

## **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

1136 Baseline Road  
Grand Island, New York 716-773-3748  
www.bfcgi.org

### **THE LORD'S DAY**

February 28, 2016 8:30 & 10:15 AM

### **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann  
Piano Wendy Baldwin  
Announcements Ron Mock

### **MEDITATION**

Ephesians 2:11-12 "Privileges in Christ for Jews and Gentiles" (opposite page)

Doxology

Scripture Reading and Prayer Psalm 39

Hymns 17, 18 "Our Great Savior" "Let's Just Praise the Lord"

Pastoral Prayer

Hymns 76, 78, 79 "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know"

Message "Fruit of the Spirit" "Patience" I Samuel 25 Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 92 "Oh How I Love Jesus" Benediction

### **THE MINISTRY OF MISSION**

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

### **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up  
Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Ernie Beck  
Precept class on Tuesday with Wendy Baldwin at 6:30pm  
Men's Bible study Wednesday at 9:30am - Jim O'Rourke  
Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. - The book of "Amos"- Margaret Was  
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

### **Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!**

\*The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary\*

\*\*Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz\*\*

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you 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.

From our perspective, Gentiles in the Church is the norm. Jewish believers were extremely rare throughout the Dark Ages, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, and on into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Only in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century do we see an influence in the church of Jewish believers, and in our current century still there are few compared to the first century.

For Paul to remind the Gentile Christians in verse 11 of their dismal past: "Uncircumcision" is a term of derision that Jewish people would use to describe their disdain for the Gentiles. Perhaps we might assume that this would be equal to a father saying to his daughter that her boyfriend is "uncouth" or "from the other side of the tracks." But there is more here. To mention that you are part of the "Uncircumcision" means that you are outside of the covenant of Abraham, and thus without hope of eternal life. Jewish believers saw the Messiah coming only for those who were in the commonwealth of Israel. Gentiles had no such promise and were henceforth outside of the faith.

But Paul sees this as a past event thanks to the Cross of Christ where Gentiles can now access the promises. It is important that they have that reminder of the fact that they had no hope and were without God in the world. When we witness, we do well to tell people of their current condition lest they think that God just lets everybody in eventually. The Good News is only good if it saves you from being without hope and without God in the world.