



TITLE:

Ephesians 2:1-3 – The Past Condition of God’s Workmanship

INTRODUCTION:

- Ephesians 2:1-10 is the third section of the doctrinal content of the Ephesians.
- This section contains Paul’s illustration of God’s workmanship.
 - o The word workmanship (ποίημα - poiēma) means a product.
 - o It is translated as “things that are made” in Romans 1:20 which refers to God’s creation that was created in 6 literal days.
 - o Employing the same meaning, believers are God’s creation created in Christ Jesus.
 - o He explained God’s workmanship by illustrating the believer’s past, present, and future conditions.

PAST CONDITION (2:1-3)

- The pronoun “you” refers to the Ephesian believers. Compare 1:1.
- The believers, before salvation, were dead.
 - o It means that they were spiritually dead and were destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God.
 - o One can be physically alive but spiritually dead. Compare 1 Timothy 5:6.
 - “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”
- The believers were dead in trespasses and sins.
 - o Trespasses - mean to fall beside or near something, or a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness. It is also translated as offense, sin, fall, and fault in the KJV.
 - o Sins - mean to miss the mark, or to transgress God’s law.
 - o Being dead has the idea of hopelessness in our condition.
 - o Paul distinguishes the two words to show the believer’s former condition of having a sinful manner of life (dead in trespasses) and sinful nature (dead in sins).
- This condition was brought on by the Adamic nature (Rom. 5:12) and confirmed by sinful acts (Mat. 6:14) and has alienated the sinner from God (Eph. 2:12).
- There is a difference between the act of sinning and the habit of sinning. Believers can still commit the act of sinning.
- Sinful Manner of Life: this former condition is characterized by:
 - o Walking (conducting one’s life) according to the course of this world (2:2).
 - 1 John 5:19 “... the whole world lieth in wickedness.”
 - Galatians 1:4 “...this present evil world...”
 - 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
 - Examples: pop culture, music, clothing, entertainment
 - o Walking according to the prince of the power of the air (2:2).
 - Jesus Christ described Satan as “the prince of this world” in John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.
 - Satan’s domain of authority is the air (atmosphere of the first and second heavens).
 - Satan and his devils are the rulers of the darkness of this world (Eph. 6:12).
 - Satan is the spirit that currently works or operates in the children of disobedience.
 - Unbelievers are under the power of Satan.
 - Compare John 8:44.
 - Examples: Big corporations that promote sins and governments that pass laws against the divine law of God; LGBTQ, abortion, divorce, gambling.

- Having a conversation in the lusts of the flesh (2:3).
 - Paul included himself in the pronoun “we” (2:3).
 - The word “conversation” (ἀνεστράφημέν - anestrāphēmen) means conduct or manner of life. This is a synonym of the word “walled” in 2:2.
 - The lusts of the flesh refer to the forbidden desires of the physical body.
 - It refers to a believer’s former manner of life that is driven by the forbidden desires of the flesh.
 - This is evident by fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind.
 - Examples: fornication, adultery, and pornography.
- **Sinful Nature:** Being among the children of disobedience and of wrath (2:2-3).
 - The word “disobedience” (ἀπειθείας - apeitheias) means stubborn in disbelief, rebellious, or disobedience. The original work is translated as “unbelief” and “disobedience” in the KJB.
 - It refers to the act of stubbornly refusing to believe which results in disobedience to God.
 - The wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience (Eph. 5:6).
 - John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
 - By nature, everyone is a child of disobedience and wrath.
 - A person must be born again.
 - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

BUT GOD (2:4-5)

- But God, because He is rich in mercy and He greatly loved men, He quickened us together with Christ.
 - Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Salvation is being saved from the penalty of sin in the lake of fire but in the context of Ephesians 2, this is salvation from sinful manner of life and nature.
- Believers are saved by grace.
 - This section highlights that our salvation is only by grace (2:5, 8, 9).
 - Grace is God’s kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved.

CHALLENGE:

- 1 John 3:9 - Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
- Ephesians 2:11,13 - Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; [13] But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- Ephesians 5:8-11 - For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: [9] (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) [10] Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. [11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.