



**When the Bones Are Good
July 11-12, 2020**

Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)

In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

Without the bones of the gospel, my life is defined by:

- **Separation** – “you were excluded”
- **Hopelessness** – “without God and without hope”
- **Emptiness** – 2:3 (TPT) “we lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated”

The good bones of the gospel:

Ephesians 1:4, 7, 13-14 (NIV)

- **PAST** - Before the world was created, God the Father chose us for salvation. (Vs. 4)

[God the Father] chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

- **PRESENT** - Here and now, in human history, Jesus died and rose again to make our salvation a reality. (Vs. 7)

In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.

- **FUTURE** - From the moment of our salvation and all through eternity, the Holy Spirit guarantees that our salvation will never be lost. (Vs. 13-14)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 2:13-20 (NIV)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 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, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

When I build on these bones, I have:

1 **Access to God (Vs. 13)**

... you who once were far away have been brought near...

2 **Peace with others (Vs. 14-15)**

... he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...

3 **Family from every walk of life (Vs. 19)**

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two...

Security gives me freedom to love.

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

We love because he first loved us.



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