

- I) **V1-3 INTRO: And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins**
- II) **In Ch. 1 Paul gave us insights into the blessings that we have in Jesus Christ  
In V3 He had made it clear that every spiritual blessing has been given  
to us**
- III) **Since we have these blessings, Paul prayed we would comprehend what we  
have in Him**
- IV) **May you be made completely and entirely aware of heavenly things  
May you be aware you are adopted as God's children through Jesus  
May you know for certain that this has been God's pleasure to do so  
May you cherish and live in the freedom from bondage God granted you in  
redemption  
May you come to deeply comprehend of the costly grace of God that made this  
possible  
May you eagerly await the obtaining of your inheritance in heaven  
May this understanding provoke you to live to the praise of His glory**
- V) **This possession of "every spiritual blessing" is made possible only if you are  
saved  
Paul made that clear  
Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the  
gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the  
Holy Spirit of promise**
- VI) **As we continue, Paul now writes of how God had given the Ephesians spiritual  
life**
- VII) **V1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins  
To get to the great news we first will have to look at the bad news**
- VIII) **V1 He begins by saying You he made alive who were dead in trespasses and  
sins  
Before God saved you, you had no spiritual life within you, whatsoever  
Though we have physical, biological life, spiritually we have no life in us**
- IX) **Physically dead refers to the soul when it separates from the body  
Spiritually dead speaks of the soul being separated from God (the absence of  
fellowship)**
- X) **He tells them that they were dead and had no spiritual life at all**

**This is because all human beings have received Adam's nature**

**XI) In Genesis God created man, and commanded him to multiply and replenish the earth**

**XII) After the fall, Adam kept the command and passed on his fallen nature to his children**

**Ro 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all men, because all sinned (through Adam)**

**I) Certain things are distinguishing traits of those with Adam's fallen nature  
Before we are saved, we are spiritually dead, in trespasses and sins**

**II) This speaks of our sphere of existence: we sin because by nature we are sinners**

**We don't become sinners when we sin, we sin because we are sinners**

**Ro 5:19a Through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners**

**III) V1 We are (spiritually) dead in trespasses and sins**

**IV) On one occasion Jesus called a man to follow Him, but the man wanted to delay**

**He told Jesus that he wanted to first go and bury his father**

**Lu 9:60 Jesus said to him Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God**

**V) The father was not yet dead: the man wanted to wait so he could receive an inheritance**

**His concern was not for his father, but the material things he desired to receive**

**VI) Jesus made it clear: let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead**

**VII) V1 We were dead in trespasses and sins**

**Trespasses: Turning from the right path; failing instead of resisting**

**This word is used 21 times in the NT**

**VIII) Sins: To miss the mark; the word that is generally used for sin in the NT: used 250 times**

**Ro 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

Every human being, due to their sin nature, are sinners who practice sin

IX) Humans are rebels, and by nature are constantly at war with and hostile to God

**Ro 8:7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will**

X) **Before we were saved life was lived in willful trespasses and sin**

**Again, this was due to our unredeemed sinful nature**

Ps 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

XI) **The wonderful thing is** though we were antagonistic to Him He still showed us His grace

On those of us who were such unworthy and imperfect people, God took pity

Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

XII) Paul makes it clear that this was our ordinary way of life

I) V2 In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the

Walked: (Peripateo) wander aimlessly, without any stability, direction, or satisfaction

II) V2 We wandered aimlessly because we were spiritually blind, not knowing our purpose

We were spiritually dead, which means we were also spiritually blind

III) V2 We wandered aimlessly according to the course of this world

The course of this world (sensuous; God rejecting) system ruled by Satan

2 Co 4:3-4 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

IV) Christians are aware of the system of the world, and are to reject it

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **For everything in the world—**

**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.**

**V) We reject the system that crucified Jesus**

**Ro 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.**

**VI) V2 According to the course of this world**

**Satan's design is not only for us to do evil things, but to think and believe evil things**

**Sinful man creates a shared agreement of basic morality, developing common culture**

**VII) This means that what is considered moral and right doesn't always line up with Scripture**

**Is 5:20-21 What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light, and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever**

**VIII) V2 According to the prince of the power (delegated influence; force) of the air**

**Satan is temporarily ruling until he is forever cast out**

**Jn 14:30 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me**

**IX) V2 The air is a picture of that which separates heaven from earth**

**Satan does not control things of heaven, so his influence is earthly**

**X) V2 According to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons**

**I) This is a way of speaking of the natural man, in contrast to those who are born again**

**Sons of disobedience speaks of the natural direction of an unsaved person**

**Satan's influence is revealed in the behavior of his willing followers**

**II) V3 Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh**

**We all once conducted ourselves habitually in the lusts of the flesh**

**III) Lusts of the flesh speaks of doing what feels good, and deliberately choosing**

to sin

We were most concerned about food, drink, clothing, and money

IV) Before we were saved, our strongest inclination was to satisfy our lusts and desires

Lusts are our sinful inclinations, desires are our willingness to indulge them

Gal 5:19-21 The works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

V) V3 Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind

Desires refers to the willingness to seek something diligently

By nature sinful man craves to satisfy their inclinations, doing what they choose to do

VI) V3 And were by nature children of wrath (lost and wandering in this sinful world)

This means that we were worthy of receiving just punishment for our sinful lives

VII) Not only are we sinful, but we are deserving of God's judgment

Ps 7:11 God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

VIII) Under these conditions we were hopeless and helpless to save ourselves

Before we received Christ we satisfied our basic needs, like mere animals

But now, in Christ, we have the power to resist, and to change and please Him

IX) How did this take place

X) V4-6 But God Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us

These two words carry such encouragement and grace

XI) When God judged the world with the flood,

Gen 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the

waters receded.

- I) When Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery, he spent 13 years in servitude  
At least two of those years were spent in prison based on a false accusation
- II) In the end, he was able to speak to his brothers and this is what he said  
Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, *but God* meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
- III) When the psalmist saw that wealthy were often arrogant, he said their beauty was fleeting  
Ps 49:15 *But God* will redeem me from the realm of the dead; He will surely take me to Himself!
- IV) When we were in bondage to sin, God revealed His love for us  
Ro 5:8 *But God* shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us
- V) This is what Paul is encouraging the Ephesians and us to understand  
Out of His mercy, love and grace towards us, God did something
- VI) V4 *But God* who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us  
We were dead in sins, meandering aimlessly, children of wrath and worthy of judgment
- VII) In spite of this, moved by mercy and love God came to the rescue
- VIII) V4 God is rich in mercy  
Rich: Abounding; without measure; unlimited  
Mercy: Compassion; a disposition to be kind and to forgive
- IX) God's love is not theoretical or an ivory tower intellectual kind of love  
His love for us is active and is demonstrated  
We have been saved from sin by God's love for us, and He made a way to rescue us
- X) V5 Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace  
Grace, mercy, and love prompted God's action towards us

We, who could not help ourselves *because we were dead*, by Jesus are now alive

XI) As dead people, we needed to be made alive and God did this through Jesus

XII) V5 Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace

God accomplished three things on our behalf

XIII) FIRST: We were made alive together with Christ

We who were spiritually dead have been made alive with Jesus

I) Jn 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

II) V6 SECOND: We are raised up together with Him

We are no longer part of this present evil age, but are rescued and have life in Him

III) Though still future, it is an accomplished act made possible by the sealing of the Spirit

Ro 6:4-5 We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

IV) V6 THIRD: We were *made to sit* together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

In Jesus believers are considered already seated in heavenly places

Phil 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne

V) V7 That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His

forever

It openly demonstrates the matchless grace of God for eternity

VI) V8-9 For by grace you have been saved *through faith* and that not of

**yourselves**

**We are saved by grace through the channel of faith and could never save ourselves**

**2 Ti 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life --not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time**

**Ro 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**

**VII) V10 We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared**

**Walking in good works is evidence that you are born again**

**They do not save you, but demonstrate that you are saved**

**Good works are revealed by our lives: words, service, prayer life, our**

**finances**

**VIII) God planned for us to do good works because they reveal His character and actions**

**Titus 2:14 (Jesus) gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

**I) Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.**

**II) We do not work to be saved but we work because we are saved through God's grace**

**III) Good works are the result of being connected to God and flow from us**

**Being obedient children, honest workers, faithful husbands or wives, helping others, being generous, helping to clean up after spending time at someone's house**

**IV) It just is not that complicated but reveals that you are different**

**1 Pe 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--**