

Strangers in the Darkness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 2:11-12.

B. We learn to appreciate what we have in Christ by reflecting upon what we once were.

II. As non-Christians, we lived in a position of ignorance.

A. Circumcision was chosen to distinguish Jews and Gentiles—it demonstrated that the Jews had a special relationship with God.

1. The sign was put on a sex organ because man is sexual to the core.
2. How one thinks of himself sexually is how one thinks of himself.
3. Uncircumcision was a sign of a pagan's sexual immorality.
4. One will never know himself until he knows God.

B. Paganism is rampant today.

1. It is a situation we come from.
2. It is a situation to which the world is digressing.

III. The condition of the non-Christian.

A. Pagans are separated from Christ.

B. They are aliens without a home.

1. Pagans never saw love as an element in their relationship to God.
2. The alien is treated differently during difficult times.

C. They were strangers to the covenants made to the Israelites.

1. No matter how bad things got, the Jew always had the hope of the coming of the Messiah.
2. The pagan had no hope in their darkness.

D. They were without God—atheism was widespread.

IV. The death and the blood of Christ have brought the non-Christian near to God.

A. Violence is the final expression of a godless society.

B. When humanity is at its worst, God brought him close again though the violence of the cross.

Application questions:

1. If you have come to faith in Jesus Christ, describe your experience before you came to trust Him.

2. If you have not come to faith in Christ, does Paul's description of the life of unbelief resonate at all? Explain.

3. How does God answer man in his violent condition?
