

Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes.

Part 18: Knowing God with Our Hearts

Houses of Light Church • December 8, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: Ephesians 2:1-3

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **Ephesians 2:1-3***

Quick Review:

Last week, we learned about how we were dead in our trespasses and sins, which is why we deserved the wrath of God (Ephesians 1:3).

- Spiritual death is a kind of blindness and hardness of heart. When we are in this state, we cannot see the beauty of the Lord or the glory of salvation (Ephesians 4:18 & 5:6-8).
- Even though we were living in this condition, while we were in fact still enemies of God, Christ died for us to give us life. He did what none of us were able to do on our own.
- When Jesus gave us life, He gave us the ability to understand, believe, and see the beauty of the gospel and the horrors of sin and hell. In Him, we can see the reality of our own guilt and His glorious ability fill all in all. This is what the Bible calls new birth (John 3:3,5). In this new life, our heart is awakened in faith.
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What does Paul mean by sin and trespasses?

Take a look at the video: “Khata: Sin” by the Bible Project

Write down your notes below:

“...with the word sin, the biblical authors are offering a robust description of the human condition. It’s a failure to be humans who fully love God and others. It’s our inability to judge whether we’re succeeding or failing. And it’s that deep selfish impulse that drives much of our behavior.”

Living in Sin is not Living in Freedom

What Paul is trying to make clear to us in chapter 2 of this letter is that before we were saved by Jesus, we were all living under the power of sin and we were “following the course of this world, following the prince and the power of the air.”

- “Following” here implies that we were living our daily lives under the power of sin. This is as if Paul were to say “when you were living in sin, you were synchronized to the frequency of this world and the god of this world (Satan).”

What do we learn from this statement?

1. Living in sin is actually not living in freedom. The sinner says: "I am free from every restriction God would want to place on me, I don't need Him!" (see Psalm 2:3). Paul is responding: "You're not free, you're in tune with the world and Satan himself. What is at work within you are not your good ideas or your dreams, but the influence of the evil one."
2. Everyone is following someone. We may think we are special, saying "I can choose my own path, no one can tell me what to do!" Paul responds, "You're not as independent as you think, you live according to the current of the world, which is dominated by Satan. You're not as autonomous as you think."
3. This is the state we were in when Jesus gave His life for us. We were utterly hopeless as puppets of the world and enemies of God. Christ set us free to live differently — when we understand this our sense of freedom and gratitude increases!

This is the miracle of Christ laying down His life for us:

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." **Romans 5:6-11**

Jesus sets us free from living synchronized with the world, that's why we face constant opposition, but we can stand firm in the fight.

"If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." **John 15:19**

The more we live and dwell in the presence of Christ, connected to relationship with Him and beholding His face, the more we will untangle ourselves from the influence and power of this age. It takes time to sober up from the influence of the world, but we are invited to be set apart so that we can live in the freedom Jesus gave His life for us to have.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." **John 10:10**

The world was not created to be this way, and soon a time is coming where the Lord will return and restore everything — He will make the wrong things right and destroy every unrighteous and wicked kingdom.

"For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet." **1 Corinthians 15:21-25**

So what do we do with what we have learned?

1. Come out of our spiritual death by surrendering to Christ. Receive true freedom by breaking ties with the power of this world and receiving salvation through the blood of Jesus!

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done

what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” **Romans 8:1-4**

2. Wake up the people around us who are spiritually dead.

“...I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” **Acts 26:17b-18**

Someone prayed for and preached the gospel to us, when we have received such a great miracle, are we really going to keep it to ourselves? This is a message for everyone!

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” **Romans 10:13-15**

Now we get to partner with the Lord in spreading this message of hope around the world, starting with our families, neighbors, and co-workers.

Reflection questions:

1. **How can we awaken those who are spiritually dead? Challenge: Share the gospel with someone this week!**
2. **Who was really in charge when we were spiritually dead?**
3. **Why do we cry out “Maranatha” as the church and as sons/daughters?**

Announcements:

1. Don't forget, we have our Young Adult Set (Y.A.S.) every Wednesday at 8:00 pm here in the prayer room.
2. Our prophecy ministry is open this Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00p.m. Healing ministry is open on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00p.m. Register now at www.heartbeatprayerroom.la
3. Wanna join our volunteer teams? We are now receiving new people in the ushers, security, parking, and kids ministry teams! Talk to one of our team members to sign up.
4. For more information, or to sign up for a friendship group find us online at housesoflight.church or email us at hello@housesoflight.org .