

Far Off, Brought Near  
Ephesians 2:11-13

I. Intro

- A. When you WERE far off you know when you have been brought near.
- B. When you ARE far off, sometimes you know it, and sometimes you do not.
- C. I'm asking you to listen to the truth of scripture today, rather than the philosophy of the world, to determine your location.
- D. If you have been brought near: CELEBRATE
- E. If you are still far off: Open your heart to this truth!

II. Text

A. Verse 11

1. Gentiles in the flesh, a description for those not of the Jewish race.
2. The sign of the covenant in the Old Testament is the cutting of the flesh called circumcision.
3. The uncircumcision was a term for those who have not entered into this covenant
4. This was a physical sign of a spiritual covenant from God.

B. Verse 12

1. So, not being a part of the covenant sign, was a reminder of separation
2. A reminder that they once were people with no hope.

C. Verse 13

1. Those days have gone, the new covenant has come
2. It was brought in Christ Jesus
3. The blood of Jesus brings us NEAR, this allows for a reminder of the miraculous nature of the new covenant.
4. Also...brought near, not complete by by GRACE through FAITH
  - a) We have a responsibility to respond to God
  - b) Faith is not a work, it is a result of God's work.

III. Points

A. We were FAR OFF

1. Far off: makran: Distant, far away
2. Other usage: [Mar 12:28-34 ESV] 28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. 33 And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**" And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.
3. The Distance that is a reality in our relationship with God is such that could not be overcome by any other way than God's intervention.

B. We Have Been Brought NEAR

1. Engys: near: from a root word that meant "to squeeze"
2. Being brought near to God is a gift, and we then should lean in to that.
  - a) [Heb 11:6 ESV] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- b) [Jas 4:8 ESV] 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
  - 3. We have been brought into the embrace of God, though we were DISTANT, and SEPARATED.
  - 4. We went from separation to embrace, by God's plan.
  - 5. Illus: A filthy child,
    - a) not always the best to embrace...they get what is all over them, all over you
    - b) In Christ, we find the embrace, and He has already bore our sin and our shame.
  - 6. [2Co 5:21 ESV] 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
    - a) Christ became sin, not just became soiled
    - b) Christ became sin to sacrifice for us
    - c) This is our only hope: The Blood of Jesus!
- C. By the BLOOD OF JESUS
  - 1. This is an awesome way to see the truth of Christ
  - 2. Not brought near by any other way, but the blood of Jesus.
  - 3. Lets remember how Ephesians started:
    - a) [Eph 1:7 ESV] 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
    - b) The Blood will NEVER LOSE ITS POWER!
  - 4. 30 things accomplished by the Blood

#### IV. Close

- A. By the Blood of Jesus
- B. You and I were brought near
- C. And changed forever!

[Eph 2:11-13 ESV] 11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-- 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

30 things accomplished by the Blood:

My debt is paid, once and for all

"So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

I am justified

"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. " (Romans 5:9)

I am forgiven

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7)

I am spared from God's wrath

"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. " (Romans 5:9)

I am being spiritually healed; one day even my flesh will be replaced with an incorruptible body  
 "...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sin, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." (I Peter 2:24)

I am spiritually alive

“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” (John 6:53)

My judgment has been satisfied and I am at peace with God

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

The bloodstream of His people Israel will be purged

“For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwells in Zion” (Joel 3:21)

I am cleansed

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)

I have the power to overcome the enemy

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

I am no longer under the curse of the law

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”).” (Galatians 3:13)

I have been reclaimed from the enemy

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

I am no longer a stranger to the covenant of promise

“...that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:12-13)

The final act of public expiation has been made on my behalf

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” (Leviticus 17:11)

I have been moved from the enemy’s kingdom into the kingdom of God

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15)

I have gained the unmerited favor of God

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

I have been declared righteous

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

I have been justified (just as though I had never sinned)

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed...” (Romans 3:24-25)

I am able to come close to God

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

I can participate in the sweet communion of remembrance of His sacrifice

“Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:20)

My redemption will never perish

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Jesus testifies on my behalf that I am clean

“...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings[ and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 1:5)

I am free

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1)

I am protected from judgment

“that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.” (Exodus 12:27)

I am freed from a conscience defiled by guilt

“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:22)

I am no longer condemned

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

I have been separated from the world and declared holy (wholly) to God

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

I can proclaim total victory

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

I can enter boldly into the holiest of holies...and live

“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:19-22)

I have further revelation of who God is

“who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...” (Hebrews 1:3)