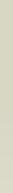


EPHESIANS

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:1-10

PLEASE GIVE US FEEDBACK:
ROB@GROFF.US



SUPPLEMENTAL VERSES

Ephesians 2:1-10

Romans 6:23

James 2:26

Genesis 2:17

Genesis 3:4-7

Romans 12:1-2

John 8:23

John 17:13-19

Ephesians 6:10-12

Ephesians 5:6

Psalms 51:1-5

Psalms 58:3-5

Luke 6:32-36

John 3:16-21

Ephesians 2:4-7

Romans 5:6-8

Luke 7:11-17

Luke 8:49-56

John 11:41-46

Hebrews 4:12

Ephesians 1:19-23

Matthew 28:16-20

James 4:7-8

Psalms 23:1-3

John 19:28-30

Hebrews 10:8-18

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:29

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Ephesians 3:14-21

1 Peter 4:12-18

James 2:14-24

Matthew 5:14-16

Philippians 2:12-13

REVIEW WEEKS 1-6

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians with a run on sentence that contains over 200 words.

In opening remarks, He begins by praising God for the Spiritual Blessings that we have in Christ.

The Ephesians were rich materialistically...Paul wants them to know that they are rich spiritually.

He says: You are chosen, adopted, accepted, redeemed, forgiven, God has given us wisdom & understanding, He's given us an inheritance, and He has sealed us signifying that we are His!

Paul prays the first of 4 prison prayers. He prays for the church of Ephesus, not himself. He prays that they would know Christ better, that they would know the hope to which they are called, that they would know His glorious inheritance, that they would know His incomparable great power. This is not just a prayer for the Ephesians...but for all of us who know Jesus

IMPACT FROM LAST WEEK

Have a daily time, place and prayer structure.

Discipline will take you where motivation can't!

Does anyone want to share anything that you do that helps them have a stronger prayer life?

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Today's Focus: *Ephesians 2:1-10*

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

We can think of this section of the letter as Paul's before-and-after advertisement. Paul offers perhaps the most concise presentation of the Christian gospel in the Bible.

Sin works against us. Previously the believers had been spiritually dead and trapped in the darkness of their sin.

God works for us, in us, and through us. But now, they were alive in Christ and could experience the wonders of His light.

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US

Paul paints a picture of the terrible spiritual condition of the unsaved person. The characteristics include:

- He is dead
- He is disobedient
- He is depraved
- He is doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DEAD

The unsaved person is dead (v.1) “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins”.

The unbeliever is not sick. He is dead! **Romans 6:23**

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!

To be dead is to be spiritually dead, and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay. **James 2:26**

Since we were initially spiritually dead, who had to make the first move in our salvation?

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DISOBEDIENT

The unsaved person is disobedient (v.2-3) “in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”.

Who is the ruler of the kingdom of the air?

Disobedience was the beginning of man's spiritual death. **Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:4-7**

Adam and Eve experienced immediate spiritual death. Since this time, mankind has lived in disobedience to God.

We know what life was like in Ephesus. We also know it wasn't much different than the world we live in today. There are three forces that encourage our disobedience – The world, the devil, and the flesh.

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DISOBEDIENT

The **Worlds** Encouragement of Disobedience:

The world-system puts pressure on each person to try to get him to conform. **Romans 12:1-2** – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

Christ was not “of this world” and neither are His people. **John 8:23, John 17:13-19**

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth”

The unsaved person , either consciously or unconsciously, is controlled by the values and attitudes of this world.

If the world pressures us to conform, what can we be doing daily, for recalibration? How do we “renew our mind”?

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DISOBEDIENT

Satan's Encouragement of Disobedience:

Satan is not omnipresent like God. He cannot be in all places at one time.

Because of his demonic associates and his power over the world system, Satan influences the lives of all unbelievers and also seeks to influence believers. ***Ephesians 6:10-12***. “Put on the full armor of God”. ***Ephesians 5:6***

One of Satan's biggest tools to make us disobedient is lies. When a person believes and practices a lie, that person becomes a child of disobedience.

The average person is exposed to 4,000 to 10,000 advertisements per day. Most are processed subconsciously. With this level of persuasive messages daily, renewing the mind is not optional – its necessary.

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DISOBEDIENT

The **Flesh's** Encouragement of Disobedience:

By flesh, Paul does not mean the body.

Flesh refers to that fallen sinful nature that we were born with, that wants to control the body and the mind and make us disobey God.

Psalms 51:1-5 - A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Psalms 58:3-5 - “Even from birth the wicked go astray”

Which of these three —the world, the devil, or the flesh—do you underestimate the most in your own life?

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DISOBEDIENT

The world, the devil, and the flesh are all working against us. We cannot overcome without “phoning a friend”, God.



Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DEPRAVED

The unsaved person is depraved (v3): “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts”.

The lost sinner lives to please the desires of the flesh and the wishes of the mind.

When you apply the word depraved to the unsaved person, you are not saying that he only does evil, or that he is incapable of doing good.

Jesus said that lost sinners do good to each other, but they cannot do anything spiritually good to please God. **Luke 6:32-36**

The Good Samaritan did good works to the man who fell into the hands of robbers but he still needed to be saved. The same is true for the people of Malta who kindly assisted Paul and his friends after the shipwreck when on his way to Rome for trial.

***Why isn't kindness enough?

If kindness were enough, the cross would be unnecessary. The problem between us and God is not a lack of kindness – it's separation caused by sin.

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: HE IS DOOMED

The unsaved person is doomed. The unsaved person is condemned already and cannot save himself. In His mercy, God is staying the execution of the sentence: ***John 3:16-21***

If condemnation is already the default condition, what does that say about the urgency of the gospel?

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

SIN'S WORK AGAINST US: Q&A

If sin makes us dead, what does that say about self-improvement as a solution?

*If sin makes us **spiritually dead**, then self-improvement cannot be the solution — because dead people don't rehabilitate themselves. They need resurrection. Self-improvement works when the issue is skill, habits, or maturity. It does not work when the issue is spiritual death.*

Dead

Disobedient

Depraved

Doomed

~~SIN WORKS AGAINST US.~~ GOD WORKS FOR US

Paul now reviews four activities God performed on behalf of sinners to save us from the consequences of our sins:

- He loved us
- He made us alive
- He exalted us
- He keeps us

GOD WORKS FOR US: HE LOVED US

Love is one of God's intrinsic attributes, but when this love is related to sinners, it becomes Grace and Mercy.

Ephesians 2:4-7 – “It is by grace you have been saved”

Salvation flows from God's love, but it is secured through His mercy (not giving us what we deserve) and by His grace (giving us what we don't deserve).

It was at Calvary that God displayed His hatred for sin and His mercy and grace for sinners. **Romans 5:6-8** – “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”

What would Christianity look like if it were based on fairness instead of grace?

He loved us

He made us alive

He exalted us

He keeps us

GOD WORKS FOR US: HE MADE US ALIVE

(v5) He “made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.”

He accomplished this spiritual resurrection by the power of the Spirit, using the word.

It is recorded that Jesus raised three people from the dead PHYSICALLY:

The widow’s son. ***Luke 7:11-17***

Jairus’s daughter. ***Luke 8:49-56***

Lazarus. ***John 11:41-46***

In each case he spoke the Word and this gave life. “The word of God is quick and powerful”. ***Hebrews 4:12***

Our SPIRITUAL resurrection is far greater than these physical resurrections because it puts us in union with Christ. We are united to him, so that we share His resurrection life and power. ***Ephesians 1:19-23***

To share in Christ’s resurrection life and power, what should be different about the way we live?

He loved us

He made us alive

He exalted us

He keeps us

GOD WORKS FOR US: HE MADE US ALIVE

To share in Christ's resurrection life and power, what should be different about the way we live?

Our Relationship to Sin. We no longer fight sin as defeated people. Resurrection power means: Sin is no longer our master. We are not enslaved — we are empowered, Not sinless. But no longer helpless. We fight from victory, not for victory.

Our Confidence in Obedience. If the same power that raised Christ lives in us, then obedience is not self-effort — it is Spirit-enabled. We don't say, "I can't change. We say, "Christ lives in me."

Our Identity. We stop defining ourselves by: Our past, Our failures, Our wounds. Resurrection means: We are new creation people (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are not managing an old life. We are living a new one.

Our Fear of Death. Physical resurrection awaits us. That changes: Anxiety, Fear, Desperation, Clinging to this world. If we are already spiritually alive, death is not defeat.

Our Purpose. Resurrection people don't drift. We live with: Eternal perspective, Courage, Mission, and Urgency. We carry resurrection life into spiritually dead spaces

He loved us

He made us alive

He exalted us

He keeps us

GOD WORKS FOR US: HE EXALTED US

(v6) “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,”

Exalted: Exalted means lifted up by God to a position of honor, glory, and authority.

Authority in Christ’s Name. **Matthew 28:16-20** “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”

Authority over the power of sin.

Authority in Spiritual Resistance. **James 4:7-8** “Resist the devil and he will flee from you”.

Authority as Adopted Children.

He loved us

He made us alive

He exalted us

He keeps us

GOD WORKS FOR US: HE KEEPS US

Our position with Christ is something God accomplished and maintains.

God saved you so that for all eternity He can put His kindness on display. (v7) “in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 23:1-3 “He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake”

(v8) “....and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Salvation cannot be “of works” because the work of salvation has already been completed on the cross. ***John 19:28-30, Hebrews 10:8-18***

He loved us

He made us alive

He exalted us

He keeps us

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

God works for us

God works in us

God works through us

(v10) “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”.

GOD WORKS IN US

We are a part of Gods “new creation”. He continues to work in us to make us what He wants us to be. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

He wants to make us more like Christ. **Romans 8:29**

Christ is equipping us for our walk and our work here on earth. To do this he has three special tools: The Word of God, Prayer, and suffering.

The Word: Read, understand, meditate on it, and feed on it. The Word cleanses and nourishes us. **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

Prayer: God’s spirit works in us to release power. **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Suffering: The Spirit of God ministers to us. Suffering drives us back to the Word and prayer. **1 Peter 4:12-18**

And the cycle is repeated. God works on us → then in us → then through us.

The Fly Wheel Effect.

GOD WORKS THROUGH US

It is not enough to say we have faith; we must demonstrate this faith by our works: ***James 2:14-24***

Mathew 5:14-16 - “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”.

It is important to note we do not manufacture these good works. They are the results of the work of God in our hearts. ***Philippians 2:12-13*** – “for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:1–10 reminds us that we contribute nothing to our resurrection — but we are invited into God’s purpose. We are not saved by works, but we are saved **for** works. The same power that raised Christ has made you alive. The question is not whether you have spiritual power — it’s whether you will walk in it.

What good work might God already have placed in front of you that you’ve been walking past?”