

St Mary's Ferndown, w/c 25 Sept 2016
In Christ - Brought Near
Ephesians 2:4-13

Read verses 2:1-5

In these verses Paul contrasts the disastrous ways of this world (**v2**) with the plan of love he has for us (**v4,5**)

- Paul speaks of this world in dramatic terms (e.g. "ruler of the kingdom of the air", and "gratifying the cravings of our flesh"). Do you think this is a fair description?
- What does **v3** say this world deserves?
- But what has God done to help us avoid this outcome? (**v4,5**)
- Is salvation avoiding the consequences of following the ways of this world?

Read verses 2:11-13

The Jewish people were part of God's salvation plan in the Old Testament (see **John 4:22**) but in the New Testament God's salvation has been opened up to the whole world, which now means the outsiders - the Gentiles - (you and me!) - can be included. It is important that the whole world can now have the chance to "be brought near".

- How does the "blood of Christ" (**v13**) bring us near? (NB: this is a hard question!)
- How can we, practically, help other people to "be brought near" (especially those who we might consider complete outsiders)?

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