

## Ephesians 2:1

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (Tie in our former verses from Chapter 1)

Ephesians 2:1 (NIV) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

- I. And you were (*being*) dead in your trespasses and sins -
  - a. And - conjunction tying in Paul's previous tremendous thoughts from Chapter 1 about Christ and our position in Him. He's now contrasting our state prior to coming to Christ.
  - b. Dead - nekros (ne-kro's) Root Word (Etymology): From an apparently primary nekus (a corpse)
    - i. destitute of life, without life, inanimate
      1. metaph.
        - a. *spiritually dead*
        - b. destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God, because given up to trespasses and sins
        - c. inactive as respects doing right
        - d. destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative
  - c. Prior to salvation your spirit is dead. This death occurred in the garden:
    - i. **Genesis 2:16-17 (NASB)** 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely **die**."
    - ii. The death that God was talking about was the death spoken of here in Ephesians. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit a part of them did die. **The part of them that really mattered died.**
    - iii. They in turn passed this same spiritual death on to all of us.
    - iv. All of us as humans are now born into the same family:
      1. **John 8:43-44 (NASB)** 43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
  - v. It's the family or kingdom of darkness:
    1. **Colossians 1:13 (NLT)** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,
  - vi. This rescue of us was an accomplishment, that the Holy Spirit tells us through Paul, was as miraculous as when God spoke light into existence out of total darkness.
    1. **2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB)** For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

## Ephesians 2:2-3

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- I. Prior to becoming a believer a man has only one way that he is capable of walking. It is the way that Paul is describing here.
  - a. **According to** - kata (kă-tă') - in reference to agreement or conformity to a standard, in various ways
  - b. A non-believer is only capable of walking according to the standard of the world or of his flesh. He has no ability to walk according to Christ. His spirit is dead, it would be impossible! He walks according to the standard of the family that he was born into.
  - c. This is why we are referred to as new creatures in scripture:
    - i. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
    - ii. **Galatians 6:15 (NLT)** It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation.
    - iii. **Romans 6:4-6 (NASB)** 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
  - d. As New Creatures we have a choice to follow our old sinful nature or learn how to mature in our new nature.
    - i. **Galatians 5:16-21 (NASB)** 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- ii. **1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NASB)** 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
  
- iii. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB)** 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
  
- e. You are now a creature that has a spirit that has come alive and are capable of obeying Him, capable of producing fruit, capable of fellowshiping with Him, capable of sanctification.
- f. It's important to establish the fact that Paul is laying out for the Ephesians that this is who they "formerly" were. An easy mistake here could be to read this and think Paul is focusing on the "externals" of being saved (*"formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind"*)
- g. An important statement that Paul makes though is at the end of verse 3: **and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**
  - i. Who are children of wrath and what does this mean?
  - ii. We should first understand this idea of wrath by understanding that God is a God of wrath:
    1. **Nahum 1:2 (NASB)** A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
    2. A day of judgement is coming (the day of wrath) where God will pour out his judgement.
      - a. **Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NASB)** 14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. 17 I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth

will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

- b. **Isaiah 13:13 (NASB)** Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,  
And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the  
LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger.
  - c. **Isaiah 63:1-6 (NASB)** 1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With  
garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic  
in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? “It is I  
who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is Your  
apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the  
wine press? 3 “I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the  
peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger  
And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled  
on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. 4 “For the day of  
vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come.  
5 “I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished  
and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation  
to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. 6 “I trod down the peoples in My  
anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their  
lifeblood on the earth.”
3. That wrath is reserved for a particular group of people. the son’s of  
disobedience. Who are they? The people who’ve disobeyed god’s way to  
righteousness. They haven’t accepted christ.
    - a. **Ephesians 5:6 (NASB)** Let no one deceive you with empty words,  
for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons  
of disobedience.
    - b. **Colossians 3:6 (NASB)** For it is because of these things that the  
wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,
  4. Those of us who’ve accepted christ will be saved from God’s wrath.
    - a. **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NASB)** For God has not destined us for  
wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
    - b. **Romans 5:9 (NASB)** Much more then, having now been justified  
by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through  
Him.
  5. This is what Paul goes on to speak about in verse 4 and beyond in  
chapter 2.