gentiles, what was it? Why do we find it so easy to label people? What is the reason that we label people?
- The Jews prided themselves on religious practices. They were different and better than the Gentiles because of circumcision. Is the heartbeat of God that we take our practices and use them to elevate us and beat up others? How have we seen this done in the church today? (*See Micah 6:8*)

2) At that time: without hope and without God. (Eph. 2:12)

- How would you define hopeless? What modern day examples can you think of to explain hopelessness?
- Notice that Paul speaks of being “alienated from the commonwealth of Israel.” The Gentiles were outside of Israel and God’s covenants. Paul declares it a blessing and a grace gift to be in God’s community! Why then do so many see church worship gatherings as an elective instead of a blessing from God? (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

3) But now: the far off have been brought near. (Eph. 2:13)

- As you think of your own faith experience, how would you define being “far from God”? Have you thought about how Jesus became *far from God* so we did not have to experience such pain? (*Matthew 27:46*)
- Go back and examine 1 Peter 2:9-10:
 1. What are our new labels?
 2. Give examples of God’s *excellencies*?
 3. How would you explain living in God’s marvelous light?