

## Walking Across the Jesus Bridge Ephesians 2:1-10

### Introduction:

1. Have you ever read the Guinness Book of World Records? You will never read such a collection of stupid, crazy, bizarre things that people do. I'm thinking, "Why in the world did they do that?"
2. People do the craziest things in order to feel like their life has some sort of meaning, purpose, or significance. People look to fame, financial success, pleasure, powers, material possessions, etc.
3. But these things will not bring true meaning and significance to life – oh, maybe for a few short years, but like a little speck in human history, it is soon forgotten.
4. Did you know that your life can have eternal significance? I'm talking about true meaning that will last forever! Here is the key though: before your life can have **eternal** significance, you must have a relationship with an **eternal** God.
5. Some picture the path to heaven as a ladder you climb - every good deed you do lifts you up another rung on the ladder.
6. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Read **John 14:6**.
  - Instead of a ladder, visualize a bridge from earth to heaven. Jesus is the bridge to heaven!
7. Two questions: "Have you walked across the Jesus Bridge?" "Do you have a relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ?"
8. True meaning will never come to your life until that issue is settled. Every person must walk across the Jesus Bridge. Why is this so crucial? Let's look at Ephesians 2.

### First, because of the gap that exists between mankind and God.

1. What is the purpose of a bridge? Why do we build bridges? Because of gaps! There is land here and land there and a gap in between. That gap may be due to a mighty river or a huge canyon or a busy freeway.
  - These gaps create a problem trying to get from point A to point B, so what do we do? We build a bridge.
2. Did you know that a huge gap exists between mankind and God? Let's look into God's Word and see what it says about that gap. All of mankind is:
  - **Walking the wrong path** - 2:2
    - *"...the course of this world"* - The Bible teaches that there is a broad path that this world is walking. It is a path of rebellion against God and His Word.  
**Matthew 7:13**
  - **Possessing the wrong spirit** - 2:2
    - *"...prince of the power of the air"* is referring to Satan. The satanic spirit of rebellion and disobedience is said to be working in mankind.
  - **Born in the wrong family** - 2:3
    - Notice the word "all." We are all said to be children of wrath. Jesus said, *"Ye are of your father the devil."* We are in the wrong family. vs. 2 - *"...children of disobedience."*

3. How did it happen? It says, "*by nature.*" We are all sinners by nature and we disobey God very naturally because of the sin nature that has been passed on to us. **Romans 5:12**
4. So do you see that gap that has been created between us and God? It is because of our sin and disobedience. Notice **Ephesians 2:1** - "*dead in trespasses and sins*"
  - Not physically, but spiritually. "Dead in sins" means we do not possess the life of God. There is a separation that has taken place because of sin.
  - There is a gap keeping us from being able to reach God and dwell with Him eternally.
5. But now - enter the picture, Jesus Christ. He came "*to seek and to save that which was lost.*" **Ephesians 1:7**
  - He came to redeem us or purchase us, to buy us out of the slave market of sin. He came to make it possible for us to be redeemed back to God. How did He accomplish this? This verse says, "*through his blood.*"
6. Jesus came to span the gap between sinful mankind and a holy, righteous God. He came to be the bridge that we could walk across to get to God.
7. Only **He** can qualify to be that bridge. He was fully God and fully man. Think about it - nothing else would work. Only a perfect, sinless **God** could qualify as our substitute, but only **man** can shed blood and die for our sins and take the death payment we owe.
8. He was the God-Man. He was the perfect bridge to bring God and man together. He is the **only** bridge.

**Second, because true life doesn't begin until you walk across the Jesus Bridge.**

1. The people Paul is writing to had walked across the Jesus Bridge. vs. 1
  - "Quicken" means to vitalize, to make alive. **Illustration:** vital signs
2. When you walk across the Jesus Bridge you get a new life. **John 10:10**  
**You have a new life, free from your past.** 2:4-6
  - Verse 5 – "saved" means "delivered," but delivered from what? All the lusts and sins and disobedience of vs. 2-3. When you walk across the Jesus Bridge, you are free from all of that.
  - Verse 6 - "*raised up*" - This is a resurrection taking place. You are raised up from your dead and sinful past. It means a whole new life. **Romans 6:3-4;**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**You have a new life of purpose in the present.** 2:10

  - The moment you trust Christ, God places His Spirit within you so that you have the empowerment to serve Him. **Titus 2:14**
  - Your life now has true meaning and purpose as you seek to glorify God and impact people through your good works. You are created "*in Christ Jesus*" for a purpose.

**You have a new life that will last for eternity.** 2:6-7

  - This new life that you get when you walk across the Jesus Bridge is not for 10 or 20 or even 100 years. This new life and the impact of it reaches out into eternity.

- Notice "*ages to come.*" Would you like to be around making a difference in the eternal "*ages to come?*" You have to walk across the Jesus Bridge. Look at the end of verse 7 - it all happens "*through Christ Jesus.*"
3. True life doesn't begin until you walk across the Jesus Bridge.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Do you know what the greatest part of all of this is? The way you walk across the Jesus Bridge is by simple faith - period. 2:8-9
2. There is no work you can do to gain access to the Jesus Bridge. If you try to cross it based on your goodness and works, there's a big sign - Access Denied!
3. **Romans 6:23** expresses it perfectly:
  - "*For the wages of sin is death*" - there is that gap we talked about between us and God.
  - "*...but the gift of God is eternal life*" - God desires for us to live with Him for eternity.
  - "*...through Jesus Christ our Lord*" - there is the bridge that makes it all possible for us to dwell with God and have a relationship with Him.
4. Have you ever believed on Jesus Christ and opened up your heart to Him? Have you ever received Him as your Savior? Why don't you do that today and walk across the bridge that Jesus has provided for you.