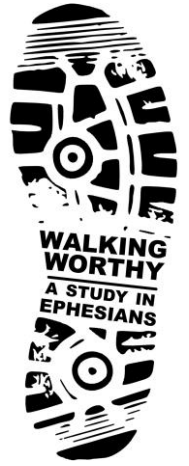


Ephesians 2:1-10 But GOD...

From the Series: Walking Worthy



Original Sin (1-3)

- “Dead man walking” - that is exactly what each and every one of us was before Christ.
 - We were lifeless bodies walking around chained by our sins.
- **A man not born again, not walking in step with God, is walking bound by the sins of this world, and following Satan (“the prince of the power of the air”).**
- **EVERYONE is born a sinner - that’s what the term “original sin” means.**
 - Genesis 8:21, Psalm 51:5, Proverbs 22:15, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12-21, et al.
 - It is in our human DNA, our “nature”, to sin and that makes us “children of wrath.”
 - 2 Peter 2:14 “They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!”

BUT GOD... (4-7)

- (4) Some of the most amazing words in Scripture... “BUT GOD!”
 - **Just like Jesus raised Lazarus back to life in John 11. God raised us back to life with Christ.**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- (5) “Saved by Grace”
 - The Greek word for grace is *χάρις* (*charis*) it means favor...unmerited favor...it conveys the idea of forgiving a debt or a wrong.
- (6) Not only resurrected from the dead back to life...but to NEW LIFE in Heaven!
 - **Why would God do that? Why would He forgive (pardon) us to begin with?**
 - **Because that homeless, thief...is his son (See Luke 15 – the Prodigal Son).**

By Grace Through Faith (8-10)

New Living Translation

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 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.

- (8) Saved by grace (alone) through faith (alone) - not of your own doing - it is the gift of God!
 - To understand the relationship between Grace and Faith,
 - **We can think of water flowing through a hose. The water (*God's Grace*) is the important part, but it is communicated through the hose (*Our Faith*). The hose does not quench your thirst; the water does. But the hose brings water to the place you can benefit from it. (Guzik)**
- In our sinful state, there is no work to accomplish, no activity to complete, no sacrament to adhere to, there is no action that will earn us favor with God ...just faith.
 - **Adrian Rogers said, "I wouldn't trust the best fifteen minutes I ever lived to get me into heaven."**
 - **Your salvation was never about you to begin with.** It was never about what you did, it was always about what Jesus did, and He has promised He will never let you go.
 - Baptists like to talk about "Security of the Believer" but I prefer the term "Sufficiency of the Savior" instead.
 - The term "Security of the Believer" seems to invest too much in the believer...but "Sufficiency of the Savior" moves your mind and heart away from yourself and points to the one with the true power!
 - Jn 3:16, Eph 1:13-14, Rom 8:38-39, Psa 136:26, Gal 2:20, Rom 8:1, Jn 6:37, 2 Tim 2:13, et al.
 - **If you have truly asked Jesus to save you, and you meant it when you asked, then He has done what he promised to do (1 Jn 1:9)...so quit praying that God would save you again...and start living like you are saved!**
- **One of Satan's most underhanded and effective schemes is to get believers consumed with themselves, with their own salvation, with doubt and fear. When he does this, it makes us ineffective as witnesses for Jesus, and it takes us away from the work that Jesus has for us to do!**