

WALKING WITH JESUS A STUDY IN DISCIPLESHIP



— Who we are in Christ as his people



— What we do in Christ as his disciples

EPHESIANS 2

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

12

— Formerly dead in our sins (v. 1)

THE BIBLICAL USES OF 'SIN'

1. An act against the will of God; missing the mark (e.g., worshiping idols or engaging in adultery)
2. The anti-God condition of all people, produced through the line of Adam (Romans 5:12-14)
3. The impetus of sins—that is, the nature of sin drives us to commit sins (Romans 7:8)
4. The evidence against our souls (i.e., sin puts us to death—Romans 7:11)
5. The offering made by Christ for our sin (*hamartia*—1 Corinthians 5:21)

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

13

— Made alive with Christ (v. 5)

14

— Saved by grace (vv. 5, 8)

15

— Raised up with Christ, seated in heavenly realms (v. 6)

16

— God's handiwork, created for good works in Christ (v. 10)

THE GOSPEL

- The gospel starts with bad news: our sin has sentenced us to death, threatening to separate us from God for eternity
- But the bad news is met by good news: God has, in his freely offered grace, made a way through the death of his Son Jesus for us to be restored to relationship with God
- It is by faith that we receive this offer and enter into lasting relationship with God

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope

and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

17 — *Brought near by the blood of Christ (v. 13)*

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity (“one new man”) out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

18 — *As Gentiles, united in faith with believing Jews (v. 15)*

19 — *Possessive of access to the Father by the Spirit (v. 18)*

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

20 — *Citizens with God’s people, members of his household (v. 19)*

21 — *Being built together as a dwelling for God (v. 22)*

ACTS 10

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, 47 “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

ROMANS 11

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, 18 do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” 20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. 23 And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

... 30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. 32 For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.