

Power in the Blood
Ephesians 2:13

God is an **amazing** God!

The way that He does things is **beyond comprehension** at times.

God is a **God of salvation** and the way that God saves, no one else is able to do it!

Reading through the book of **Ephesians**, we see that God is also a **master planner**. **Nothing was left to chance**. God's plan of salvation was enacted from before the foundation of the world.

Here in the second chapter, Paul, writing to the church at Ephesus, is explaining the goodness of God and **HOW God reached down** to save a people who were strangers to Him.

God created the world, God created every person in the world **but God chose Israel out of ALL of the populations** of the world has His own people!

He **spoke to Abraham** and said to Him, "**GO forth from your country**, from your relatives, from your father's house to the land **which I will show you; AND I will make you a great nation**, and I will bless your name, and so you shall be a blessing!"

Abraham, in his faith, left and became the **progenitor of the Israelites**. He got up, he moved and God blessed Him with a seed!

Here is where God planned so masterfully. Galatians 3:8 says that the **scripture “forseeing that God would justify the Gentiles** by faith, preached the gospel beforehand when He told Abraham, **“All the nations** will be blessed in You...” ! when God told this to Abraham!

God had a plan in place for the WORLD and everyone in the world who would put their faith in Jesus Christ, to be saved!

So Paul here is telling the Gentiles, who were formerly not a people, that **God has reached out His hand in grace** to save them!

He saves by His grace. One of the most quoted passages of Scripture is here in **Ephesians 2:8...**

“You have been saved by GRACE [**unmerited favor**] through Faith [**putting your trust in Christ**] and that NOT of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; **not as a result of works** so that no man can boast.”

It is God's grace that reaches down to sinners and says to them, I will save you! I will redeem you! I will LOVE you!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

ONLY BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS! Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness!

The BLOOD IS THE SAVING POWER OF JESUS GIVEN AS A RANSOM FOR THE SINNER!

There was an old song that says that the **Blood reaches to the highest mountain** and flows to the lowest valley; the blood that gives me strength from DAY to DAY will NEVER lose its POWER!

The Blood **makes us clean** and makes us whole and justifies us!

Look at the **Benefits** of the blood!

1. The Blood changes our status with God (Verses 11,12, 19)

Look at how **Paul characterizes US!** We are **ALL Gentiles**. Look at what He says. There are **four descriptive words** here that **tell us what we look like to God without the blood of Jesus!**

- a. We were **excluded** from the commonwealth of Israel. Remember, **Israel is the chosen nation of God**. Gentiles were **NOT** included in this choosing.

- b. We were **strangers** to the covenants of promise. Everything that God promised Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Moses and any other Israelite...we had **NO** part in!

- c. We were **HOPELESS!** We had **NO** hope in the world! **NO** expectation of anything to come! Nothing to look forward to!

- d. We were **God-less** [WITHOUT God] in the world! There is **a “god”** of the world whose **spirit**, as it says in verse 1, **works in the sons of disobedience** but we were without **THE GOD** of the universe!

But thanks be to God (Verse 19)

We are **NO LONGER** aliens and strangers **but we are now fellow citizens with the saints!** We now **have a seat at God’s table**, in God’s household, we are **citizens of heaven** and no longer destined for hell...**ALL BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD!**

2. The Blood changes or proximity to God (Verse 13)

But now...

Every believer ought to shout because of these two words...but now!

Every one of us was destined for hell...BUT NOW...

Every one of us was far away from God...BUT NOW...

Sin caused a chasm between God and man but the cross bridged the chasm!

It is the BLOOD of Jesus that brings us near! It is the blood of Jesus that **made God say through Isaiah**, “Come let us reason together, though your sins are as scarlet, I will make them white as snow!”

It is the **BLOOD of Jesus** that **brings us closer to the throne** of grace to find grace and receive mercy in the time of need!

BUT NOW...IN CHRIST JESUS [not of ourselves] YOU who were FORMERLY [continuously] far off have been brought near!

Why? Verse 4,5

God does EVERYTHING out of Love! God is **RICH** in mercy! God loves us greatly!

He says in **Chapter 1 verses 18,19**...I pray that the eyes of your heart are enlightened and that you may know the hope of his calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and the His surpassing POWER towards us who believe!

I pray today that we would realize HOW MUCH He loves us!!

I pray today that we realize what God did by bringing us near!!

3. The Blood puts us at peace with God (Verse 14)

Colossians 1:19,20 “For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

1 John 2:2 “and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

Jesus **HIMSELF** [written for **emphasis**], His broken body and His shed blood is the reason that God forgives and man can be at peace with God! He is the atoning sacrifice that appeased God’s anger and that reconciled man back to God!

He is OUR PEACE!

4. The Blood unifies (Verses 14b, 15-18)

There is **unity under the blood of Jesus!** In **America**, we sometimes forget this!

We forget that His blood was shed for the **WHOLE** world, for every nation...

We forget that there is no division in God!

We forget that there is not a white Jesus and a black Jesus!

He says here that **Jesus made the two groups, Jews and Gentiles into ONE!** He broke down the barrier of the dividing wall!

We are UNDER ONE HEAD, that is Christ!

If you read the book of Nehemiah, the first thing that Nehemiah did was to **rebuild the wall around Jerusalem!** This was to keep folks who were not Jews OUT!!

But Jesus broke down the dividing wall!

It says **He did it BY abolishing in His flesh the enmity** [*the state of hostility*] that existed between God and man **which is the LAW** of commandments!

The Law is what separated Israel from every other nation!

Jesus **redeemed** us from the curse of the Law and became a curse on our behalf [**Galatians 3:13,14**]- **IN ORDER THAT THE GENTILES MIGHT RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF Abraham** and that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith!!

The **Law was not given to the Gentiles**, the **Law was not salvific**- it **was instructional!**

It **reminded us of the unattainable perfection that God requires-** and **pointed us to Jesus Christ who IS PERFECT!**

The Law **pointed to the need** for the Blood! The need for redemption!

The Law **could not bring unity** because the law was given to separate Jew from heathen!

It says that Jesus, through His blood, through His broken body, made the two into ONE man!

He **reconciled BOTH**- Jew and Gentile through ONE Body [**unity**], He is the **firstborn** among many brethren! He **holds all things together** by the word of His power!

His One body is all that was necessary for peace!

Through His broken body, the law died and the enmity that the law represented died as well!

Through His broken body, there is a new and living way that **EVERY BELIVER** can walk in! Verse 18 **READ!!**