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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham
on 5.2.55

Hymns: 11, 952 Reading: Ephesians 2 and Isaiah 28.13-16

This remarkable chapter in Ephesians describes the change that grace makes in people by the effectual work of the Spirit of the Lord in their souls. It is a change which is ascribed entirely to the work of, and the unction of, the grace of faith. It is also declared to be His gift and by this remarkable change quickening those who were dead in trespasses and sins, "who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ", and in the latter part of the chapter the Apostle refers to the Lord Jesus Christ in three particular aspects.

In the first place He is the foundation and corner stone. These believing Ephesians are said now to be "no more strangers and foreigners", as all are by nature as recorded in the chapter, "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", a sad state to be in; but now he says, "Ye are no more strangers and foreigners", ye are brought into a relationship, are "fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone". What a mercy it is to be brought to this place, this experience, to lean alone upon Him, to be built upon Him, to feel in the experience of our souls the strength and blessedness of that standing.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the way of access, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father". This has relation to prayer, to seeking the Lord's mercy, pleading for these spiritual blessings that are treasured up in Him for the church; the church being said to be "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." In our need, our felt poverty, our guilt, our destitution, our desires, we have an opened way who Himself is the way of approach, the means of access. It is when that is felt in prayer that faith, being in exercise, the Lord Jesus Christ is seen as the way to the Father and grace is given to come boldly in that Name and by that Person.

He is also said to be our peace, "He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us", so that Jew and Gentile are on the same footing. Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek, but here is the Lord Jesus Christ, the peace maker and the peace giver. He Himself is our Peace, this Man shall be thy peace, that is peace with God. Here are three great things united together, sometimes felt a little in our experience. To possess them is heaven, to be without them is to be destitute indeed, and if we live in such a case then we shall be destitute eternally. O may the Lord grant us His grace, give us to feel a little of this peace and enable us, by His grace, to build upon Him. Amen

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