

Ephesians 2.1-10

But God

Ephesians chapter 1 some of Most Exalted, Glorious writing of Apostle Paul
 CREATES New Words – RUNS words Together to EXALT the Triune God
 CRITICS: Words TOO Wonderful to come from Pen of Pharisee from Tarsus
 MOST Scholars hear FAMILIAR Voice of APOSTLE to the GENTILES
 Like Sing better in Shower – Praises have Rich Timbre from Prison CELL

Praise > God: Father, Son, Spirit – Choosing, Redeeming, Adopting, Sealing Us
 Prayer > Fully Realize His Power – Past, Present, and Future in Christ
 So chapter 1 – Paul ADDRESSING God Directly – Praise and Prayer

NOW Paul's 1st words DIRECTLY to Ephesian Xtians: "You were DEAD!"

1. Dead: *A Pic we would Never Post!*

a. We were Dead

v. 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

rich/poor strong/weak young/old male/female // red - white - yellow - black -
 brown

NO GOOD PARENT TEACHES THEIR CHILDREN HOW TO MISBEHAVE

Just wages (v. 1) WARNING TO ADAM - Eat fruit - Will Die

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through
 sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned Romans 5.12

Man to preacher "I CAN'T SWALLOW WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT
 ORIGINAL SIN Preacher "there is no need to swallow it, it's inside you already

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3.23

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6.23

Trespasses - What we have Done and we Should Not have Done
Sins - What we Should have Done but Failed to Do

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for *in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*"
Genesis 2.16,17

"IN the DAY YOU EAT YOU WILL DIE" > Adam lived another 900 YEARS!
DEAD TO GOD THAT DAY / Where are you Adam? HIDING!!

Mankind has been running away from God ever since

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God"
Romans 3.10,11

These verses EXPOSE and EXPLAIN our Greatest Challenges in LIFE
THREE GREAT SPIRITUAL ENEMIES - World, Devil, our Sinful Nature

b. We were Dominated

vs. 1,2 trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world

Following this World = SYSTEM IN OPPOSITION TO GOD & TRUTH

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world..." John 18.36

Our POLITICIANS are Not ASKING God for His PLAN & Purpose for World
Some LANDS claim there is NO GOD – Some ways more HONEST
Lands that INVOKE God rarely PAY Him any SERIOUS ATTENTION

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2.15-17

JOHN > Church it does NOT Belong Here – ORIGIN and ORDERS from God BUT Many Times we want BOTH Ways – Cling to Sin AND Confess Savior

Ugandan Evangelist in Nairobi RAISE HAND IF WANT to Go to HELL= 0 NOW RAISE HAND if Want to Submit to KING JESUS X as Lord, Master WE CANNOT HAVE SALVATION ON OUR OWN TERMS Jesus must be LORD OF ALL OR HE REFUSES TO BE LORD AT ALL

v. 2 following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

Disobedient ruler > Devil or Satan CONTROLLING PERSON

Jesus gives DEMONOLOGY Course in just ONE VERSE

Jesus: "...the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning...there is no truth in him...he is a liar and the father of lies" John 8.44

"spirit who is NOW AT WORK in those who are disobedient" NOT JUST "HUMAN NATURE" - shows are Fallenness

WHEN Martin Luther asked "*how do you overcome the devil?*"...

When he knocks on the door and asks "who lives here?" The ask the dear Lord Jesus to open the door. He will say "Martin Luther used to live here but he moved out. Now I live here." When the devil sees the nail prints on his hands and feet, and huge scar on his side, he runs away!...The devil is God's devil.Martin Luther

3 SPIRITUAL ENEMIES – 1. WORLD, 2. DEVIL, 3. OURSELVES!!

v. 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind

Gratifying our cravings of our SINFUL NATURE

SOMETIMES "devil made me do it"/ MORE OFTEN "we WANTED to do it"

"flesh" NOT JUST - Sexual sin = Man in Total Rebellion vs. God

Human perspectives, human understanding, human efforts are hostile to the perspective understanding and plan of God...Apart from God, humanity is characterized by a complex web of thoughts, desires, values and actions that are in opposition to God's intended pattern for us. John Stott

c. We were Doomed

Worst thing about sin NOT what it does to individuals, families, schools, society, nations > BUT WHAT IT DOES TO GOD > MAKES HIM ANGRY

v. 3 and (we) were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind

NOT Pleasant Thought – ANGER of God, FIRES of Hell, Eternal TORMENT
 Much Rather think of Love of God, Sugar Daddy who we can PUSH OVER!
 But if SIN is SO TERRIBLE – So Offensive to God – Disruptive of His PLAN
 NOT Surprising that it will AROUSE the FURY of a Jealous, Loving, GOD

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God...It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10.26,27,31

God's wrath is consistent, controlled, and judicial. That is what makes it so frightening. The doctrine of wrath does not mean that God merely gets angry from time to time, lashes out in anger, and then forgets about us. God is not like us! Rather, his wrath is an inevitable and growing opposition to all that is opposed to his righteousness. James Boice

People are not ignorant needing instruction,
 nor misguided needing direction,
 nor psychologically damaged needing therapy
 nor sick needing medication
 PEOPLE ARE DEAD AND NEEDS RESURRECTION

2. Alive: Praise we will forever Proclaim!

People are DEAD....But God - No Human Solution
 BEST Two Words in this English Text of Ephesians: v. 4 But God...
 BLAZING TORCH of Light PIERCES Dark Picture of SINFUL MISERY

For the wages of sin is death, **but** the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
 Jesus our Lord. Romans 6.23

a. Riches from God

1) Love v. 4 because of the great love with which he loved us

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an
 atoning sacrifice for our sins" 1 John 4.10

AGAPE Unconditional Love – God’s Love > Seen MOST CLEARLY on Cross

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord
 set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is
 because the Lord loves you Deuteronomy 7.7,8

2) Mercy

v. 4 But God, being rich in mercy...

Def. Pity & compassion for the helpless: God does NOT Give us what we
 Deserve

"He saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his
 mercy" Titus 3.5

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he
 has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 from the dead." 1 Peter 1.3

3) Grace

v. 7 in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace

v. 5 by grace you have been saved / v. 8 it is by grace you are saved

1993 in Washington State – Westley Allan Dodd > Abused & Murdered 3 Boys
 Trial > Asked for Execution > My heart is so dark, I would do same thing
 again...

Execution > My heart was dark > Now light of mercy & grace in Jesus
 Family of Boys > Shouted contempt – How dare you claim to be Forgiven

C.S. Lewis – Grace is for Nasty People – types that came to Jesus on earth

4) Kindness

v. 7 in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience,
 not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? Romans 2.4

He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their
 seasons Acts 14.17

when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not
 because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. Titus 3.4-5

b. Restoration with God

1) We are Alive, No Longer Dead

v. 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with
 Christ

Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he
 is born again." John 3.3

2) We are Ascended, No Longer Dominated

v. 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,
 where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3.1

3) We are Enthroned, No Longer Doomed

v. 6 ...with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself." John 5.24-27

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19.28

c. Receiving from God

Salvation: a Cry of Helplessness

How can we RECEIVE this Gift?

v. 5 by grace you have been saved

v. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

DOUBLE Emphasis – Fully RELIANT on the GRACE of God!

SAVED > Sense of URGENCY, DESPERATION > Fire, Help, Drowning, Air!
PASSIVITY of People is EVIDENCE of SPIRITUAL DEATH – Blind, Deaf

What is FAITH? --- what it is NOT

1. Feeling?

16 yrs. old Janitor in Apt. building owned by Mormons

Took Lessons with Mormon M's > Jesus to North America after Resurrection!

Joseph Smith – Special Glasses translate Book of Mormon from Golden Tablets

PROOF > 'you will receive a BURNING in your BOSOM' > Deeply SINCERE

Came Back > Expected NEW Convert > Baptized, White Shirt & Tie > BADGE Guys, Never got the FEELING > No Burning in my Bosom!

MY FEELINGS Not CONSISTENT Indicator of My Faith > Come and Go!

2. Wishful Thinking?

What you WANT to Happen, 'True' APART from Evidence

1983 in Mombasa, Kenya > Attended Worship Service of at YWAM Base Leader > Young Canadian Couple > Many Young People from around World
Wife in Bed with Malaria > WORD from GOD --- 'she will be ALRIGHT!'
Shouting, Praising, Dancing, Thanksgiving, Celebration!!!
Next Morning > She was DEAD!

No Matter HOW much you WISH FOR Something, No GUARANTEE it'll Happen

3. Self Confidence? > Power of Positive Thinking

Some believers CAREFUL to Think NO BAD THOUGHTS, NOTHING Negative

Jesus: "Everything is possible for him who believes." Mark 9.23

I BELIEVE 3 X's!

Day of Great JOY for FAMILY in Uganda > Most Terrible Day in 8 yrs there

Jesus Prayed > Not MY Will by YOUR WILL be Done > Prayer Not DEMAND!

K/M/Pastor "If you serve God as good M, you will NOT get sick" > Felt WORSE!

v. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

Forsaking All I Trust Him = FAITH (v. 8)

1) HEAD > Message to be BELIVED / Faith is NOUN (object) & VERB (activity)

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God
Ephesians 4.13

At that time many will turn away from the faith Matthew 24.10

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6.7

Deacons...must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith 1 Timothy 3.8-9

OBJECTIVE, DEFINABLE REVEALED MESSAGE > Given by God in BOOK

God have given DANCE VIDEO, Math Problem, Computer Game, Song to Sing
Chose to REVEAL Self in WORDS, Spoken by Prophets and Apostles > Written

GROWING in Faith is READING, THINKING, INTELLECTUAL Challenge!

Moses: HEAR O Israel

Jesus: You have heard it said, but I say to You!

Let him who has ears, hear what Spirit says to Churches...

Christian MESSAGE Not for TELEVISION > Focus on EYE > God wants EAR!
TV – Preachers Hair & Clothes > Backdrops > Colors > Crowd Reactions

2) Heart > Not Just TRUTH in HEAD > Must IMPACT the HEART

DEVIL knows the TRUTH: Scribes & Pharisees knew MORE TRUTH than US!

Kids can get HIGH Marks on BIBLE Exam in CHRISTIAN Schools

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4.23

speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the
Head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4.15

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119.97

John CALVIN – Theologian of the HEART –

“It now remains to pour into the heart itself what the mind has absorbed. For the word of God is not received by faith if it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart then it may be an invincible defense to withstand and drive off all the stratagems of temptation.” John Calvin

John WESLEY – Had been M, but was NOT SAVED!

Listened to Luther’s Comm on Romans: ‘My heart was strangely warmed!’
John Wesley

Paul’s Pattern in Ephesians 1 – v. 3-14 Teaching / v. 15-23 Prayer

For in Christ Jesus...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.
Galatians 5.6

RISEN Jesus to REPENTANT Peter: Do you LOVE Me!? > Not Right Doctrine

EXALTED Jesus to Church in Ephesus: You have forsaken your first love.
Revelation 2.4

3. Will > Decision to COMMIT Yourself to Christ and His Word

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14.15

“Pastor, sorry I MISSED CHURCH SERVICE, but my HEART was THERE!”
If your HEART was REALLY There, your BUTT would have been there Too!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12.30,31

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly *obeyed* the form of *teaching* to which you were entrusted.
Romans 6.17

SHOULD be Pattern for CHOOSING SPOUSE > Heart, Heart, Will
Head: Examine, Think, Question / Heart: Emotion, Passion / Will: Decide, Endure

EXERCISE of Faith > Taking Tablets > Riding Planes > Enter Building > Sit Chair

Illus. Blondel High-wire walker across Niagra Falls - 1890's
 Walked across / Carried pole / Bicycled / Table-ate / Wheel-barrow
 To crowds "Do you believe I can carry person across in barrow?"
 All Shouted Yes! NONE WILLING TO RIDE

Service: A Call to Holiness

v. 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast

KEY Issue of Protestant Reformation > Do we CONTRIBUTE to our Salvation?

The only thing we contribute to the plan of salvation is the sin to make it necessary.
 Eric Alexander

We shall not be able to strut around heaven like peacocks. John Stott

How could I do that? - YOU CANNOT - "IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD"
 WRONG - "I Accepted Jesus" - How? YOU WERE DEAD!

It is a gift to believe - "THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES"

to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God
 John 1.12,13

Not BY Works but NOT WITHOUT Works –

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

GOD Works IN & THRU Us > RESULT of Salvation, NOT REASON For

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.
 John 15.5,6

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose Philippians 2.12-13

Not Saved by Faith AND Works > but Faith THAT Works
 Saved by Faith ALONE > but TRUE Faith is NEVER All Alone

ROWING Boat on Lake > 2 Oars – Faith/Works? /// NO! Faith/Faith – Works
 Seen

Famous Circus Trainer in England - tamed lions, tigers, leopards
 MOST FAMOUS FOR BOA CONSTRICTOR - bought at 3 days old
 Handled it for 25 years - now harmless - 25 feet long
 Suspenseful climax of show - BOA WRAPS SELF AROUND MAN
 One day -wrapped around man- spotlight - drumroll - head over his
 CROWN BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE - MUFFLES MAN'S SCREAM
 CROWD HUSHED IN TIME TO HEAR SNAP OF MAN'S BONES
 The man's plaything had become his master and destroyer

Preacher said "YOUR SIN IS WEIGHING YOU DOWN"
 Young man scoffed "I can't feel anything, how much does it weigh?
 10 lbs.? 40 lbs.?"
 Preacher "if you placed a 500 lb. weight on a corpse would it
 complain?"
 Young Man "NO BECAUSE IT IS DEAD ALREADY"

"Grace is not sought, nor bought, nor wrought. It is a free gift
 of Almighty God to needy mankind." Billy Graham

Ill's - WW 2 - Pacific - Taking Occupied Island - Night Before
 3 xtians to Chaplain - If some die, us! We know Jesus Christ and
 are prepared for death - others die - Judgment - those 3 died!

Jim Elliot "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain
 what he cannot lose" (killed by Indians in Ecuador)

Ephesians 2¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in 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—³among 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.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with
him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might
show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are
his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared
beforehand, that we should walk in them.