

TODAY'S MESSAGE

PEACE: NEAR & FAR

EPHESIANS 2:14-22

EPHESIANS MESSAGE SERIES: ONE CHURCH, ONE BODY, ONE HOPE

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. Ephesians 2:1-3

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:4-9

“But God” means that God interrupted the mess mankind was in and because of His love He provided an answer to the dilemma.

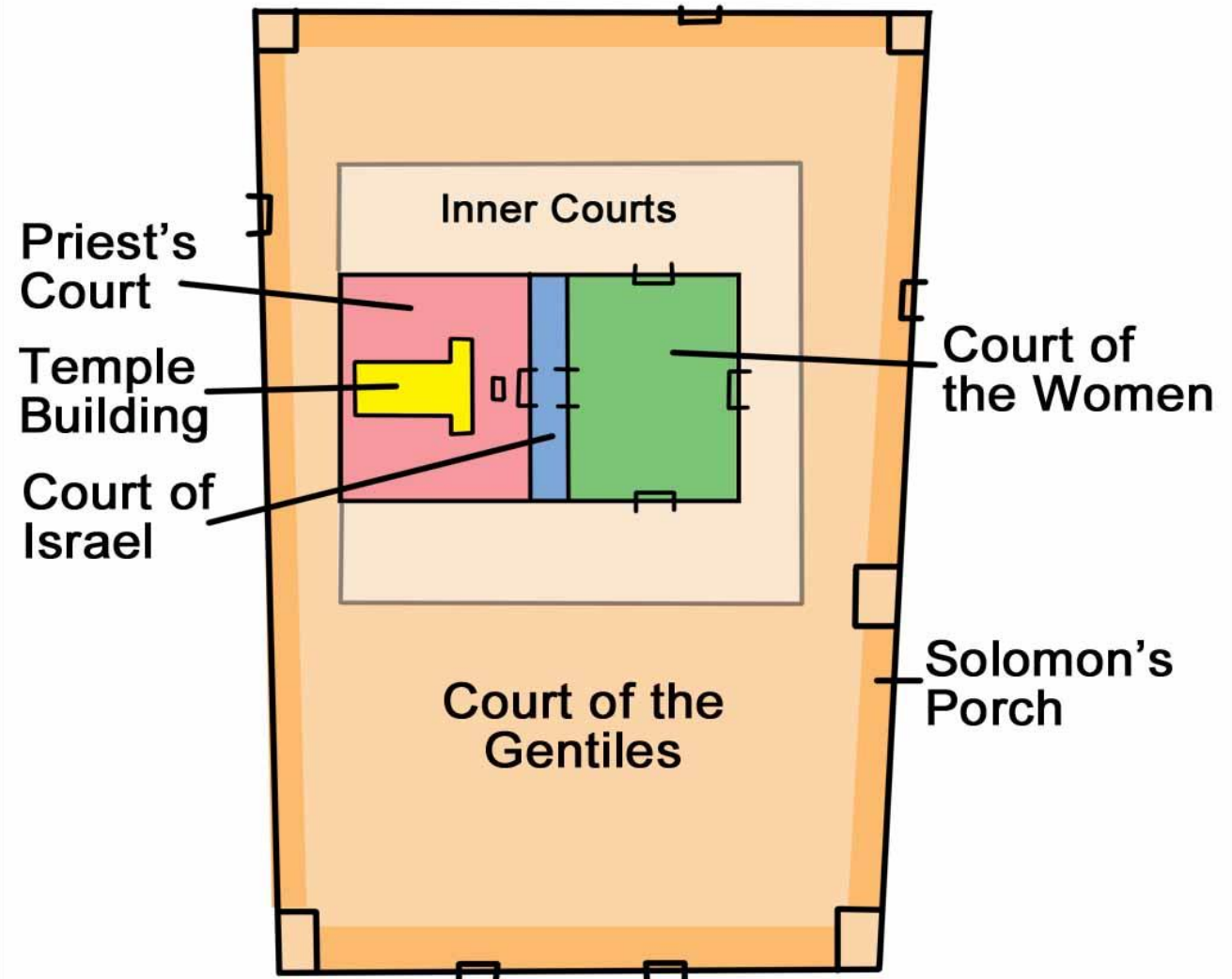
- Joyce Meyer

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... Ephesians 2:14

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household... v.17-19

The Temple in Jesus' Day (simplified)



**Reconciled with God to be a
minister of reconciliation!**

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to
himself through Christ and gave us the
ministry of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18

**If we follow the Prince of Peace,
then our lives should be
reflections of His peace.**

**What can I do to bring about the
peace of Christ in the world?**

“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy...”

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

- Saint Francis of Assisi

Things to Consider...

The forgiveness of Jesus.

Is it evident in our lives?

The humility of Jesus.

Are we living in a way that points to Jesus?

The compassion and kindness of Jesus.

Are we practicing it in our lives?

It is evident in Jesus, is it evident in ours?

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

The background of the image is a scenic landscape during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow that filters through the clouds. Below the horizon, there are dark, silhouetted mountain ranges. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

GOODBYE

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK