

"Saved by Grace"

Ephesians 2:1-10

Part 2

Introduction: Three weeks ago, in our study of Ephesians we started into chapter 2. It is in this chapter we are looking at how God made us the riches of His grace. In the beginning of this chapter Paul is taking us back in time to remind us of what we were before salvation.

It was in the study of Ephesians 1 that we saw that before the foundation of the world God predetermined/predestinated that He would call a bride for His Son. This bride would also be known as the church or the body of Jesus Christ. Both Jews and Gentiles would make up the body of Jesus Christ and the church would be according to the eternal purpose of God.

He then explains who we were are Christ. We are:

1. Blessed with all spiritual riches.
2. Holy and blameless.
3. Members of the Royal family of God.
4. Accepted.
5. Redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. Forgiven of their entire sin debt.
7. Given an eternal hope.
8. Promised an eternal inheritance.
9. Sealed with the Spirit.
10. God's inheritance.
11. The riches of His glory.

This is who we are in Christ. These are just a few of the spiritual riches we have in Jesus Christ.

Now as we come to Ephesians 2, we are looking at how this happened. Paul is taking us back to remind us who and what we were before we were saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. As we again step into these verses I want to remind you that these verses describe the past condition of the believer BUT they describe the present condition of the unbeliever.

I. We were Dead in our Sins

Notice Ephesians 2:1

God has quickened/made alive we who are saved. But we see that before that we were dead in trespasses and sins. The word "DEATH" in the Bible means separation. There are 3 kinds of death.

1. Physical
2. Second
3. Spiritual

The death spoken of here is SPIRITUAL. The idea is that we were separated from God because of our sins.

Isaiah 59:2-3

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

³ *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

Not only were we separated but we were sinners and enemies of God.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

II. A Detailed Description of the Believer's Past Condition

As Paul continues, he is going to explain in detail what controlled our lives and why we were enemies of God. This is also a description of the unbeliever's life right now.

1. **We were controlled by the course of this world.**

Notice Ephesians 2:2

Before we were saved, we were controlled by the flow of the world's system. The world refers to the present system which exists that is under the influence of Satan and his demonic spirits.

This is the very system that will be destroyed in the Great Tribulation. Let me show you what God says about this system.

Revelation 18:1-4

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

This is a description of Commercial Babylon which will be destroyed in the last half of the Tribulation. This is the system which controls the population today. This is the system that is completely against the ways of God. Let me show you something else which John wrote concerning this system in Revelation.

Revelation 18:24

²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

It is the world's system fueled by demonic forces that creates the hatred for the children of God.

2. We were controlled by the Prince of the Power of the Air.

This is Satanic influence.

3. We were controlled by the spirit that NOW works in the children of disobedience.

Let me once again combine these two influences by refreshing your memory on what we talked about last week. Demons attach themselves to idols.

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

¹⁹ *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

²⁰ *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

Notice Ephesians 2:2 again.

The "CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE" literally means "SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE". **This title has the idea of conscious active rebellion and opposition against God.** In other words, we knew that we were living in sin and we knew that what we did was wrong, and it was against God.

This now brings us to where we stopped last week.

4. We were controlled by the lusts of the flesh.

Notice Ephesians 2:3

Among whom, this means the JEWS also were among the children of disobedience and we were children of disobedience. We were living to fulfill the desires of our flesh and our mind. We were in sin and we enjoyed living that way.

Our lusts and our desires were the center of our lives. We lived in such a way that we were attempting to satisfy our sinful cravings and we went to many lengths to get what it was that our mind and our flesh desired. But no matter what we indulged in it never brought lasting satisfaction.

Application:

I need to take some time here and make an application. If you are not saved, then you are still living to satisfy the sinful desires of the flesh and the mind. But have you noticed that whatever it is that you get it is never enough?

I want to show you something Solomon wrote but before I do let me show you what the Bible says about Solomon.

1 Kings 3:5, 9-12

⁵ *In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.*

⁹ *Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*

¹⁰ And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

¹¹ And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment:

¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Solomon was the wisest man on the earth. Now I will take you to Ecclesiastes where Solomon recorded an experiment in an attempt to find satisfaction.

Ecclesiastes 2:3-11

³ I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

⁴ I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

⁵ I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

⁶ I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

⁷ I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

⁸ I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

⁹ So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

¹⁰ And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Now let me show you what he wrote at the end of his letter.

Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

¹⁴ *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Solomon is saying that you need to turn to God while it is still possible.

Getting back to Ephesians Paul points out the results of our old lifestyle.

Notice Ephesians 2:3 again.

5. We were children of wrath.

Let me show you another verse to help us understand this.

John 3:36

³⁶ *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

The wrath of God is not an outburst of anger from a hot temper as we would think of wrath. When the Bible talks about the wrath of God it is referring to continuous seething hatred for sin.

Romans 1:18-24, 26, 28

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

¹⁹ *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

²¹ *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

²² *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient:

Conclusion:

If you are not saved, you are living a very dangerous life.

Illustration - The Hindenburg was a German airship that arrived in America on May 6, 1937, after cruising across the Atlantic. It was coming in for a landing at an airfield in New Jersey at 7:25 at night, and it was a thrilling sight, three football fields in length, held aloft by 7 million cubic feet of hydrogen. It could fly 84 miles an hour. It was luxurious, with a dining salon, lounges, and staterooms. Gigantic Nazi swastikas were painted on its tail fins. Hundreds of people gathered to watch it land. Suddenly a lapping tongue of fire appeared near the stern, and within a few seconds the Hindenburg exploded in a huge ball of fire, falling tail first with flames shooting out the nose. In one moment, the wonder and excitement and beauty were turned to fire and terror and destruction. Without Christ all of us are passengers aboard the Hindenburg. We may be enjoying ourselves to the fullest, but we don't realize that the next moment is going to bring us to judgment for without Christ we remain "**children of wrath**".