

Accountability and Power

1. Some of the Disciples in Ephesus Were Missing Out (1-7).

2. Paul Continues Teaching About the Kingdom of God (8-10).

3. The Word of the Lord Spreads with Holy Spirit Power (10).

CONCLUSION: People are not Christians just because they say they are Christians. Many are greatly confused even about the basics of Christianity. Faith in Jesus as Messiah is how God unites us to His people. God's Word shows us that Jesus has appointed the Church and the Holy Spirit as His means of both power and accountability for the individual disciple to be a part of the Body of Christ. United with Him we now function together in spreading Christ's Kingdom throughout all the earth.

Romans 8: 12 – 17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are *led by the Spirit of God* are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but *you have received the Spirit of adoption* as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

First Peter 3: 26 – 33

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but *made alive in the spirit*, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ *Baptism*, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Colossians 2: 8 – 12

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to *Christ*. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and *you have been filled in him*, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² *having been buried with him in baptism*, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, *God made alive together with him*, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Is there any quality control in Christ's Kingdom? How do differences and disputes get resolved concerning the things of God? Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit and membership in His Church through baptism in His name with a local body to teach us the truths in Scripture. This devotion and obedience to God's Word is critical for all those claiming to follow Jesus.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 19:1-10; Romans 8:12-17; First Peter 3:26-33; Colossians 2:6-12**. DISCUSS, How are baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit related? How are they distinct? How does Jesus use each for the peace and purity of His Church? Have you been baptized? Are you listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance? PRAY "Lord Jesus, You alone are the Head of Your Church. Thank You for your gifts of the Holy Spirit, baptism as identification with You, and church officers."

Monday

READ **Acts 19:1-10; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 4:1-7**. DISCUSS, What does the Holy Spirit do within the disciple of Jesus? How are we to live in the Spirit? How was this "new" from what Jews already had? What has the coming of Jesus as Messiah done for those under the law? How does this relate to what Paul is teaching in the synagogues? MEDITATE on **Colossians 2:6-7**. PRAY "Lord, thank You for being our perfect High Priest."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 19:1-10; First Peter 3:26-33; Ephesians 1:1-10**. DISCUSS: How are we made alive in Christ? How does Christ's righteousness become ours? If we died in Jesus' death on the cross, how are we made alive again? What does baptism have to do with our new life? MEDITATE on **Colossians 2:6-7**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways that we don't act as beloved children of God. Teach us to walk in the newness of life that Your resurrection has secured for us."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 19:1-10; Colossians 2:6-12**. DISCUSS, How do you tend to think you don't need others? Why is healthy interdependence impossible without faith in Jesus? MEDITATE on **Colossians 2:6-7**. PRAY "King Jesus, thank You for 'canceling my record of debt' by nailing it to the cross. Teach us as a congregation to walk in the newness of life we have in You."

Thursday

READ **Acts 19:1-10; Joel 2:28-32; John 7:37-39**. DISCUSS, Who receives the Holy Spirit? Why had the Spirit not yet been given according to John? How is that related to being filled with the Holy Spirit? MEDITATE on **Colossians 2:6-7**. PRAY "Jesus, You are so good to us. Thank You for fulfilling the promises You have given Your people."

Friday

READ **Acts 19:1-10; Romans 8:12-17; First Peter 3:26-33; Colossians 2:6-12**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Colossians 2:6-7**. PRAY "Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us."

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 19:1-41**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Colossians 2: 6 – 7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.