

Walking In New Life

Ephesians 2:1-10



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FOCAL Read Responsively Ephesians 2:1-10^{KJV} And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (4) **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,** (5) **Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by (grace ye are saved;)** (6) **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:** (7) **That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.** (8) **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** (9) **Not of works, lest any man should boast.** (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1. We Who Are Saved Walked (Past Tense) According To Satan

FOCAL Ephesians 2:1-3 And **you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins** (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the

prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

It is important for the Christian to understand that *all those who are not Christians* are in a state of *spiritual death*.

There are a number of implications inherent with the doctrine of spiritual death, the most severe being that *your loved ones*, if unsaved, *will spend an eternity in Hell* if they die unsaved or *unquicken*. The Bible says:

FOCAL Ephesians 2:1 And **you hath he quickened¹, who were dead² in trespasses³**

1 You'll notice that the phrase *hath He quickened* is italicized in the King James text, and missing from other translations. This is because this phrase is not found in verse 1, but was added by the King James translators to make the text more readable. Truthfully, this was an unnecessary addition at this point, for verse 5 says the same thing *without addition*:

FOCAL Ephesians 2:5 Even when **we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ**, by (grace ye are saved;)

We'll focus on verse 5 when we get to point #2, so let's finish our original thought.

- 2 G3498, νεκρός, nekros, nek-ros', From an apparently primary word νέκρυς nekus (a corpse); dead (literally or figuratively; also as noun): - dead. + Present Participle of G5607, ὄν, οὔσα, ὄν, ὄν ousa on, oan, oo'-sah, on, The feminine, the neuter and the present participle of G1510; being: - be, come, have.
- 3 G3900, παράπτωμα, paraptōma, par-ap'-to-mah, From G3895; a side slip (lapse or deviation), that is, (unintentional) error or (wilful)

and sins⁴

The Bible says **you who were dead in trespasses and sins**. Literally, **you kept on being dead**. This word **dead** means to be **dead as a corpse**, totally inanimate, without body, or naked of soul. You were in a state of spiritual death. Could you do *good* while in this state? Insofar as God is concerned, *absolutely not*. When a dead body decomposes it puts off noxious fumes. If the body is not properly treated and buried or disposed of, the fumes from decomposition can harm others. That which a *spiritual corpse* exudes is what the Bible calls **trespasses and sins**, active bad behavior and a continual *missing of the mark of righteousness*.

Think on this. The unbeliever who *embraces unbelief* may follow the path of degradation into the most destructive of sins. I was amazed just the other day when our family stopped in the video store to try and find a decent movie to watch. On one of the racks we saw a number of copies of the homosexual cowboy movie **Brokeback Mountain**. What was amazing to me was that there were quite a few copies assigned to this video store, and *every movie was gone*. Someone is breathing the noxious fumes of **Brokeback Mountain**. But this is what happens to the unbeliever who embraces unbelief.

An even greater danger to the Church itself is the *professing believer* who *embraces the old walk of unbelief*.

transgression: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

4 G266, ἁμαρτία, hamartia, ham-ar-tee'-ah, From G264; sin (properly abstract): - offence, sin (-ful).

The Christian is a person who *was dead* in trespasses and sins. We are no longer to walk in accordance with the dictates of our old master Satan.

FOCAL Ephesians 2:2 Wherein **in time past ye walked according to the course⁵ of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

In the past the believer walked **according to the age or path of this world**. It was not God the Holy Spirit Who worked in us, but the **spirit that now works in the unsaved, the children of disobedience**. The unbeliever is a *work of Satan in progress*, a being that will continue to reek and fume and pollute until the day that he or she goes home to be with the Savior. In our modern society that is considered *taboo*, to say that those who have not Christ are *spiritually dead*. Many local Churches have begun to lower the standard of the preaching of God's Word, seeking to draw and to placate a lost and dying world. God's Word, the Word that we consider without fault or flaw, teaches that the unbeliever is the workmanship of the **prince of the power of the air**, Satan himself. The believer has been removed from this state, the unbeliever has not.

5 G165, αἰών, aiōn, *ahee-ohn'*, From the same as G104; properly an *age*; by extension *perpetuity* (also past); by implication the *world*; specifically (Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future): - age, course, eternal, (for) ever (-more), [n-]ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end). Compare G5550.

FOCAL Ephesians 2:3 **Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past** in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

All are naturally born to the state of *spiritual death*. The Bible says that **we who believe were once among these spiritually dead**. Spiritually dead people, according to the Scriptural definition seen in these verses,

- A** Follow the lust patterns of their fallen state (**walked according to the course or period of this world**)
- B** Follow the directions of the devil, Satan (**walked according to the prince of the power of the air**)
- C** Follow the natural depravity of the flesh (**we had our conversation or way of life in the lusts of our flesh**), and
- D** Are by **nature the children of wrath**, that is, we are not naturally the children of God but are naturally the children *of wrath*, of Satan, of Judgment.

It is important that every Christian understand the *spiritual state* of the unbeliever. Though we may meet many who outwardly appear good, who outwardly seem to be *nice* people, if man is left in a state apart from Christ he will eventually degrade into the most terrible state of depravity. The Bible not only teaches this, but history also proves this.

In every society where Christ has *not* been promoted, or in any system of thought or sociological government where Jesus is removed, we inevitably see depravity go to the lowest point. Sodom on Gomorrah didn't start all at once, but came into being when *righteous Lot* who sat in the gate of the city failed to represent the Lord in his dealings.⁶

Louis Berkhof in his *Systematic Theology* (p. 227) said:

Sin is one of the saddest but also one of the most common phenomena of human life. It is a part of the common experience of mankind, and therefore forces itself upon the attention of all those who do not deliberately close their eyes to the realities of human life. Some may for a time dream of the essential goodness of man and speak indulgently of those separate words and actions that do not measure up to the ethical standards of good society as mere foibles and weaknesses, for which man is not responsible, and which readily yield to corrective measures; but as time goes on, and all measures of external reform fail, and the suppression of one evil merely serves to release another, such persons are inevitably disillusioned

They become conscious of the fact that they have merely been fighting the symptoms of some deep-seated malady, and that they are confronted not merely with the problem of sins, that is, of separate

⁶ Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. The "gate" was a place where business was transacted.

sinful deeds, but with the much greater and deeper problem of sin, of an evil that is inherent in human nature. This is exactly what we are beginning to witness at the present time.

Christians, it is time that we begin to realize that a *drowning man cannot save a drowning man*. While Lot sits in the gate silent, sin runs rampant in the city.

As Christians we must lovingly share with all that:

John 3:17-19 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

As Christians we need to realize that, first of all, people in their *natural state* are the children of wrath, able to do only things that will bring further wrath on them from the Holy God Who is over all. Secondly we need to understand that there is *nothing the natural man can do* to make himself better. Natural man, if left in his natural state, will only degrade into further degradation. Consider the "sexual revolution" that we hear of today. It began with Hugh Hefner and the proliferation of

pornographic evil throughout America. It has, over the past many years, expanded into adulterous acts, homosexuality, and so on. Unchecked, evil will grow. Arthur Custance writes:

"Recent Russian history, and Nazi history before that, abundantly justifies the statement made by Lord John Acton in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887: "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." And D. R. Davies in his masterful study of raw human nature under the title Down Peacock's Feathers points out that in America before the introduction of slavery, there were many high-minded people who protested against it. But once it had become a fait accompli these same people not infrequently became the most inhumane among slave owners. Given power over their fellow men, they discovered within themselves evil impulses of which they had been previously unaware."⁷

Thirdly we need to realize that, no matter how depraved humanity has become, the power of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ is *undiminished* and *eternal*.

2. We Who Are Saved Have Been Quickened and Seated (Past Tense) Together With Christ

FOCAL Ephesians 2:4-5 But **God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with**

Christ, by (grace ye are saved;)

The Bible teaches that **while we were dead in our sins, God made us alive together with Christ**. The Bible does not teach that we were a *little alive* when we were saved. It does not teach that we were a *little good* and that our contact with Christ fanned that small flame into the fire of life. It says that we were **completely dead** and, **while in that state of death God made us alive**.

hath quickened us together with Christ

The Christian is a person who is **made alive TOGETHER WITH CHRIST**. Our life is bound to Jesus. We are *together with Christ* now, so that we will be *together with Christ* in eternity. If you are *not* together with Christ now, you will *not* be together with Christ in eternity.

When God comes into the life of the Christian, He makes that Christian *alive*. We are made alive because Jesus is **the Resurrection and the Life**. The Christian is not someone seeking life, the Christian is someone who *is alive*. We are joined to Christ in life - now - and in eternal life - yet to come.

As living creatures rescued from spiritual death we no longer are to chase after the things of this world. The Christian is to be an elevated person.

The Bible goes on to say:

⁷ *The Sovereignty of Grace* by Arthur C. Custance, Ph.D.

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

These are very interesting words. Think on this: creatures who *before salvation* were *spiritually dead* have not only been resurrected from this state of death, we **have been raised up together and made to sit in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus**. These are not words which tells us that we must *work our way to God*. These are words that speak definitively of what God *has done* and *will keep on doing* for those He purchased with His own blood. Let's look at this text.

hath raised us up together

It is an impossibility for a person to meet Christ and not be **raised up together with Him**. That which God touches through Christ always comes through the quickening process in a much better state. There are some who claim that a person may meet Christ, be quickened or made alive, and return from this exchange unchanged. Hogwash! This is not the testimony of Scripture.

Those Who met Christ *and reckoned Him to be Lord* were always bettered, always raised up, always improved in some way. The liberal pretender to Christianity will teach that a surrendered meeting with Christ will bring no change in the life. This is wrong!

A certain leper coming to Jesus said:

Matthew 8:2-3 ... **Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.** (3) And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

A centurion at Capernaum came to Jesus and said:

Matthew 8:6-7 ... **Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.** (7) And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

When the Master's disciples feared drowning in a stormy sea, we see they said to Him:

Matthew 8:25-26 ... **Lord, save us: we perish.** (26) And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

To the blind men who came to Jesus to be given sight, we see that ...

Matthew 9:28 ... **Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this?** They said unto him, **Yea, Lord.**

It was only when Peter asked Jesus

Matthew 14:28 ... **Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.**

And the Canaanite woman's child was healed when she said to the Savior:

Matthew 15:25 ... **Lord, help me.**

In our day so many Churches have given up on the Christ of the Bible, and have proved their giving up by what they teach. So many believe who profess Christ believe that Jesus has lost His power to change those in bondage to sin and spiritual death. Our Lord has not changed, His power is undiminished. The life surrendered to Christ is always bettered, always quickened, always given power over what had held it in bondage. The Christian is a person who *has been raised above* that which once bound him.

Salvation that does not save is not salvation at all. That which God offers through Christ is real salvation, a real deliverance, and a real purpose after salvation.

made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

The Christian is **made to sit in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus**. It is God's design for the believer that we be one with Christ not only in eternity, but also *now*.

Grace - not works - saved us. Grace - not works - will keep us saved. Our text says:

FOCAL Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Blessed be the name of God forever!

3. We Who Are Saved Should Walk (Present Tense) In Good Works

FOCAL Ephesians 2:10 For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are God's **workmanship**, His *craftsmanship*, that which He has designed to be like Him. When God originally made man He made him to be *like his Creator*. The Scripture says:

Genesis 1:27 .. **God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

Man was made in God's image in the Garden. Then man fell through disobedience and became *terribly less than God* in his behavior. Man became sinful, a being that wanted to disobey his Creator. In the New Testament we read that Jesus Christ came

2 Corinthians 4:4 ... **Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine unto them.

Jesus came to *restore the balance*. He did not come to give us a covering for our sin so we could *more heartily sin* - no, My Beloved. Jesus came to provide a covering for our sin, our guilt, and our shame so we could *work in partnership with God*. We who are saved *should walk in good works because of what God has done to us*. This is the clear teaching of Scripture. If you are saved, you are God's workmanship, His property, and are designed to move and act in such a way as to bring glory to God. Pastor C.H. Spurgeon wrote:

"I was surprised when I was told, the other day, by a friend, who was a maker of steel-plate engravings, how much of labor had to be put into a finely-executed engraving. Think of the power that has cut lines of beauty in such steel as we are! Think of the patience that lent its arm, and its eye, and its heart, and its infinite mind, to the carrying on of the supreme work of producing the image of Christ in those who were born in sin! Think of the skill which makes heirs of God out of heirs of wrath! It seemed impossible when one said that "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham," but it is more than fulfilled in us. Miracles of grace have been wrought upon us as many as the sands on the sea-shore. How graciously has the Lord endured our opposition to his gracious operations; never violating the freedom of our will, but making us willing in the day of his power! This is one of the greatest of the marvels. See how he has continued to work upon us,

year after year, with final perseverance of undiminished love!"⁸

God is at work in you, if you are a Christian. Do not fear, Beloved of God, God will not leave you in an unfinished state. The Master Who made this world and all that is in it made you, raised you from spiritual death, has determined that you will be seated in the Heavens with Christ, and calls you His workmanship.

Because you are the workmanship of God, you should be eager to work *with God* in your spiritual renovation. There are too many Christians who believe that, since God has purchased them and made them His workmanship, they feel that they are under no obligation to cooperate in their walk with God. This is foolish! The Scripture says:

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, (2) With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; (3) Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The Christian is to *walk worthy of his or her vocation*. The Christian way of life, secured and maintained by Grace, is in the real sense a *progressive walk*, and *adventure between the Divine Worker and the*

⁸ THE SINGULAR ORIGIN OF A CHRISTIAN MAN., NO. 1829, A SERMON INTENDED FOR READING ON LORD'S-DAY, MARCH 22ND, 1885, DELIVERED BY C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON., ON FEBRUARY 7TH, 1884.

workmanship. Again,

Colossians 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire **that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Those who ask, "What's in it for me?" perhaps have never been saved in the first place. The Christian, saved by Grace and by the Great Sacrifice of Calvary, is in love with his Savior.

We are His workmanship - and yet - since He is in us we are compelled to **walk worthy**. The Apostolic message to the early Church was

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 ... ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, (12) **That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.**

As the Apostles so charged the Church so do I charge you, **walk worthy of God**. My charge comes not as an Apostle, but as a lowly under-shepherd, your Pastor. **Walk worthy of God**, and so prove your own salvation

to your own selves.

2 Corinthians 6:1 **We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.**

May God touch your hearts with these words.