

"A New Life in Christ" Ephesians 2:1-10

The emphasis of the second chapter is our position in Christ. Paul begins by contrasting the believers' current position in Christ with their condition apart from Christ.

Apart from Christ, one is dead. What? This is what the Bible says about the condition of humanity apart from Christ.

v. 1 And you were dead in your offenses and sins,

They have physical life and move; they function, but at the same time, they are dead, "***spiritually dead.***"

Ephesians 2:1-3 New Living Translation (NLT)

- 1. What we were vv. 1-3**
- 2. What God did for us vv. 4-9**
- 3. What God has made us now v. 10**

1. What we were vv. 1-3

v. 1

We are now alive, alive in Christ Jesus.

~ He is allowing us to see our spiritual condition when one is unsaved.

And you were dead ~ We, each, and every one of us were dead.

But the Bible declares, "There is no one good." Remember that they are dead and incapable of responding to spiritual matters until they put their trust in God.

Romans 3:10-12

We have to understand that one, being spiritually dead, cannot look for God, or even respond to God.

Matthew 13:13

It is not until God gave them, or us, life. Now, the cause of this spiritual death that we find ourselves in is because ... **you were dead in your offenses and sins,**

Romans 6:23

Death ~ means "separation" as when one dies, one's spirit is separated from the body.

James 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Now this is talking about physical death, but there is also a spiritual death, like when the spirit is separated from God.

Isaiah 59:2

All who are not in Christ Jesus are dead. Sin has separated them from God. This is why it does not matter what the sin is, not that one sin is greater than another. The condition of one who continues in their sins is that they are dead.

Genesis 2:16-17

And you will certainly die is what was going to happen when the woman was deceived and believed Satan's lie.

Genesis 3:6-8

We can understand that death is separation, and it is sin that brings about that separation of man's spirit from God. Sin separates us from God. And when we are in sin, we no longer have fellowship with Him.

v. 2

in which you previously walked ~ You previously walked is a reference to this being our practice; this was our behavior in the past.

We have three enemies: the world, the devil, and the flesh.

according to the course of this world, ~ it is the world or the world's system that puts pressure on us to conform to them, to be like them, and or to act like them.

But God's Word tells us otherwise: **Romans 12:2**

John 17:14

*** They conform to the world because they belong to the world.

according to the prince of the power of the air, ~ This is a reference to the devil.

of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ~ It is the devil who works in the children of disobedience. Not that Satan physically or spiritually is actually working in and with every non-believer.

Ephesians 5:6

John 8:44

This is how he operates; his lies are the instruments he uses for people to trip up, to fall, to sin, to fall into disobedience to the Lord.

This is the same tactic he used from the very beginning.

Genesis 3:4 The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die!"

v. 3

The flesh ~ is a reference to our old nature, our fallen nature in which we were born. This is the same old nature that desires to control the body and even our mind. It desires to be disobedient to God.

**Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in guilt,
And in sin my mother conceived me.**

*** What we all need to overcome these three enemies ~ the world, the devil, and the flesh ~ is God.

The unsaved person remains in their sin, with a fallen nature, and is already condemned. **John 3:18**

2. What God did for us vv. 4-9

v. 4

But God, being rich in mercy, ~ boundless riches of His grace, v. 7.

These are the riches that He has chosen to share with us, and it is with these riches that He makes it possible for us to be saved.

In His mercy, He does not give us what we deserve.
In His grace, He gives us what we do not deserve.

because of His great love with which He loved us, ~ We see the motive here is love. In His nature, God is love.

1 John 4:8

*** We are saved by the grace and mercy of God, which in essence is the love of God.

v. 5

*** This is the doctrine of regeneration. God, in His infinite power, gives us a new heart. He resurrects our dead hearts and gives us a living one. He gave us a new life when we were dead in our sins.

Titus 3:5

But our spiritual resurrection is much more; take note of what it does, **made us alive together with Christ**

v. 6

Physically, of course, we are in the world, but our spiritual position is in the heavenly realms with Christ Jesus.

v. 7

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He has saved us so that the church can glorify the grace and goodness of God for all eternity.

v. 8

Grace ~ salvation completely apart from any merit or work on our part. Our salvation is a gift from God. God's salvation is a gift from God, not a reward.

This is the work God does for us, and it is finished. **John 17:1-4**

There is no longer any need for sacrifice. Jesus was the ultimate and great sacrifice; the Lamb of God completed the great work of salvation.

v. 9

Now, there is nothing we can do to earn salvation. It's a matter of receiving God's gift, and this is by faith.

3. What God has made us now v. 10

v. 10

Workmanship ~ in Greek it is "poiema," from which our word poem is derived. It means "that which is made, a manufactured product."

2 Corinthians 5:17

We are a new creation, a new creature **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

James 2:14 What use is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

I think it's important to contrast here: **v. 10a ~ v. 2**

*** Satan works in the life of the unbeliever, so they cannot do good works. Their works are not good because they do not have a new nature; they remain in the old nature, in the sinful nature.

Matthew 5:16 Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Application:

1. Do you recognize what we were? That we were completely dead in our trespasses? We must thank the Lord for the salvation that we have received.
2. Thank the Lord that we can have victory over the world, the devil, and the flesh.
3. Thank the Lord for the gift of salvation. Have you received it?
4. Faith without works is incomplete; it is dead. God has given us His salvation for the purpose of performing good works.
5. Saved to serve, are you serving? If not, why not?