

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul describes 3 stages of a believer's life.

- I. Stage 1 is the past reign of sin (vs. 1-2a).
 - A. Controlled by the world (v. 2b).
 - B. Controlled by Satan (v. 2c).
 - C. Controlled by our flesh (v. 3a, b).
 - D. Condemned by God (v. 3c).

- II. Stage 2 is the present reality of salvation.
 - A. The cause of our salvation: God's character (v. 4).
 - B. The results of our salvation:
 1. We are made alive with Christ (v. 5).
 2. We are raised with Christ (v. 6a).
 3. We are seated with Christ (v. 6b).
 - C. The source of our salvation: God alone.
 1. Offered by grace (v. 8a).
 2. Received by faith (v. 8b).
 3. Given as a gift (8c).
 - a. So works are precluded (v. 9a).
 - b. So boasting is precluded (v. 9b).

- III. Stage 3 is the future result of salvation.
 - A. Good works (v. 10a).
 - B. Good walk (v. 10b).
 - C. God's glory (v. 7).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 23, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10 (review chapter 1)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 2:1-10.** In what ways does the “and” that begins v. 1 connect this section with 1:19-23?

(b) Is Paul speaking of physical or spiritual death in 2:1? How do you know?

(c) How can a person be physically alive, possibly even vibrantly alive, and spiritually dead at the same time?

(d) Are “trespasses” and “sins” synonymous or do they represent different classes of disobedience?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** To what does Paul refer when he uses the verb “walked” (cf. Rom 6:4; 8:4; 14:15; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; 4:1; 5:2, 15, et. al.) and what is the relationship between “walked” and “trespasses and sins?”

(b) Paul describes this former walk in 3 ways in vs. 2-3, the first using the word “following” (lit. “according to”). To what does Paul refer when he says unbelievers walk “following/according to the course of this world?”

(c) Give several examples of how the “course of this world” controls unbelievers. Be specific with your examples.

(d) Now consider your own life and how these examples can, or do, tempt you to walk in the old way instead of the new.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** Verse 2 describes the 2nd description of this walk. Who is “the prince of the power of the air?”

(b) What is this prince’s relationship to “the course of this world?”

(c) How, exactly, is this prince “at work” in non-believers? Do these non-believers have a choice? Explain your answer (see, for example, 2 Tim. 2:24-26 & 1 John 5:18-19).

(d) What are the visible marks of one who is walking according to this prince?

(e) Is it possible for believers to “walk following/according to” this prince? In what ways are you tempted to walk in this manner and how do you fight these temptations?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** The 3rd description of a non-believer's walk occurs in v. 3. Do Paul's uses of "flesh" (both "flesh" and "body" translate the same Greek word) in its negative or neutral sense in v. 3? Explain how you know.

(b) **Read Rom. 8:5-9 & Gal. 5:16-24,** along with Eph. 2:3, and describe this 3rd description of a non-believer's walk.

(c) Can believers walk in this manner? In what ways are you tempted to walk in this manner, and how do you address yourself (i.e. what Scriptures, what self-talk, with what truths, etc.) when these temptations arise? Also, how are you, as a believer, different from the non-believers described in vs. 1-3 with regard to your ability to fight these temptations? Another way of asking this: why are these only temptations for you, a believer, but necessary actions for a non-believer?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** Why are non-believers "children of wrath," and whose wrath is in view (cf. Rom. 1:18; 2:5-8; 3:5-6; John 3:18, 36; et. al.)?

(b) What does Paul mean by the phrase "by nature" when he describes the non-believer's status as "children of wrath?"

(c) What difficulties might you encounter while explaining the truths found in 2:1-3 to a non-believer in today's secular world (as an example, someone might say, "Why would I worship a God who showers wrath on those who don't love or obey Him!?!?!"), and how would you answer them with Biblical truth?

(d) Explain how vs. 4-6 directly answer the predicament of those described in vs. 1-3 (we'll begin with these vs. next week).

DATE: April 23, 2017**PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:1-10*****But God! (Part I)***