

But Now: The Two Words That Bring Us Home

Ephesians 2:11–13 • NKJV

Key Thoughts

1. **Keep remembering.** Paul does not say remember once. He commands an ongoing, daily remembering of who we were and what God has done, so we never drift into pride or forget the grace that saved us.
2. **Flesh could never make you right with God.** The religious crowd trusted circumcision and bloodline, but Abraham was counted righteous by faith (Genesis 15:6) before he was ever circumcised. Righteousness has always come by grace through faith, not by works.
3. **Remember who you were without Christ.** Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenants, with no hope and without God in the world. Paul wants us to keep that picture in view, not to shame us, but so grace stays amazing.
4. **The blood is the price of our citizenship.** “But now in Christ Jesus” the far off are brought near, and the payment was not effort or heritage but the blood of Christ.
5. **There has only ever been one door.** From Abraham to Ruth to Rahab to us, every person ever saved entered the same way and through the same Person. Jesus is the door, and Jesus is enough.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul tells the Ephesians to “keep remembering” who they were. Why is ongoing remembering so important for a believer, and what happens to us when we forget?

2. The Jewish religious system leaned on circumcision and descent from Abraham. Where are we tempted today to lean on our own performance, heritage, or religious activity instead of faith in Christ?

3. Read Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:9–11. Abraham was declared righteous before he was circumcised. Why does the order of those two events matter so much for understanding salvation?

4. Verse 12 describes life without Christ as having “no hope and without God in the world.” How does honestly remembering that “before” change the way you worship now?
 5. Paul says we were “brought near by the blood of Christ.” What does it mean that the blood, not our effort, is the price of our place in God’s family?
 6. **Personal:** Pastor Chris said there has only ever been one door, and the door is a Person. Is there any area where you are quietly trusting “Jesus plus something else”? What would it look like to rest fully in Christ this week?
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Applications

1. **Build a habit of remembering.** This week, write down your own “before and after.” Name where you were without Christ and what He has done, then thank Him for it in prayer each day.
2. **Lay down a “Jesus plus” crutch.** Identify one place where you are leaning on performance or religious activity for your standing with God, confess it, and consciously rest in His finished work instead.
3. **Point someone to the door.** Tell one person this week that the way to God has always been the same, grace through faith in Christ, and invite them to come near.

Closing Prayer

Father, we remember today who we were without You. Far off, with no hope and no God in the world. Thank You that You did not leave us there. In Christ Jesus, by the blood of Your Son, You brought us near and made strangers into family. Forgive us for the times we have trusted our own performance instead of Your finished work. Teach us to keep remembering, to never forget Your grace, and to rest fully in Jesus, who is the one door and who is enough. Make us a people who point others to that same door. In Jesus’ name, amen.