

**Ephesians 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,**

Paul had just stated the union we have with Christ now that we are born again. In this section, Paul states the condition a person is in before receiving Jesus. The word dead in this verse in Greek is nekros means spiritually dead or separated. When Adam transgressed against God, man became unplugged or disconnected from God. God cannot not fellowship with sin because He is Holy (Ps 22:3) but praise God Jesus became sin and separated from the Father on our behalf (2 Cor 5:21). Sin is no longer a barrier between us and God (Heb 10:19).

The word sin in Greek is hamartia and means to miss the mark. God's standard is perfection (Matt. 5:48) but the problem was there was no one righteous and all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom 3:10, 3:23). The only person that could hit all 613 commands perfectly and not miss the mark was Jesus (Mat 3:17, Rom 8:3).

**Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,**

Paul is reminding the church of Ephesus their former condition before coming to Christ. It is good to remember where we once were before receiving Jesus (2 Pet 3:1, 2 Peter 1:13). A person who is not born again is influenced by the enemy but also a believer who has not renewed their mind. Just being led by the flesh or exalting self will have us walking opposite of God (Amos 3:3).

When we walk according to the course of this world, this verse says we are following someone and it is the prince of the power of this air which is the devil (2 Cor 4:4).

**Ephesians 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

Everyone was born into this world with a spirit disconnected from God with a sin nature (Rom 5:12). We were children of the devil because of Adams sin not our individual sin. A seed will reproduce after its own kind and when Adam transgressed against God, he became disconnected and had a sin nature. Everyone born into this physical world inherits a sin nature and it takes us getting born again (our spirit) to become back connected and enter into fellowship with God.

How did we conduct ourself before receiving Jesus? This verse says in the lust of our flesh and in the lust of our minds. Praise God we no longer live according to the flesh (Rom 8:13).

This verse tells us the two areas (soul, body) that are purchased but have not experienced the fullness of that salvation. Our soul has to be renewed and we must bring our flesh under the subjection of our spirit man (Gal 5:16, 1 Cor 9:27).

**Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

But God.. the worst situation we can be in was being a child of the devil and controlled by him. We were in a hopeless situation and could not save ourselves. **But God** stepped down to become a man to become sin for us. God demanded perfect righteousness but the problem was our righteousness is of filthy rages and we were in debt to God. God became the answer to our problem and released us from the debt we owed when we put faith in Jesus. There is never a situation worse than our former condition so in all things we need to remember but God.

It was because of His great love for us that was the motive and heart behind Him saving us.

**Ephesians 2:5 *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),***

Our spirit that was once dead is now alive by putting faith in Christ. He sends the spirit of His Son into our hearts (Gal 4:6) and now that spirit has been quickened. This verse says He has quickened us together. In the Greek this means that God made us alive together revealing complete union. In studying the gospels, the emphasis can be seen with Jesus' union with the Father. He says at least 150 times in the gospels "My Father". The Epistles reveal our union with Christ.

**Ephesians 2:6 *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

Not only did He quicken our spirit but He also raised us and seated us. Most would agree Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father (Mk 16:19) but they are not aware that when they put faith in Jesus, they too are seated with Him. We were raised and that is far above all powers of darkness. We are seated with Him in heavenly places signifying a position of authority and rest. We should be looking down at our problems (Col 3:2).

Sitting is a position of rest. When there is turbulence and high pressure on an airplane the first thing the flight attendant says is "remain seated". When the enemy tries to apply pressure, we need to remain seated in our position in Christ. The pressure is on the outside of the plane and this is where the enemy tries to attack us. He can only flow through the physical realm. Our response is to focus on who we are Christ and stay in a place of rest.

**Ephesians 2:7 *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***

Three things Paul just described took place when we put faith in Jesus; we were made alive, raised, and seated with Jesus and that is through His grace. God made us alive, raised us, and seated us not because of anything we've done or because we deserved it. (2 Tim 1:9). God does not move in our lives based off our behavior. Grace is God's goodness poured out on us independent of what we do. This should bring to the question does it matter if I just go live in sin? Paul deals with this heavily in the book of Romans in chapter six. The answer to this is God forbid, grace empowers us to walk free from sin not to live in it (Tit 2:11, Rom 2:4).

God's purpose for doing this was to show His kindness towards us.

**Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,***

Both grace and faith are necessary for salvation; it is a combination of the two. Grace is God's part, faith is our response to what He has already provided. That faith is also not our own (Gal 5:22). Grace alone leads to sovereignty but faith alone will lead us into works. Both are needed for salvation but we also continue in the Christian walk and receive anything else we need from the Lord the same way (Col 2:6). God provides salvation to all (Titus 2:11, Rom 1:16) but it must be received. The Greek word saved in this verse is *sozo* and means to heal, preserve, make whole, prosper. By grace you have been healed through faith.

It is hard to stay bound by religion when you understand this verse says we are saved by grace and not by works.

**Ephesians 2:9 *not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

No man will be justified by the works of the law but by faith. (Gal 2:16, 3:11). In other words, no man will be in right standing with God based off their works or performance. What are the works of the law? Anything man does as an attempt to be right with God. If I do this, then God will bless me. If I am good enough, I will go to heaven; this is not true.

All of our righteousness is of filthy rags (Is 64:6) and all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). If we offend at just one point, we are guilty of it all (Jam 2:10, Gal 3:10). Righteousness or right standing with God is found in Christ alone and His finished works, therefore how could anyone boast as if it was something we did to earn it?

Romans chapter one speaks of the Gentile (nonreligious) person need for righteousness. Romans chapter two points to the Jews (religious) person needs for righteousness and then Paul moves into Romans chapter three brings it all together stating that boasting is exclude for all because all have fallen short (Rom 3:27).

The previous verse states salvation is a gift. A gift cannot be earned, only received. It is not about what you are doing, it is about what He (Jesus) did. Paul came down hard on the Galatians as they once put their faith solely in Christ but had fallen out of grace and were tempted to go back into Christ plus me which is not the gospel but a perversion. It is either all Christ or all me but it cannot be both (Rom 11:6).

**Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***

Workmanship in Greek is poiema and means something that is made. God did all the work. Speaking of like a canvas or work of art. We came to God as a blank piece of paper and it was Him who took it, molded and wrote on it and turned believers into living Epistles. The master put it together and likewise since salvation is a gift we cannot boast as if we did the work. We are special and unique to God, we are not just a number on a Census Bureau form.

We came to God as a blank piece of paper and it was Him who took it, molded and wrote on it and turned believers into living Epistles.

Christ paid it all and we get the benefits. Notice this verse says created "unto" good works not to do good works. Good works are a vital part of the Christian walk but it is a response to who we have become not a prerequisite for who we need to be.

The word ordained in Greek is proetoimazo and means fit up in advance or to make ready beforehand. God is not in a reactive stage; He is proactive and is always before us with everything prepared.

**Ephesians 2:11 *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands***

Paul is reminding the Ephesians of their former condition. Sometimes it is good to remember (2 Peter 1:13, 3:1) how we once were to appreciate the abundance of grace that God has poured towards us. Gentiles were considered the uncircumcised and the Jews had the mark of circumcision to identify them as God's chosen people.

David identified Goliath as an "uncircumcised" Philistine (1 Sam 17:26). He was basically saying, "You have no covenant". Legalism is the same way. It will always look down on people and point to their shortcomings while in turn glorify self. But now the real circumcision is not a physical act but that of the heart (Ex 36:27). It is a spiritual circumcision that did away and discarded that old sin nature and man, bringing us to newness of life (Rom 6:4) and becoming new creations in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:17).

***Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.***

We were aliens (had no legal rights) and strangers (not even friends) and outside the covenant of promise. Having also no hope, and without God. We were in a hopeless situation, so again it could never be about us earning or deserving anything from God. No, God demonstrated His love for us that while we sinners Christ died for us (Rm 5:5).

A person who has not accepted Jesus is without hope and without God in this world. Sadly, there are many Christians today that still live like they are without hope and without God. Israel was supposed to be preachers and evangelist during their day but instead worshiped the law and alienated the Gentiles.

***Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***

The condition we were in was the most hopeless, impossible situation one could be in. But God sent His Son to become a man, pay a bill that He didn't owe, which was our bill that we could not pay and then adopt us and made us His sons. There is no situation that we face now that compares to the condition we were previously in and we need to remember that. In all situations but God... The doctor tells you that you are going to die, BUT GOD sent Jesus who took my infirmities and bore my diseases (Is 53:4). The banker says you have just hit bankruptcy, BUT GOD sent Jesus who became poor so I could become rich (2 Cor 8:9) and has given me the power to get wealth (Deu 8:18).

Notice this verse says we have been brought near by the blood of Christ. We now have forgiveness of sins; not through going to confessions, saying the rosary, or putting God on an apology system. No, it is only through blood that there is remission of sins (Heb 9:22).

***Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,***

The only person that could reconcile God and man is Jesus. We have now been justified through Christ and are at peace with God (Rom 5:1).

Israel had adopted a mentality of superiority to other nations. The wall spoken of here was at the temple of Jerusalem which read "Any other Nation enter at the expense of his own life". This was a literal wall in the courtyard of Jerusalem and restricted Gentiles in certain areas. Partition in Greek is phragmos and means that which separates, prevents two from coming together. The 5ft high wall separated the Jews and Gentiles but Jesus did away with this barrier. Only Jesus could create and bring this peace and unity between the two groups.

The severity of Gentiles crossing this barrier can be found in Paul being accused of bringing Greeks into the temple and crossing this holy place (Acts 21:27-29).

Jesus removes the distinction that divided the Jews and Gentiles into superior and inferior people.

**Ephesians 2:15 *having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,***

This verse tells us how He did away with it and it was by abolishing all the rules and regulations that made a distinction between Jew and Gentiles. He abolished the rules and regulations that the law demanded. The word abolished in Greek is *katargeō* and means to cause to cease, put an end to, or to do away with. The new moon and feast days that are mentioned in the book of Colossians have all been done away with (Col 2:6). He did this to create one new humanity in Christ Jesus. Enmity in Greek is *echthra* and means hostility. This is speaking of what the Old Testament law created for Jews and Gentiles. There was a hostility between the two groups but now the Gentiles have been grafted into the covenant and are fellow heirs (Eph 3:6).

**Ephesians 2:16 *and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.***

The previous verse states how Jesus did away with the middle wall of separation. This particular verse emphasizes on why He did away with it. The reason was to reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) to God.

**Ephesians 2:17 *And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.***

Those who were far off were the Gentiles. Those who were near were the Jews.

At Jesus' birth the angels appeared and said peace on earth and goodwill towards men (Luke 2:14). The primary reason Jesus was sent was to bring humanity back into fellowship with the Father.

**Ephesians 2:18 *For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.***

But now both (Jew and Gentile) have access to the Father. The word access in Greek is *prosagoge* and means admission. This is similar to Disney World; we gain admission when we have our tickets and have access to enjoy the entire amusement park. Our union with Christ has given us access or admission straight to the Father to receive all the benefits as a child of God.

The Jews were near but now are IN Christ. All who accept Jesus have direct access to God and can come boldly to the throne room of grace (Heb 4:16). We have access because of our position in Christ. As sons and daughters, it grants us access into God's very presence. It is one thing to have God with us but to be able to walk straight into the presence of God is similar to a child that comes home from school and goes straight for the refrigerator for a snack knowing their position as a son with privileges is something Old Testament saints would have never imagined. We are able to call home and receive anything we need now!

Notice this verse says access to the Father, not the judge. Under the Old Covenant God progressively revealed himself through His redemptive names. We have a superior revelation of who God is through the person of Jesus and can now approach Him as Father (John 1:18, 1 John 3:1).

**Ephesians 2:19 *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,***

The word strangers in Greek is *xenos* and means guest. Gentiles are no longer outside the covenant and are not second class. Anyone who is in Christ is now a citizen of heaven (Phil 3:20) with all of heaven's resources at their disposal. All are members of the household of God and there is no longer a division between Jew and Gentile. This is similar to having a home with an open floor plan and no walls. There is not a division or separation between the rooms.

**Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

In the Old Testament God spoke through the prophets but now he has spoken to us by His Son (Heb 1:1). The gospel was preached in the Old Testament and is nothing new. God promised beforehand through His Holy Prophets of Jesus coming (Rom 1:2).

A cornerstone was used by builders in ancient times for construction projects. It was placed at the corner of the structure and used to guide the workers in their craft. The cornerstone was firm in its build and one of the largest pieces. Jesus is depicted as our cornerstone that the Church is built upon. The cornerstone was the foundational piece of the structure that the rest of the work is built upon. This is Jesus; One who is reliable and whom the entire body is built upon.

Peter says that Jesus; our cornerstone is “chosen by God and precious to him” (1 Peter 2:4).

**Ephesians 2:21 *in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,***

We are God's dwelling place. In the Old Testament God dwelled in the temples but under the New Covenant of grace, God chose His people to become a place that He takes permanent residence inside. God is not into visitations but has made us His habitation. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 6:19) and it is up to us to believe this by faith and believe we now possess the fullness of God in us (Col 2:10).

**Ephesians 2:22 *in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***

The Greek word for habitation means a dwelling place. God made those who put faith in Jesus, His permanent dwelling place (1 Cor 6:19). God's spirit does not come and go. We are in the dispensation of grace and He has chosen to abide in us forever (John 14:16, 23).

To summarize this chapter, it is total union bringing together both Jews and Gentiles together in Christ and to God.