

**"Saved by Grace"**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Part 1**

**Introduction:** For the last 13 weeks we have been studying Ephesians 1. 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.

Now let us keep in mind that this church at Ephesus was made up of mostly Gentiles and so Paul is teaching them with the purpose of grounding them in the Truth of God's Word. He begins by taking them way back to eternity past and showing them that before the world ever began God had an eternal purpose and it was to have a bride for His Son. He then preceded to explain to them who they were in Christ. They were:

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 Paul is going to show us how God has executed His eternal plan by taking sinners and making them saints and then placed them in the body of Jesus Christ.** We shall see in this chapter how cold clay pots such as ourselves can become the RICHES OF GOD'S GLORY.

**I. Condition before Salvation; Dead in Trespasses and Sins**

There are two ways in which we need to consider the text before us. First of all, what we are about to see was the believer's condition before he or she was saved. We can better understand grace as we look back and see what we were compared to what we are today.

**At the same time, we need to see that what is described here is the unbeliever's condition at this very moment.**

### Notice Ephesians 2:1

The first thing we see here is that unbelievers are dead in their trespasses and sins. The "death" referred to here is spiritual death. The word "death" in the Bible means "separation" and in the Bible there are 3 kinds of death listed.

#### 1. Spiritual death

This separation in this state is being separated from God.

#### 2. Physical death

This takes place when our heart stops beating, and our soul is separated from our body.

#### 3. Second death

This is eternal separation from God. This will take place when the unsaved are judged at the Great White Throne Judgment and given their eternal sentencing in the Lake of Fire.

### Revelation 20:11-15

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.***

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

The death referred to here in Ephesians 2:1 is **spiritual death.**

This death is a death that every person is born into because we are all born into sin. We are born separated from God because of our sin.

**Isaiah 59:2-3**

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

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

Before the believer is saved, he or she is separated from God. If you are not saved, then you need to know that the Bible says you are spiritually dead. You are separated from God because of your sins. Now let me remind you of something that I said as we were looking at who we are IN CHRIST as we came through chapter 1; that is, as believers we must learn to set our feelings aside and believe what the Bible says about us.

The same can be said about the unsaved person. You may not feel spiritually dead, but your feelings can lie. What matters is what the Bible says, and the Bible says you are dead in your trespasses and sins. You have no connection with God for your sins have separated between you and your God.

The word "Trespasses" here means "false steps" and the word "Sins" means "missing the mark". Both of these describe deliberate acts against God. The fact that these 2 nouns are plural shows that these acts against God are repetitious. In other words, the lifestyle of the unbeliever is one of repetitious sins and trespasses.

Let us remember this is God's description of the unsaved person. You may not FEEL all that sinful, but the Bible says you are living in sin and it is repetitious in your life. The Bible also goes as far as to say that the unbeliever's life is lived out in acts against God.

**Romans 5:8-10**

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

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

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

These verses make it clear that the unbeliever is an enemy of God.

Let me get you back to spiritual death. To be spiritually dead does not mean as some teach that we are like stones. Some teach that because we are spiritually dead, we cannot even respond to God unless He regenerates us first and then we are able to respond. That

is not at all what the Bible teaches. As we already considered DEATH means separation, but it does not mean we cannot respond to the conviction of the Spirit. Let me show you a few verses and then explain what they mean in light of spiritual death.

**John 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

Every man has within him a light and that light is a conscience. Then there is something else.

**Romans 2:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

<sup>15</sup> *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

Here in Romans we also see that with the conscience which God has given to all of us we also have the Law of God written within our hearts.

Now if man is so dead that he cannot respond to these Truths then what is the point of the conscience and the Law written within their hearts? Now let me show you something else.

**Romans 1:18-21**

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

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

<sup>20</sup> *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:*

<sup>21</sup> *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.*

Here we see that the wrath of God is CURRENTLY revealed upon those who suppress the Truth which God has given to man. Every man knows that God exists in 3 ways.

1. The Law in the heart.
2. The conscience.

3. Creation.

Now if man cannot respond to this Truth then how could a God of JUSTICE hold man accountable for not responding?

So, man is spiritually dead because he is born into sin. He is however able to respond to the Gospel as well as the Law in his heart and the conscience which God has placed in him. This does not mean that you can do something to save yourself it simply means that you are responsible for your sin.

Now someone may respond to all of this by saying, "I don't feel that bad." Let me explain why you must not trust your feelings, but you must believe what God says about you.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

<sup>4</sup> *In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Here is why you do not FEEL as bad as you really are. Satan has blinded your mind. Not your eyes but your mind. This means that you THINK you are fine. You do not grasp onto your true condition. So, regardless of how you feel or what you think, the most important thing is what does God say about me? The bible says you are:

1. A sinner

**Romans 3:23**

<sup>23</sup> *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

2. An enemy of God

**Romans 5:10a**

<sup>10</sup> *For if, when **we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,*

3. On a path that leads to eternal destruction

**Matthew 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Now as we move on, we shall see what controlled us in the unsaved state.

## II. The Detailed Description of the Unbeliever's Condition

As we move into the next 2 verses, we are going to see that unbelievers are controlled by 3 things.

### 1. Course of this world.

#### Notice Ephesians 2:2

Here we see that the unsaved person is controlled by the course of this world. The word "COURSE" refers to a "PERIOD OF TIME" or "AN AGE". The world here refers to the world's system that is controlled by Satan and is set completely against God.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you may think that you are the one controlling your life but really you are under the influence of this world's system and it is this present world system that is controlling you. This present world system has convinced you to buy into 3 different lies that are titled as:

1. **Humanism** - Man is sufficient within himself
2. **Materialism** - Things sustain us.
3. **Sensuality** - Personal pleasure brings satisfaction.

The entire population of man has bought into these and in each one man is convinced that he does not need God. He believes he is sufficient within himself, he believes that what he has and what he possesses will sustain him, and he also believes that personal sensual/sexual pleasure will satisfy him.

Now the unsaved person believes he is FREE to make his own decisions and to do what he wants. But what he or she does not know is that they are NOT free. They are slaves and they don't realize it.

- a. They are a slave to sin.
- b. They are a slave to the world's system.

But that is not all.

### 2. Prince of the power of the air.

Not only does the world control the way you live but Satan and his demonic spirits also have great influence upon your mind. Now there is much more to this that I want you to

see because many do not understand where this comes from. They do not understand how the door into the spirit world is opened. Let me show you.

**1 Corinthians 10:19-20**

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

*<sup>20</sup> 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.*

In Corinth there were many temples that were built to idols. Some of the Corinthians did not see anything wrong with going into these temples and eating from the feasts which were held. They knew that the idols were only metal, wood or stone. In that they were correct. But Paul reveals something here that everyone needs to understand.

Demons attach themselves to the idols and when people worship the idol they then come under demonic and Satanic influence. This is how the door to the spirit world is opened.

Now every unsaved person has idols in their life. Money, houses, cars, hobbies, jobs and the list goes on and on. But whatever the idol is it opens the person up to demonic and Satanic influence.

**Notice Ephesians 2:2 again.**

**3. The spirit that NOW worketh in the children of disobedience.**

This is exactly what I am talking about. Idolatry opens people up to demonic spirits.

**Conclusion:**

If you are not saved this describes you right NOW. There is only ONE way to get free.

**John 8:36**

*<sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*