

## I. CONTEXT OF CHAPTER 2

- A. After outlining the seven spiritual blessings God has bestowed upon the Church and praying that believers would gain spiritual understanding and revelation of all that they have received in Christ, Paul then turns his attention to what God has accomplished for His people through salvation by grace.
- B. Ephesians 2:1–10 is one of the clearest and most powerful explanations of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ found in the New Testament. In this passage, Paul the Apostle contrasts humanity's former condition apart from God with the new life, identity, and position believers now possess in Christ.
- C. I believe this section of Ephesians is one of the clearest summaries of the gospel in all of Scripture because it answers four foundational questions:
  - 1. Who we were without Christ (vrs 1-3)
  - 2. What God did for us (vrs 5-7)
  - 3. How salvation is received (vrs 8-9)
  - 4. What the believer has become in identify and position (vrs 10)

## II. EPHESIANS 2:1-10

- 1. ***2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in***

**Christ** Jesus for **good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

### III. VRS 1-HE MADE ALIVE WHO WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS

1. There are only two types of people on the earth. Those who are dead in sin, or dead to sin. The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead! He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection.
- B. The Gospel does not offer to make bad people good, but dead people alive.
  1. <sup>23</sup> ***For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* -Rom 6:23**
  2. <sup>10</sup> ***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, (death) and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* -Jn 10:10**
- C. Sin produces not just physical death but spiritual death. Spiritual death is when our spirit man is dead making it impossible to know and fellowship with God who is life.
  1. <sup>20</sup> ***The soul who sins shall die.* -Ezekiel 18:20**
- D. The new birth describes the resurrection of our spirit from the dead. Just as God physically raised Jesus from the dead, He spiritually raises believers from spiritual death into new life.
  1. ***Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.* -Rom 6:4**

### IV. THE NEW BIRTH

- A. The New Birth refers to the work of the Holy Spirit in which God regenerates a sinner's dead spirit, gives spiritual life, opens their eyes and spiritual understanding, and creates a new nature within the believer.
- B. **This happens two ways:**
  1. Jesus quickens us

a) <sup>45</sup> ***And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.***

2. The Holy Spirit regenerates us

a) <sup>5</sup> ***not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit- Titus 3:15***

V. **VERSES 2-3- DESCRIBE OUR LIVES BEFORE BECOMING ALIVE IN CHRIST**

1. These next two verses describe the three primary enemies of our soul that made us dead in sin, the world, the flesh and the devil.

B. THE WORLD

1. ***In which you once walked according to the course of this world***

a) "The world" in Scripture often represents humanity's fallen system of values, desires, and rebellion operating apart from the truth and authority of God.

***(1) <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 1Jn 2:15-16***

(a) We must purge the church from the world, so the church can purge the world from death.

C. THE DEVIL

1. ***According to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience***

a) Satan represents the ultimate adversary of God's truth, holiness, and Kingdom, working through deception, temptation, accusation, and rebellion to oppose God and lead humanity away from Him and into an eternity separated from Him.

#### **D. THE FLESH**

##### **1. *Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind.***

- a) The flesh represents the fallen sinful nature within humanity that seeks independence from God and pulls people toward sin, selfishness, and rebellion rather than submission to the Lordship of Jesus and God's truth.

**(1) <sup>13</sup> *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.-Rom 8:13***

**(a) Now through the grace of God and power of the Spirit we are called to flee worldly lusts, deny the flesh, and resist satan.**

#### **E. CHILDREN OF WRATH**

##### **1. *And were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.***

- a) Humanity, because of its sinful condition, naturally stands under God's righteous judgment and justice and desperately needs the saving grace offered through Jesus Christ.
- b) Paul does not make this statement to speak condemnation, but to show the glorious Mercy, Kindness, and Love of God towards our pre-saved condition,

#### **VI. VRS 4-10 DESCRIBE WHAT GOD HAS DONE THROUGH THE GOSPEL**

- A. Verse 4 is one of the most powerful turning points in all of Scripture.

##### **1. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

- B. After describing humanity's grave and hopeless condition Paul the Apostle suddenly shifts the focus away from human hopelessness to God's mercy, grace, and undeserved kindness.

C. Verse 4 is one the greatest summaries of the gospel! It describes God's divine intervention when humanity could not save itself.

1. *"But God" represents God stepping into humanity's hopeless condition to accomplish what sinners could never do on their own.*

**VII. VRS 4–10 HIGHLIGHTS THREE POWERFUL ACTIONS THAT REVEAL WHAT GOD'S MERCY AND LOVE HAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR US.**

A. (vrs 5) MADE US ALIVE

1. ***made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)***

B. (vrs 6) RAISES US UP TOGETHER

1. ***and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus***

- a) ***GOD FIRST RAISED US UP SPIRITUALLY AND THEN HE WILL DO IT PHYSICALLY AT HIS SECOND COMING!***

C. (vrs 6) SAT US WITH CHRIST

1. ***sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

- a) Some of the spiritual blessings given to us are possessions, and some are POSITIONS!

**VIII. VRS 7 SHOWS GODS WHY?**

1. ***That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***

**IX. VRS 8-9 SAVED BY GRACE**

1. ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

B. What have we been saved from?

1. God (His wrath)
2. Sin that enslaved us
3. The devil's dominion over us

4. The World's demonic influence over us

C. By Grace alone so no man can boast.

1. No one can ever earn it or take credit for it.

#### X. VRS 10 DESCRIBES GOD'S MOTIVE

1. ***<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them***

B. The hebrew word for "workmanship" is (poiēma) which is translated masterpiece, handiwork something skillfully made. Where we get our English word "Poem" from.

C. We are God's beautiful "Poem" written in order to be publicly displayed through good works.

1. ***Paul's point is that believers are not saved by good works (vv. 8-9), but they are saved for good works (v. 10).***