

(1) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air --- the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience --- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were, by nature, children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ --- by grace you have been saved --- and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(8) For by grace you have been saved --- through faith! And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Think on these things:

- 1) How does Paul describe Christians before they were saved? Essentially, we all have the “same” past (vs. 1-2a).

**He describes us as “dead” in our trespasses and sins, living according to our own passions and desires of body and mind.**

- 2) When we, “follow the course of this world,” are we following after God? If not, who does Paul identify we follow? So, who has been allowed authority in this world? What two phrases at the end of vs. 2 and 3 describe “the course of this world” followers?

Following? **We are NOT following God. We are following the Prince of the Power of the Air (i.e., Satan, who is running amuck in our world!)**

Two Phrases? **There are two descriptive phrases of worldly unbelievers: 1) “Sons of disobedience” (i.e., sons of Satan, the Prince of the Air); and 2) “Children of Wrath” (i.e., the unrepentant for whom Judgment Day exists [Revelation]).**

- 3) V. 3 sheds light on everybody’s “past.” What is the cause of our sinning against God?

**Everybody carries out the passions and desires of their own bodies and minds. The sins may be different, but the base cause is the same --- doing what I want to do!**

- 4) V. 3 concludes that we were by nature “like the rest of mankind” before being saved. V. 4 calls this “being dead in our trespasses.” (We all could refer to ourselves as “*the walking dead!*”) What or who woke us up and “made us alive in Christ” (vs. 4-5)? Why?

**God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. Why? Because of His great love for us!**

- 5) The end of v. 5, along with v. 8, presents a critical Church Doctrine on Salvation. What are we taught about “being saved? See that v. 8 says, “this is NOT of your own doing.”

**It is by God's grace (alone) that we are saved! It is His GIFT to us --- by faith!**

- 6) How do you understand "grace" as talked about in Q5 above?

**(An important question of understanding for the class!) It might include concepts like "undeserved acceptance" or "kindness" by God towards us, or God's "forgiveness" so that we do not have to pay the penalty for our own sinful wrongdoings.**

- 7) What are the three things God the Father has done for us because we are now "in Christ"?

v. 6 – **God will raise us up into heaven to be seated with Jesus.**

v. 7 – **God shows kindness to us who are found to be (believing) in Jesus.**

v. 10 – **We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works God the Father predetermined for us.**

- 8) How do you understand the beginning of v. 7? Is salvation only about the here and now?

**It speaks of "coming ages", which could refer to the Millennial Kingdom and the new heaven and new earth (life after Judgment Day). No, salvation isn't just for this age; it's for eternity!**

- 9) James had a lot to say about "faith" and "works" (James 2:14-18). Here in Ephesians 2:9-10, Paul teaches us the relationship between the two. Why are we told that God's gift of salvation is not the result of our own good works (v. 9)? What do we need to understand about good works (v. 10)? What does the last phrase of v. 10 teach us about works? See also John 14:23-24.

Why not by works? **God will not tolerate anyone boasting before Him, "I deserve to be here; I earned my place in heaven." (We are all sinners; we get to heaven only by GRACE.)**

Need to understand...? **God expects EVERY Christian to do good works. He prepared us specifically to do some things.**

Good works demonstrate...? **Good works demonstrate that we live in obedience to God. They are our expression of love for, and commitment to, Him.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: