

Why Fish?

Matthew 4: 18-19

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

Ephesians 2:1-22

1As 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. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] 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.

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

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.

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 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.

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.

We will begin to fish when we live remembering:

1. What does it mean to be lost? (14 characteristics)

1. Dead in sins, v1...ontas nekrous, present active particle, 'when you were dead...paraptomasin kai harartiais (tresgressions and sins)
2. Walk like the world, v2 (Gk...according to the world of that period)
3. Subject to Satan, v2 (word used to describe 'air' is the lower and denser atmosphere) (Satan is here pictured as ruler of demons/agencies of evil)
4. Children of disobedience, v2...our very nature...'sons of disobedience'
5. Children of wrath, v3...under God's wrath...both Gentiles and Jews
6. Lived in the lusts of flesh and mind, v3 (2 words: heave and pant-with switch turned on...lust- life centered upon self)(of the thoughts and purposes)
7. Aliens from the Kingdom, 12, 19(heathen-choris)(alienated from the commonwealth/political/spiritual kingdom)...no citizenship
8. Without Christ, 12.. 'en toi kosmoi...goes with both phrases..
9. Without God, 12 'atheoi'...only here in NT and carries with it hostility against God.
10. Without Hope, v12, no hope of any kind
11. Strangers to the covenant and promises, v12
12. Far off from God, 13...makran..
13. Enmity, v14...state of being an enemy...partition wall (fence)
14. Separated from other persons, 14

2. What does it mean to be saved? (15 characteristics)

1. To be made alive, v5... (sozo)
2. Raised up with Christ, v6...picture of baptism, literal resurrection

3. Sit in the heavenly realms, v6 present tense...to sit with Him
4. Created to do good works, v10 purpose of the new creation in Christ...from the beginning...and to walk in those good works
5. Saved by grace through faith, v8-9...grace is God's part/faith is ours
6. God's workmanship, 10...God is molding you...the ending result...
7. Fellow citizens in the Kingdom, 19
8. Reconciled, v14...the enmity is abolished...the old hostility is destroyed
9. Access to the Father, v18
10. Been made into a new person, v15...only in Christ
11. At peace, v17...only Christ is the peace maker between men, races, nations and classes.
12. Built as God's dwelling place, v22...(to build together with different pieces/materials) (habitation of God in Spirit) (all growing together into a holy temple in the Lord)
13. We have been brought near, v13 (in intimacy with Christ and those of His Kingdom, Israel)
14. Member of God's household, v19 (paroikoi- to be near but not in...no longer) (fellow citizens) (of the household of God)
15. In ages to come, we experience His riches, kindness and grace, v7 (exceeding kindness...toward us)

The reason we fish is we don't want anyone to live without Christ and experience the blessing of being God's child while at the same time we don't want people to die without Christ and experience hell for all eternity.

3. What it means to be caught...

The Reel

The final song Bob included in “Good News” was entitled “Do You Really Care?” (while Bob compiled “Good News” and wrote most of the songs, this song was written by Bill Cates) The words said: “People grope in darkness; Searching for the way. / Do you know of someone / You can help today? / Do you really care? Do you know how to share/ With people everywhere. / Do you really care?”