**Made Close: Brought Near**

**The Big Picture: Where Have We / Are We going?**

For the rest of the month of June, we will be presenting our unfathomable riches as follows:

**Jun No Subject**

3 20 Made close: brought near

10 21 Confident access

17 22 Identification truths: joined to Christ & separated from: I

24 23 Identification truths: joined to Christ & separated from: II

**Made close: Brought Near**

The identification truths are ‘the front door’ to our unfathomable riches. Ephesians 2:13 continues to make that point: “But now, **in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been made near…”. See fuller quote and context below. In recent months we have seen an unfathomable riches ‘chain’ of the believer in Christ by faith, so that the believer has redemption and forgiveness of sins, so that God justifies – declares righteous – the believer, who has peace with God and stands in grace.

As opposed to being far off, separate and alienated, believers are brought near. The immediate context of Ephesians is that it is Gentiles who are brought near, as opposed to Israel. The ‘cluster’ of the unfathomable riches of the propitiation by Christ’s blood includes adoption of sons, children of God and sons of God, Christ’s brethren, and now brought near.

After the ‘brought near’ aspect of our unfathomable riches we will explore ‘confident access’. Brought near is a theme central to this passage in Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NASU)

Therefore remember that formerly [Greek: ***pote***, also in Ephesians 2:1-3] you, the Gentiles in the flesh [earthly ethnicity], who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," [Jews] which is performed in the flesh by human hands-- 12 remember that you were at that time **separate from Christ**, **excluded from the commonwealth of Israel**, and **strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world**. [[1]](#footnote-1)

13 But now **in Christ Jesus** **you who formerly** [Greek: ***pote***] **were far off have been brought near by the blood of** [Greek: the] **Christ.** 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups [Gentiles and Jews] into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 [Isaiah 57:19] And He came and preached peace to you who were far away [Gentiles], and peace **to those who were near** [Jews]; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father [this verse contains our next aspect/topic of our unfathomable riches, and it reveals the Trinity in one verse, but that’s for next Sunday 😊].

19 So then you are no longer **strangers** and **aliens**, but you are fellow citizens with the saints [Philippians 1:27; 3:20; 4:1-3], and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

**Urging regarding our condition, based on our position:**

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

James 4:8

**Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you.

1. Ephesians 2:11-12 has many similar statements and words to Romans 9:1-5, “I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, **separated** from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and **the covenants** and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is **the Christ** according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)