** *“GOD’S GREAT LOVE!”***

#  Ephesians Chapter 2:1-10

**> (v1-3) OUR PAST – *DEAD IN SIN!***

**> (v4-7) OUR PRESENT – *ALIVE IN CHRIST!***

 **> (v8-10) OUR FUTURE – *GOD’S GLORIOUS WORK!***

**> (v1-3) OUR PAST – *DEAD IN SIN!***

**(v1) *You were dead in trespasses and sins*:**

**- *We were DEAD!* - Death is introduced in Genesis 2:17, God said, *“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* God created man to live forever, both physically and spiritually. By man's disobedience, however, death became his lot (Romans 5:12 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.).***

**The day Adam ate the forbidden fruit; he did not die physically but lived on and reached the age of 930 years (Genesis 5:5). However, with that act of disobedience he died spiritually and was separated from God's fellowship (Genesis 3).**

**When the breath leaves the body, the body is dead. When man sins, he is separated from God and he becomes dead spiritually. The Bible speaks of both types of death. Those outside of Christ are alive physically, but they are spiritually dead - *"dead in trespasses and sins"* (Ephesians 2:1).**

**The Bible also speaks of eternal, or everlasting, death. Those who persist in their unbelief remain forever in spiritual death-eternal separation from God-which Scripture calls the "second death" (Revelation 21:8 - *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*).**

**- *DEAD in TRESPASSES!* – Is the violation of a law. The Hebrew word translated as trespass means "a stepping aside from the (correct) path" (Genesis 31:36; Exodus 22:9). In the New Testament trespass is often a translation of a Greek word, which means "a falling aside" (Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 2:1,5). The apostle Paul wrote: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them" (2 Corinthians 5:19).**

**- *DEAD in SINS!* – Is lawlessness (1 John 3:4) or transgression of God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. The transgression can occur in thought (1 John 3:15), word (Matthew 5:22), or deed (Romans 1:32).[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**- Warren Wiersbe writes, “The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead! He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection. All lost sinners are dead, and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay. The lost derelict on skid row may be more decayed outwardly than the unsaved society leader, but both are dead in sin - and one corpse cannot be more dead than another! This means that our world is one vast graveyard, filled with people who are dead while they live (1 Timothy 5:6).”**

**(v2) Observation: *“in which YOU once walked according to the course of this world,* (the evil and immoral character of our time - 1 John 2:15-17 *- Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*) *according to the prince of the power of the air* (that is Satan), *the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”* (notice term “spirit,” there is a antichrist spirit working within humanity through all types of immorality, false religions, deceptive and destructive ideologies, prejudices and bigotry, violence and wickedness, drug and alcohol addiction, etc. (1John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2John 2:7)**

**(v3) A man or woman without Christ will fulfill the *lusts of the flesh and mind* (Ro. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21); and is a son or daughter of disobedience; and will face the “wrath of God!” (The Bible says that the *“wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness"* (Romans 1:18).**

**Since Christians have been *"justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him"* (Romans 5:9). The magnitude of God's love is manifested in the Cross, where God's only Son experienced wrath on our behalf.)**

**> (v4-7) OUR PRESENT – *ALIVE IN CHRIST!***

**(v4-6) COME ALIVE to the FIVE BLESSINGS OF GOD:**

***#1 – GOD is RICH IN MERCY!***

***#2 – GOD is GREAT IN LOVE! (John 3:16)***

***#3 – GOD has made us ALIVE IN CHRIST! (In the four Gospels, it is recorded that Jesus raised three people from the dead: the widow's son (Luke 7:11-17), Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49-56), and Lazarus (John 11:41-46).***

***#4 – GOD has SAVED US BY HIS GRACE!***

***#5 – GOD has RAISED US UP TO SIT IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST!***

**(v7) For all eternity God’s love, grace and kindness will be on display through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!**

**> (v8-10) OUR FUTURE – *GOD’S GLORIOUS WORK!***

**(v8-9) GOOD NEWS! The GRACE OF GOD THROUGH FAITH saves us, period! You cannot earn your way to heaven its God’s work of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ our SAVIOR! (Luke 5:17-26; 18:9-14)**

**(v10) *"For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus"* - The Greek word *"workmanship"* is *poiema*, from which we derive our English word "poem." It means, "that which is made, a manufactured product."**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”***

**Jesus told the church of Philadelphia, *"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name . . . Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”* (Revelation 3:8-10)**

**- Join the “FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED!”**

1. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)