

“The Sheep Stumbled and Fell, and God Let the Dogs In”

We who are saved know that the Lord Jesus Christ is our central figure, when it comes to our faith. First of all, He is our Saviour, He is our life, our peace, our hope.

Turn to

Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Listen, everything that we believers need is found in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Many are taken back when they read Rom. 15:8 and find out that they are excluded from that verse. Let's look at it:

Rom 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Paul is writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Has he penned something wrong? What can Rom. 15:8 be all about? How can it mean what it says?

Well, the answer can only be found when we look into the records of our Saviour's earthly ministry.

Today's preaching and teaching would make one think that the Lord's **earthly ministry** would be primarily to the Gentiles. It's time for all of us to stop ignoring the verses in the Word of God that teach otherwise.

Get 3 passages:

Matt 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matt 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Can it be any clearer? Now look at

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
He came unto His own Who were they?

Now the question to any well behaved student of the Word of God, who obeys 2 Tim. 2:15, is this, "What about the rest of US (Gentiles)?"

First, one needs to understand that there was, at one time, a big difference between Jew and Gentile. Again we can see this in God's Word. Get

Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That time is from Gen. 12 - Acts 7.

See, the words 'Time Past' here in Eph. 2:11? Well, if you understand and Believe the Bible, you will see that God plainly makes a difference between the Nation Israel and the other nations Gentiles and the difference is marked by the titles 'Circumcision' and 'Uncircumcision'.

The Jews surely recognized this division, and knew that God had separated them from the rest of the other nations (Gentiles). This separation was a physical one, and also had a sign, the token of circumcision.

The act of 'circumcision' divided the whole world into two parts, and set up a middle wall of partition. There making a divide between Jew and Gentile. It had nothing to do with hygiene or cosmetics. Look at Eph. 2:14. What does that wall do?:

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

What was this 'Circumcision' all about? Was it something new? By all means, no. Let's get Gen. 17. Make it

Gen 17:10-11 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Gen 17:13-14 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

This division, again, was made by God Himself. It had to do with separating the Jews from the Gentiles. What was the condition of the Gentile? Go back to

Eph 2:12 That at that time ye 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:

Looks to me like they were in big trouble!

Listen, God, who wrote this book, and Israel, to whom God gave 'circumcision' to, in Time Past, recognized the difference, and it's high time that the Gentile comes to the understanding of it. If not, they will have very little understanding of the Bible.

Now the question is, "Just how long did this difference, this divide of the Jew and the Gentile, be with God's plan?" The answer is found in the Word. Look at

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

What?! 'But Now' in who?

But what about the 'circumcision' now? Get

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

At this time God says circumcision means nothing to Him. Israel no longer has special status with God. In fact, they are in big trouble or hot water with God. As a nation they refused their King and their kingdom.

At the end of Acts 7, Israel began to fall, but they did not fall straight down until the end of Acts 28. Now God saves Paul in Acts 9 and sends him out with a new message, not about the long awaited earthly kingdom promised to the nation Israel, that God gave the sign of circumcision to, and make a distinction between Jew and Gentile.

Let's go to Eph. 3:1-9 and see the new thing that God introduces by way of a new apostle Paul.

Eph 3:1-9 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Here in [Eph. 3:1-9](#) we see a lot of new things, but the 'biggy' is the program, the mystery.

It would do us all good, who studies the Word, to see that in the dispensation of grace the middle wall between Jew and Gentile no longer exists. Now there is NO difference. Get

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

The big confusion in scripture is that 'Times Past' and 'But Now' are not seen nor understood by those who preach and teach.

In Times Past, the Gentiles, if you believe the Bible, were without hope, remember? ([Eph. 2:12](#)) There was also a middle wall there, remember?

How did the Gentiles get to God at that time for blessings? Get 3 passages:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Isa 61:4-6 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Isa 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

He could become a Jew and be known as a Proselyte. If he did that, he would get all as one born in the land. Get 2 passages:

Esther 8:17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Exo 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

A couple of examples during Jesus' earthly ministry of this are:

Luke 7:1-10 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Matt 15:21-28 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Christ's earthly ministry was exclusively to and for the nation Israel. But remember Isa. 60:1-3, the Gentiles were not left out. It is the order in which the Gentiles were to be saved. Israel was to rise first. "Then the Dogs would be let in."

That's why we have these verses:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matt 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

But where were they supposed to start?

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

The order was that Israel was to rise and be the light (Isa. 60:1-3). The only Gentiles dealt with in early Acts were Gentiles being blessed as they blessed Israel and the proselytes.

Acts 2:9-10 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

.... Also look at verse 5:

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

As long as that middle wall was up, then it was coming through and by Israel. It was Times Past.

It is important to know that the only ones being ministered to at Pentecost were Jews.

Get

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Is this the Body of Christ?

So the question is, "How about the Ethiopian eunuch?"

Get

Acts 8:26-27 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

First, he had come to Jerusalem to worship. In other words, he was a proselyte.

Not only that, but as he was traveling home, he was reading the prophet Isaiah:

Acts 8:28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

Now when Philip overtook him, he was at Isa. 53:7:

Acts 8:29-33 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

At the eunuch's invitation, Philip preached Jesus to him:

Acts 8:34-35 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

The eunuch quickly believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Israel's Messiah. Now this guy comes into Israel's kingdom program:

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Cornelius in Acts 10 was like the centurion in Luke 7:

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

He feared Israel's God and loved His people. This guy was in the place of blessing, having so blessed Israel. Later we see Peter comes to him with 'words of salvation.' Not the grace of God, but the kingdom.

So I ask again, "What about us?"

It is not until we come to Paul's writings of the mystery that was revealed to him by the risen, glorified Lord from heaven that we Gentiles, having no hope of Eph. 2:12, are included in the things of God (Eph. 2:13).

Now God has a new messenger with a new message. It is

Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

If you believe God's word, this is a message and program that has been 'hid only in God Himself' till the time of giving it to Paul. Get Eph. 3:1-3 again and see how Paul describes it.

Eph 3:1-3 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

In this new program, the mystery, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile. All are one equal basis with God.

Now Gentiles are not being saved through the rise of Israel. Today salvation is being sent out to the nations in spite of Israel, through their fall. Get

Rom 11:11-13 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

Listen, today we need no rites, no ceremonies, no signs, no special nation to come by, no religion. Today when we trust totally in the finished work of the cross, we receive the Holy Spirit which baptizes us into Christ's body:

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

We are circumcised:

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

We are baptized into Christ:

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

We have been made totally complete:

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

We have all blessings:

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Paul's message comes with no restrictions:

Rom 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Get

1 Tim 2:4-7 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

No one is left out of this new program. Amen.

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"