

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes August 29, 2007

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (Part One)

“Are You Dead or Alive”

Ephesians, chapter 2

- 1: And you he made alive,
when you were dead through the trespasses and sins
- 2: in 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.
- 3: Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of body and mind,
and so we were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of mankind.
- 4: But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us,
- 5: even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved),
- 6: and raised us up with him,
and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 7: that in the coming ages
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- 8: For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God --
- 9: not because of works, lest any man should boast.
- 10: For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.

Introduction:

- Are you dead or alive? I suppose you might presume you are alive since you are hearing this program. I suppose you could pinch yourself to make sure or kick the person sitting next to you to make sure their not dead, but yet, there are people walking around today, in all walks of life, who presume they are alive, yet they are dead, and also there are people walking around who fear they are dead but in fact they are alive! Sound confusing? Sound like I'm talking about the latest Zombie movie? No, I'm addressing the question of how are you spiritually. This is part of what we will discuss today on **Deep In Scripture**.

Discussion:

- Welcome....website ... Phone numbers ... special: CHJournal on Salvation

- In our study of Ephesians, we have completed chapter 1, which consists basically of a greeting and then two long sentences of praise to God for what He done by grace for newly baptized Gentile believers.
- Chapter 2 is a continuation of St. Paul's thoughts, beginning with 1:13-14, and this context is essential to understanding the meaning of Ch. 2:
 - "In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*
 - In vss. 15-23, St. Paul expounds on how he prays for them, on what he hopes they will experience as they grow in grace, as a result of the anointing they received at baptism.
 - In 2:1, he picks up again with what they received in baptism & this context is crucial! All that is said in the following verses is in the context of baptism, NOT merely a faith alone reception of grace!

We would look at this section under the question: "Are you dead or alive?" & under three headings:

- (1) What were we before Baptism: dead (2:1-3);
- (2) What God did for us in baptism: made alive (2:1, 4-7);
- (3) How did we receive this: grace (2:8-10)

I: What we were before Baptism: dead (2:1-3);

*"...you were dead
through the trespasses and sins
in 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.
Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of body and mind,
and so we were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of mankind."*

(1) "we all" ... Rom 3:9-18, 23

(2) "Dead"

Mt. 8:22 *But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the **dead** to bury their own **dead**."*

Lk 9:60 *But he said to him, "Leave the **dead** to bury their own **dead**; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

Mt 23:27 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of **dead** men's bones and all uncleanness."*

Jn 5:25 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the **dead** will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."*

Rom 6:11 *So you also must consider yourselves **dead** to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

Col 2:12-13 *"and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the **dead**. And you, who were **dead** in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses..."*

Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "'I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are **dead**.'

- (3) "trespasses and sins"
- (4) "once walked"
- (5) the "world, the flesh, and the devil"
- (6) "passions ... and ... desires"
- (7) "by nature"

416 By his sin Adam, as the first man, lost the original holiness and justice he had received from God, not only for himself but for all human beings.

417 Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called "original sin".

418 As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin (this inclination is called "concupiscence").

1250 Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.

II: What God did for us in baptism: made us alive (2:1, 4-7);

1: And you he made alive, when you were dead..."

4: But God, who is rich in mercy,

out of the great love with which he loved us,

5: even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ

(by grace you have been saved),

6: and raised us up with him,

and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7: that in the coming ages

he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- (1) Vss 1:13-14, "heard...have believed...were sealed"
- (2) "made alive"
- (3) "together with Christ...raised us up with him...made us sit with him"
- (4) Why?! Because of our goodness? Because we believed? No, because of God's mercy and love, even "when we were dead through our trespasses."
- (5) God's other motive: vs. 7 ... 1 Tim 2:4