

The Last Sunday of Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 14, 2021

“The Gospel: New Life in Christ”

Ephesians 2:1-10

THE BEFORE PHOTO: SPIRITUAL DEATH

Before we were “in Christ”—before we were saved we were _____. Paul isn’t referring to physical death here, but _____ death. The cause of this spiritual death is _____.

“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

“Your iniquities have separated you from your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear...” (Isaiah 59:2)

#1. Without Christ we have a dead _____.

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.” (Ephesians 2:1)

“you who were dead in your trespasses and sins.”

The heart of the problem is that sin is in our very _____—it’s who we are. We weren’t dead because we had _____ sin but because we were _____ sin.

“Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight...For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51:4-5)

The heart of the problem is the human _____.

“For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. These are what defile you...” (Matthew 15:19-20)

trespass = *paraptoma* =

***hamartia* = sin:** carries the idea of missing the _____, like you would with a bow and arrow; falling _____ of a goal, standard, or purpose.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23)

Apart from Christ, we’re not all as evil as we could be, however, we all fail to measure up to God’s perfect _____. And no matter how much good we do, or attempt to do, we’ll always fall short because—as we read in John 15:5—apart from Christ we can do _____.

#2. Without Christ we have a dead _____.

“You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.” (Ephesians 2:2-3)

Often when we think about a person’s Christian walk, we’re referring to the their faith _____ in their life—the things they do and say. And although this is correct, the term ‘Christian walk’ means so much more than this—it’s not just about our actions, but also our _____ our thoughts, priorities, and _____.

3 SOURCES OF THE DEAD WALK

- _____ . The world has all kinds of different ideas and standards; however, they all share one thing in common: they’re the exact _____ of the things of God.

Value #1: _____ : places _____ above all things and as the measure and end of all things. It says I am the master of my own fate—the determiner of my own _____.

God’s Response: “They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshipped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself.” (Romans 1:25)

Value #2: _____ : places a high value on _____ things—especially money—because money is the means of acquiring all other things. It confuses _____ with valuables, and argues that our net worth and our _____ are the same thing.

God’s Response: “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” (Luke 12:15)

Value #3: _____ : is popular in our _____ society. Everything is grey—there’s no such thing as right or wrong, as long as you don’t _____ anyone else.

God's Response: "There is a way that seems right for a person but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12)

Without Jesus, our thinking is _____ because the values this world exalts are often not the values of God—and in many cases go directly against God's _____.

- _____. When we are not "in Christ," we are in the _____, and that makes us more _____, and susceptible, to the influence and schemes of the _____. We can play by his rules, believe his lies, and advance his agenda without even knowing it.
- _____. When we are not "in Christ," we're controlled by our flesh, and by the flesh, he doesn't mean our _____ bodies, but our fleshy, _____ nature.

epithumia = lusts =

thelema = desires =

sarx = flesh = the _____ life that comes when one is _____ to doing whatever feels _____.

Because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, sin and death have been _____. We are a new creation and we can be _____ through Christ, whereas an unbeliever cannot.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

"O wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:27)

THE AFTER PHOTO: THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

#1. In Christ we have a living _____.

"**But God** is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-7)

When we trust in the finished work of Jesus, God _____ us from death, just like He raised Jesus from death. We are _____ with Christ and have the hope that we will live _____ with Him in the heavenly places.

"...I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

#2. In Christ we have a living _____.

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When Jesus brings us to life from death, He does it by _____ alone, through _____.

2 WAYS GOD EXTENDS THIS GRACE

- He graciously provides the gift of _____.
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who ever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- He graciously providing us with the _____ of faith. In order to live, Jesus' blood has to be applied in _____.

#3. In Christ we have a living _____.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10)

Works have nothing to do with _____ or _____ salvation.

God has brought us back to life to do—He makes us a new creation so we can live a new _____.

God expects everyone who is in Christ to use their gifts, talents, abilities; their education, experiences, and resources in _____ to help them live our their unique _____ and to do those things that He planned for them to do long ago

Are you alive in Christ?

Are you producing good works or are you showing the works of a dead man?