

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2:1-10 - ALIVE FROM THE DEAD - A NEW CREATION

INTRO: Familiar with the New England Primer? What was the most popular book series many of us grew up with? Pretty sure the Dick and Jane books didn't teach us about God, sin, salvation and hell. Stunning that the first letter in the Primer's alphabet is "A" for Adam. And more stunning that it addresses today's lesson on the sinfulness of sin - it's damning power of killing and condemning each one of us.

- I. OUR LOST CONDITION - vs. 1-3 - "And you *He made alive* who were dead in transgressions and sins, 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, among whom also we all conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, just as the others."
 - A. "And you *He made alive* who were dead in transgressions and sins,"
 1. "*He made alive*" demanded by the context, though not in the original Greek. (see verse 5) [Another reason I prefer the KJV and NKJV. The NASB includes them also, but the NIV and ESV don't.](#)
 2. Spiritually dead in trespasses and sins, separated from God, unable to please Him in any way, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him." Heb. 11:6 and Romans 14:23 [We are surely living in the land of the living dead. "Trespasses and sins" basically synonyms, here emphasizing the total and complete extent of not meeting God's law perfectly. We are born in sin \(Psalm 51\), born under its curse, slaves to it, sons and daughters of the evil one, and soon to be judged](#)
 - a. Genesis 2:16,17; 6:5; John 15:5; Psalm 58:3; Proverbs 20:9; Romans 8:7,8; Romans 5:12,19; [Barnes long quote pg 36](#) Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; Eccl. 7:20 [Calvin quote page 130](#)
 - b. What about all the loving good deeds that are seen around us every day? Isaiah 64:6a; Matthew 7:21-24; ["Where is my faith? Even deep down . . . there is nothing but emptiness and darkness. . . . If there be God—please forgive me."](#) And, eight years later, ["Such deep longing for God . . . Repulsed, empty, no faith, no love, no zeal" - Mother Teresa](#)
 3. The necessity for God to work - Ephesians 1:3-12; 2:5; John 3:3,5,6; J.B. Phillips 1956 bestseller, "Your God is Too Small" addressed the misconceptions of Diety. Psalm 50:21; Isaiah 55:8. We make the same mistake when we think too little of sin. Matthew 7:11; Heart adultery and heart murder in Matthew 5. Paul says all covetousness is idolatry in Colossians 3:5. We have only a superficial understanding of the deep depths of the ravages of sin in our lives. So horrible that it took the totally innocent Son of God to this wicked world and God's judgment on the cross for it.

- B. “in which you once walked according to the course of this world,”
 - 1. Active participation - not a passive floating down the river ride
 - 2. “present evil age” - Galatians 1:4 – Vanity Fair of Pilgrim’s Progress: “Therefore at this Fair are all such Merchandize sold, as Houses, Lands, Trades, Places, Honors, Preferments, Titles, Countries, Kingdoms, Lusts, Pleasures and Delights of all sorts, as Whores, Bawds, Souls, Silver, Gold, Pearls, Precious Stones, and what not. And moreover, at this Fair there is at all times to be seen Jugglings, Cheats, Games, Plays, Fools, Apes, Knaves, and Rogues, and that of every kind. Here are to be seen too, and that for nothing, Thefts, Murders, Adulteries, False-swearers, and that of a blood-red color . . .”
- C. “according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,” - There is a 3rd heaven, where we say God is, a 2nd heaven (the starry realm), and a 1st heaven, the demonic super-natural world here on earth, ruled by Satan and his angelic host.
- D. “among whom also we all conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,”
- E. “and were by nature the children of wrath, just as the others.” - Note that Paul includes himself. We are born not only separated from God, but at enmity with Him (Romans 5:6-10)

II. OUR SAVED CONDITION - vs. 4-10 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

- A. “But God,” - Not the cavalry bugle sounding “charge” as the army comes to our rescue, but the trumpet call of the Savior coming on a white stallion in all His glory! Revelation 19:11-14
- B. “who is rich in mercy,” - Not stingy nor miserly nor selfish
- C. “because of His great love with which He loved us,” - No greater love than that a man gives his life for his friends.
- D. “even when we were dead in trespasses,” - Unable to reach out to God, nor willing to
- E. “made us alive together with Christ” - It is God and God alone who raised us from spiritual, God-hating death, to a new God-loving life

- F. “(by grace you have been saved),” - “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.”
- G. “and raised us up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,” - Hendrickson, “Our names are inscribed in heaven’s register . . . We are being governed by heavenly standards and motivated by heavenly impulses. The blessings of heaven constantly descend upon us. Heaven’s grace fills our hearts. Its power enables us to be more than conquerors. And to heaven our thoughts aspire and our prayers ascend.”
- H. “that in the ages to come” - “in order that” - into eternity - God’s purpose through the ages to come.
- I. “He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” - or “surpassing riches” - to glorify Himself through the exaltation of His grace in saving an undeserving people for Himself - William Hendrickson, “We are his sparkling jewels.” The angels will see us and say, “Glory to God!” Fellow saints will see us and say, “Glory to God!” We will see ourselves in a mirror and say, “Glory to God!”
- J. “For by grace you have been saved through faith,” - this undeserved divine mercy and love moved God to choose you for an eternal purpose - through the vehicle of faith. He’s given you a new heart and new desires after Him. You heard the voice of Jesus and ran to him in faith. He drew you with cords of love, and you willingly and wonderfully followed.
- K. “and that not of yourselves:” - You were dead in sins - God gave you faith to believe and receive Him. Philippians 1:29; Acts 3:16; - Calvin, “Faith then brings a man empty to God, that he may be filled with the blessings of Christ.”
- L. “it is the gift of God,” - Salvation is a gift. It is all one-sided. God-planned and purposed - God-provided - and God-given. Ezekiel 37, the Valley of Dry Bones - “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.”
- M. “not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This is our fallen state’s assignment and commission: “I’m good enough.” “I deserve God’s good favor.” “I’m not as bad as others.” “I’m a loving, caring person.” Phil. 3:5-7 - Calvin, “For as long as a man imagines himself to have any drop of goodness of his own, he will never give himself up to God, but [will] be puffed up with vain presumption, and rest on himself.”
- N. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” - Our good works are a result God’s work in us. He supplies the power and motivation for our obedience. John 15:1-8 “I am the vine, you are the branches . . . without Me, you can do nothing.”

III. APPLICATION

- A. Soli Deo Gloria In Salute (Glory to God Alone in Salvation)
- B. Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone)
- C. In Operibus Bonis Creata Est (Created Unto Good Works)

Online: <http://www.pasorobles-usa.com/ClassLessons.htm>