

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 2:1-10 – A merciful God and sinners dead in their sins!

Today's Message:

"But God"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of three great realities Paul wanted the believers to understand clearly. Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers to have *the eyes of their understanding enlightened*. Today, we arrive at a passage that is fitting for Palm Sunday. There are few passages in Scripture that show man lower, God higher, and grace greater than this one. The text will open in a graveyard – spiritually. It starts with what we were by nature, and it ends with what we are by God's grace. God does not rehabilitate sinners; He recreates them into new creatures with glorious purpose. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 2:1-10

A. WHAT WE WERE – We were dead in our trespasses and sins!

1. The sinner is **RULED** by worldly pressure, spiritual bondage, and internal corruption.

W1828:

Quickened

Made alive

Dead

Spiritually lifeless;
deprived or
destitute of life.

- **Ephesians 2:1** – And you hath he QUICKENED , **who were dead in trespasses and sins**;
- **Ephesians 2:2** – 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**;
- **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 children of wrath**, EVEN AS OTHERS.

"Dead in trespasses and sins" – condemned already; **guilty** of crimes against God!

"According to the course of **this world**" – ENEMY 1 – **1 John 2:15-17** – love **not** the world

"According to **the prince... the air**" – ENEMY 2 – **1 Peter 5:8** – your **adversary** the devil

"In the lusts of **our flesh**" – ENEMY 3 – **Romans 7:18** – in **my flesh** dwelleth no good thing

"Children... **BY NATURE**... children of wrath" – **John 8:44** – Ye are of your **father** the devil

Three Enemies

The World
The Devil
The Flesh

Father by Nature

Whether you like it or not, the Bible clearly teaches **that your father by birth is the devil**. You must be **born again** to enter God's family! **John 3:3**

Comparing Scriptures

- **Genesis 3:6** – [Eve] ... good for food... pleasant to the eyes... desired to make one wise...
- **Luke 4:1-13** – [Jesus] ... made bread... power... the glory... cast thyself down from hence...
- **1 John 2:15-17** – [You] ... the lust of **the flesh**... lust of **the eyes**... the **pride of life**...
- **Galatians 5:19** – Now **the works of the flesh** are MANIFEST, which are these...

"... who were dead in trespasses and sins..."

Dead men do not seek God, respond to light, or revive themselves!

Three enemies ruled your old life – the world, the devil, and the flesh.

Sin is not bad behavior that needs to be modified – it is spiritual death and crimes against God.

B. BUT GOD – the doctrine of divine interruption (*phrase is found 43 times in KJV*)**W1828: “Mercy”**

Not getting what
you deserve.
God withholds what
justice demands.

2. “But God” repeatedly appears when human inability, danger, sin, weakness, or evil reaches its LIMIT – then God intervenes.

- Ephesians 2:4 – **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Searching the Scriptures

Question: As a child of God, are you rich in mercy?

- When man is HELPLESS.

- ✓ Ephesians 2:4 – we were dead in sins, under God’s wrath, unable; **but God** stepped in!
- ✓ Romans 5:8 – we were yet sinners in sin... **but God** commendeth His love toward us!
- ✓ Matthew 19:26 – we reach an impossibility... **but with God** all things are possible!

- When EVIL seems to win.

- ✓ Gen 50:20 – Joseph’s brothers thought evil against him; **but God** meant it unto good!
- ✓ Acts 7:9 – Stephen preached how men abandoned Joseph... **but God** was with him!
- ✓ Acts 13:30 – evil men crucified Jesus Christ... **but God** raised him from the dead!

- When human STRENGTH fails.

- ✓ Psalm 73:26 – *My flesh and my heart faileth*: **but God** is the strength of my heart!
- ✓ 1 Cor 10:13 – *There hath no temptation taken you...* **but God** is faithful!
- ✓ 1 Cor 3:6, 7 – *I have planted, Apollos watered*; **but God** gave the increase!

- When truth is HIDDEN.

- ✓ 1 Cor 1:27 – **But God** hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise!
- ✓ 1 Cor 2:10 – **But God** hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit!

Key Truth

- On the **LEFT** of “But God” – danger, failure, sin, confusion, weakness, and evil!
- On the **RIGHT** of “But God” – mercy, grace, truth, power, purpose, and victory!

C. WHAT GOD DID – God, in his mercy and grace, intervened to offer us Hope!

3. God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us... chose to SAVE us!

Position “in Christ”

Quickened together
Raised together
Seated together

- Ephesians 2:5 – Even WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR SINS,
hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- Ephesians 2:6 – And hath raised us up together and made us sit together
in HEAVENLY PLACES in Christ Jesus:

Believers are seated
in heaven now!

No Human Effort

Grace is the source
Faith is the means
Works are excluded

- Ephesians 2:7 – *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of*
his **GRACE** in his kindness **TOWARD US** through Christ Jesus.
- Ephesians 2:8 – For **BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED** through faith;
and that **NOT OF YOURSELVES**: it is the gift of God:

The church is God’s
eternal exhibit of grace!

W1828**“Workmanship”**

God’s masterpiece.
Christ transforms your
life with purpose
to bring Him glory!

- Ephesians 2:9 – Not of works, **LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST**.
- 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.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...”

It **starts** with dead sinners... and **ends** with beautiful design – a creation of God!
It **starts** with wrath... and **ends** with purpose – fully capable of bringing God glory!
It **starts** with what we were by nature... and **ends** with what we are by God’s grace!