

Pastor Dave – Sunday 7th April 2024

Ephesians – Where the rubber meets the road.

From Death to Life.

Ephesians 2:1-10 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.^[a] ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,^[b] ⁵ made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

In thinking about this particular passage Pastor Dave shared about his family watching the NCAA lady's final game. Just prior to the South Carolina game and there was a panel of five ladies, and they were kind of debriefing the game and talking about it and so on and South Carolinas team was on the court warming up. A previous former member of the team from just a couple of years before was sitting on the panel and what kind of struck him was a moment where he thought she was pretty humble she was just talking about the opportunities she had on the team and the team dynamic and how happy she was to see the team in that particular game late in the tournament.

Then one of the other ladies on the panel preceded for two minutes of time to praise and affirm the other young lady on the panel, about how great of a basketball player what she is and or was how the team on the court wouldn't have been there if it wasn't for her, even though she wasn't playing anymore.

We live in a world where the need for constant affirmation seems to be the thing.

- Expectation – constantly affirming – encouragement and compliment.
- Your great – you can do anything you put your mind to – etc etc.

When we ask for feedback, we want to hear all the things we want to hear and not the things we don't want to hear. We prefer to hear what we like to hear.

In Ephesians ch2 Paul is taking us from the things we don't want to hear, to life.

- These verses are beautiful in the truth that they convey to us.

As we look at the end of Ephesians Ch1 and last week as we focused on the resurrection of Jesus, without these things what we are about to look at would not even matter.

We sang in one of this morning's songs – Holy Holy Holy, merciful and mighty.

If it wasn't for the resurrection, we would have no rescue from sin.

Headings.

1st – We were dead.

2nd – We were disobedient.

3rd We were doomed.

Point # 1 – We were dead – past tense.

- Before coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Greek literal context - We were morally and spiritually defiant.

- We as human beings are sinners.
- Inherently sinful in our natural sense.

We sin because we are naturally sinful people.

- Completely unable to save ourselves.
- Before the gift of salvation.

Point # 2 – We were disobedient.

Before faith.

- We followed the worlds values and philosophies.

Secular Humanism – rid the world of any sort of religion.

- Rather – man can pull himself up – believing in science and evolution.

Humans have adopted this world view.

- That science has the answers.
- That we don't need God anymore.

We see this in the progression of our society – casting off objective truth.

We followed the devil – the devil affects the things of this world.

- Jesus dealt with this with Peter.

Mark 8:31-33 Christian Standard Bible

His Death and Resurrection Predicted

³¹ Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. ³² He spoke openly about this. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God’s concerns^[a] but human concerns.”

- Peter speaking the devils' plans – mentality.
- The devil not wanting Jesus to provide a way for sinners.

We followed our Hearts.

Ephesians 2:3 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

³We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

- Sinful hearts.
- Fleshly desires.

We were children under wrath.

Galatians 5:19-21 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious:^[a] sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy,^[b] drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We can look at these things and relate to them previously being present in our lives.

Romans 1:18 Christian Standard Bible

The Guilt of the Gentile World

¹⁸For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,

- Doing what we wanted to do.
- Worshipping ourselves.

Later in Ephesians it talks of us being futile in our thinking.

Point # 3 – We are doomed.

End of verse 3

and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

- Children under wrath.
- Under a holy God who has wrath towards sin.

If we don't understand this, then why do we need Jesus to die on a cross for us?

If we don't understand this then we don't need the love, grace and mercy of God.

We can't appreciate the love of God - His Holiness without knowing and understanding the wrath of God.

New Bible Dictionary Statement.

- It the permanent attitude of the holy and just God when confronted by sin and evil in designating his wrath.
- It is rather a personal quality without which God would cease to be fully righteous and his love would degenerate into sentimentality.

God is constantly in wrath against sin.

- This is his disposition against sin and unrighteousness.

New Bible Dictionary – Even though like his love it is to be described in human language is not wayward, fitful, spasmodic, as human anger always is, it is as permanent and as constant an element in his nature as his love is.

- We tend to replace God's wrath with his love – we want to cancel out his wrath and focus on his love.

God is a wrathful towards sin as he is loving towards the sinner.

- They are existing simultaneously – because of holiness of God that he has wrath towards sin.

We cannot have salvation without the reality of Gods wrath.

John 3:16 we love this verse – it is beautiful.

John 3:36 says this...

³⁶ The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son^[a] will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

If you are not a believer in the Lord, this is what describes you right now.

But to know that God wants to shower you with His love, mercy and grace.

Ephesians 2:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,^[b]

But God – salvation is all of God.

- It is not of us.

For those of us that understand that God who is rich in mercy, because of his great love which he had for us, he made us alive in Christ. For those of us who have come to the place where we understand we acknowledge our sinfulness before God we repented of our sin we realize that we are disobedient and that we are a sinner before a holy God and we trust Jesus to save us - God made us alive.

Point # 4 – We are alive.

- Alive in Christ.
- Going from death to being alive.

Tony Merida Quote.

“He drank the cup, we drink the grace”.

God is rich in mercy – we deserve wrath – we deserve condemnation.

- But God did not give us what we deserve.

- He extended grace to us.

When we heard the gospel, and we trusted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

This is exciting, beautiful and should overwhelm us with joy and thankfulness and love for God, because he that for us.

Question – Have you ever had anyone lavish upon you.

God didn't give us what we deserved.

Question – Ever thought about that.

Point # 5 – We are saved.

Ephesians 2:5 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

⁵made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!

- Saved by grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

⁸For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— ⁹not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

- Grace and Faith – a gift from God.
- We cannot earn our way to God.

This is through the gift of grace.

- If it were not by grace, we would build up ourselves.
- We would say – “This is what I did to get to heaven”.

Hebrews 12:2 Christian Standard Bible

² keeping our eyes on Jesus,^[a] the pioneer and perfecter^[b] of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,^[c] he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Jesus brings about our salvation.

Point # 6 – We are raised.

Ephesians 2:6 Christian Standard Bible

⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,
⁷ so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Question – What are we talking about that He raised us up?

- He raised us up from death to life.

Their idea being that when Christ rose 2000 years ago we rose – they rose.

When we responded to God’s invitation of salvation – when Jesus rose from the dead – it was like we rose.

- We rose to life because we were dead in our trespasses.

He also raised up past tense.

Carries with it an action of...

- As if it had already happened.

That we will one day be raised to a resurrected body where we will spend eternity with almighty God.

- A guarantee to Christians.
- We get to look forward to eternity with an Almighty God.

More than this is speaks to that fact that we as believers can have victory over sin.

Because...

He has rose from the dead.

He is seated at the righthand of God.

He has won the victory.

We also can have victory in Christ.

[Colossians 3:1-4 Christian Standard Bible](#)

The Life of the New Man

[3](#) So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2](#) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. [3](#) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4](#) When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We don't have to live with a particular sin having control over us.

- The character of a believer is that we can live in victory.
- Some would believe that we can't do that.
- That is not true.

God can give you victory – The Holy Spirit can give you victory.

We are to set our minds of things of above.

Point # 7 – We are works of art.

Ephesians 2:10 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

- Greek word - Poema – super beautiful.
- Piece of art – masterpiece.

Sin has corrupted this.

created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

- They are not of us.

Quote – Works are not the root of salvation they are the fruit.

Galatians 5

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.^[a]

The Holy Spirit guides and directs our heart, mind and actions.

- God called us to live by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 52:7 Christian Standard Bible

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of the herald,
who proclaims peace,
who brings news of good things,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

We need to be saturating ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thinking of the things that are above – where Christ is seated – not the things of earth.

Do what God has called us to do.

Question – Are we saturating yourself to Almighty God?

Pastor Dave challenged us this way.