

Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NKJV) Part 2

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“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses 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 once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 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.”

Before coming to Jesus, and trusting Him for Salvation, we *“were by nature children of wrath.”* (vs. 3)

We have already learned that through the Law of Natural Headship we were born with a sin nature, have all *“sinned and are falling short of the glory of God”* Romans 3:23 (NKJV), and as such are worthy of the righteous judgment of God. We also understand that God has declared all men and women sinners by sovereign declaration – through the Law of Federal Headship.

As sinners we sin. We are born sinners; and because we have a natural propensity for sin, it is natural for us to practice lawlessness and to be disobedient to God. However, this is not the way believers are set up to live. We are called to righteousness and away from the sinful propensities of the flesh – *“in which you once walked.”* (vs. 2) Therefore, Paul exhorts the believer to walk differently and to remember that the old man (our sinful nature) is to be subdued. The works of the flesh are to be put off.

The way *“we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind...”* (vs. 3) is condemned in Scripture and is a manifestation of *“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”* (vs. 2)

Lucifer’s act of rebellion against God was manifested in the Garden when he usurped the role of God and called for man’s obedience. His aim was to get man to question God’s word and follow his leadership rather than that of the Lord’s. In this he succeeded, and continues to succeed with many today.

When men and women follow the leadership of Satan, *“the prince of the power of the air,”* (vs. 2) and live in willful disobedience, they are categorically *“the sons of disobedience.”* (vs. 2) It is from this lifestyle God has called every believer to depart.

Paul reinforced the fact that we are (by nature) sinners when he documented that it is *“the lusts of our flesh”* (vs. 3) that Satan uses to aide in *“fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,”* (vs. 3) but did not leave this as an excuse for poor living.

As encouragement to believers, Paul reminds us that *“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).”* (vss. 4-5) Paul communicates this fact to show that we are no longer dead in sin, but are alive in Christ and that He saved us in spite of our sinful and fallen

nature. He did not save us because we overcame the propensities of the flesh but in spite of the fact that we are weak, fallen, and undeserving. God is aware of our nature and knows that left to ourselves we would be fully incapable of saving ourselves. He is aware of the fact that we *“fall short”* Romans 3:23 (NKJV) and that without His Divine intervention and merciful love we would never be able to know the glories of eternal life. Therefore, He *“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.”* (vss. 6-7)

Being seated with Christ in the *“heavenly places”* is a positional declaration of God. It is how He sees us – in Christ. We are, even prior to our literal gathering together unto Him, declared as reigning with Christ, seated with Him in His throne, and complete in Him. *“You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”* Colossians 2:10 (NKJV) God declares the work finished even before we literally pass from this earthly life and into the eternal state He has promised to every believer.

This glorious grace is both comforting and motivating. It is comforting to know that He *“raised us up”* in spite of ourselves, and that He has seated us together in the *“heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”* so that *“in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* (vs. 7) It is motivating as it moves us from earthly, sensual, and temporal mindedness to heavenly, spiritual, and eternal mindedness. Therefore, as believers we live with a new worldview – heavenly. We live differently than we did before being saved. We no longer walk as the unsaved: as fleshly, sensual, and selfish; but as those who are changed: heavenly, spiritual, and as servants of God.

God has a beautiful future planned for every believer, that *“in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* (vs. 7) Therefore, with Paul we declare, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”* Ephesians 1:3–6 (NKJV)

Read: Colossians 2:6 – 4:6

Questions

True or False: Believers are set up to live in righteousness and to avoid the sinful propensities of the flesh.

True or False: Lucifer's act of rebellion against God was manifested in the Garden when he usurped the role of God and called for man's obedience.

True or False: Satan's aim was to get man to question God's word and follow his leadership rather than that of the Lord's.

True or False: Satan is the "*prince of the power of the air.*"

True or False: As believers we are still dead in sin; but we will be made alive in Christ when we get to heaven.

True or False: God saved us in spite of our sinful and fallen nature. He did not save us because we overcame the propensities of the flesh.

True or False: God is aware of our nature and knows that left to ourselves we would be fully incapable of saving ourselves.

True or False: God declares His work in us finished – even before we literally pass from this earthly life and into the eternal state, but only if we live obediently, and fully surrendered at this present time.

True or False: I am motivated to move away from earthly, sensual, and temporal mindedness.

True or False: I am motivated to live heavenly, spiritually, and eternally minded.

True or False: I no longer walk as the unsaved: as fleshly, sensual, and selfish; but desire to live as one who has been changed: heavenly, spiritual, and as a servant of God.

True or False: God has a beautiful future planned for every believer.

True or False: God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

True or False: I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that I should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

True or False: I was predestined to adoption by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will.