

EPHESIANS

Chapter 2:1-10

Jim Hoffman



We are the body of Christ.

- Chapter one closed with the truth that we, the church, are the body of Christ.
 - I know that is somewhat figurative speech, but I believe that it should be lived out in a very literal fashion.
 - The old song was correct; ‘You’re The Only Jesus Some Will Ever See’.
-



We are the body of Christ.

- In chapter two we get a detailed account of how we came to be a part of His body.
 - Here we will see what it is to be saved; and what we were in the past, are now, and will be in the future.
 - Salvation needs to be understood as something more than a religious exercise, more than an event that happened to us, and more than an adjunct to our physical lives.
-



Eph 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, NIV

- ❑ Dead bodies are cold, unresponsive, and unable to initiate any sort of action to change their situation.
 - ❑ If you were saved at a very young age you may not remember such a time, but it was nonetheless true of all of us.
 - ❑ In this verse, our physical selves are not in view; we were alive physically, but spiritually dead, and incapable of obeying God or fellowshiping with Him.
-



Eph 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, NIV

- One of the truths that comes through here is that our basic problem is that we are not in harmony with our Creator.
 - Much is made today of tragic childhood's in dysfunctional families where the children and parents are not living in harmony.
 - We see the devastating affects on our society as those children grow up and try to function normally.
-



Eph 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, NIV

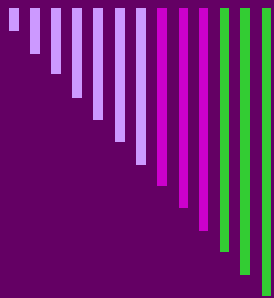
- In like manner, people who have no connection to God have equally devastating affects upon society.
 - I do not believe we can name a single societal ill that is not rooted in man's detachment from God.
 - It is malady that is common to all, and we too were once 'dead in our sins'.
-



Eph 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, NIV

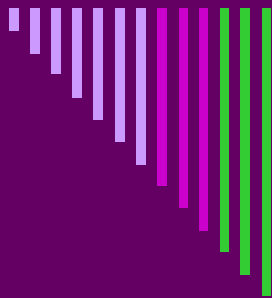
- I would like to make another subtle, but important point; we were not spiritually dead because of our 'sins', but rather because of 'sin'.
 - We were born with an inherited sin nature; we were therefore spiritually dead from our 1st birth and the only remedy for that is a 2nd birth when we come to life spiritually.
-



Eph 2:2-3

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. NIV

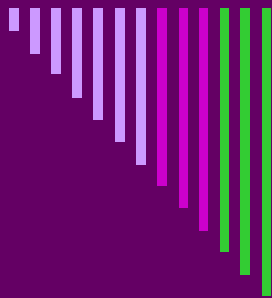
- ❑ I have heard many testimonies of saints; some tell of how ‘bad’ they once were and others tell of how ‘good’ they once were, but all conclude that they were lost and separated from God.
- ❑ When we were spiritually dead we pursued the things of the dead; materialism, sexual pleasure, and humanism. (otherwise known as the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life)
- ❑ We were literally powerless (because we were spiritually dead) to change our course or alter of motives.



Eph 2:2-3

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. NIV

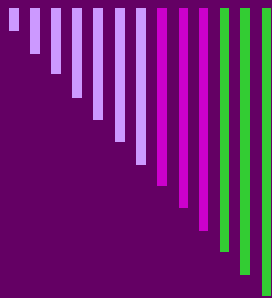
- And someone will say, “but I know some really good and really nice unsaved people” and I will answer, by whose standards are they really good and really nice?
- If we want to measure what is good by our own standards then I will agree, there are some terrific unsaved people in this world, but as soon as we move to God’s standard then all of us fall into the same sinful, hopelessly lost category.
- This too, is a problem unto itself in that those who are ‘good’ by the world’s standards are often the hardest to convince that they are not good at all.



Eph 2:2-3

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. NIV

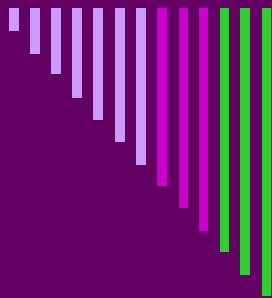
- I have lost count of the number of times that the greatest obstacle to salvation was an argument of ‘but I am a good person’. ‘I do not hurt anyone’ and ‘I try to do what is right’.
- It can be a hard truth to accept that we have been living apart from God and are, in fact, His enemy.
- Please notice this phrase **“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts”**.



Eph 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... NIV

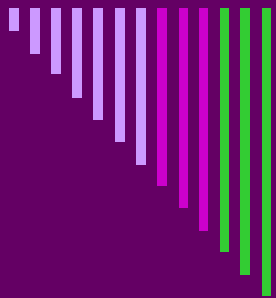
- We, who were once the objects of His wrath, are nonetheless the objects of His love.
 - In mercy, God withholds what is rightfully our's; We were born in sin, spiritually dead, and soon became sinners.
 - God has every legal right to condemn and punish us, but instead offers mercy and salvation from sin.
-



Eph 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... NIV

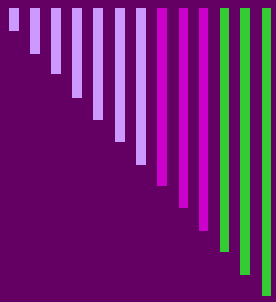
- Truths like this ought to put us in a praise mode and cause us to worship Him. He did not have to save us, but His love compelled Him to.
- When I think of all that God has done for me I see myself more clearly as a debtor to His grace.
- I suspect that when we finally see Him face to face in all of His glory we will fall down and wonder ‘why me Lord?’.



Eph 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... NIV

- Please do not miss this We were spiritually 'dead', but God gave us life.
- We were unable to change our situation, but he was able and intervened on our behalf.
- We were pursuing our own ends, but he was pursuing us.



Eph 2:6-7

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. NIV

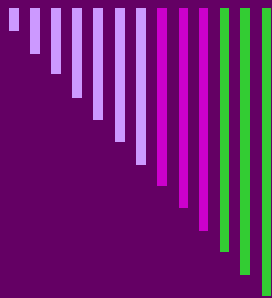
- God saved us for a purpose; he intended that we would not only come alive, but that we would become citizens of a new kingdom.
- When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead he instructed those around him to 'loose him and let him go'.
- He does the same for us in salvation. He brings us to life and sets us free from the trappings of this world.



Eph 2:6-7

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. NIV

- It is true that because we have been lifted to a lofty position that we will be forever blessed, but do not lose sight of the more important truth.
 - Our salvation is to show how great God is; how merciful he is; and how gracious and kind he is.
 - Hard as it is for us to accept, our salvation is more about God than it is about us.
-



Eph 2:6-7

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. NIV

- Notice also the lasting effect of our salvation; ‘in the ages to come’.
- Now also notice this; our redemption is such a triumph of grace that redeeming us shows just how great and incomparable his grace is.
- It is almost as if the Lord is saying; people so low, raised so high, is the best example there is of my grace.



Eph 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

- This truth itself is another challenge we face in evangelism; it seems that most people want to ‘pull themselves up by their own boot straps’.
 - What they forget is that they are ‘dead’ spiritually and the dead can’t even reach for their boot straps, let alone pull on them.
 - We are taught that ‘there is no such thing as a free lunch’ and ‘if it seems to good to be true, then it is too good to be true’. Well, here is the exception to those ‘rules’.
-



Eph 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

- Our world sings songs of human triumph like “I Did it My Way’ and when we come to them with the gospel, where He did it His way, the message does not ring true.
 - Salvation is also described as a ‘gift’. By definition, a gift is not something earned. In Romans 5 we read about a free gift; evidently God knew this would be a ‘tough sell’ and so he constructed a redundant phrase.
-



Eph 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

- I suspect that we are far more ignorant of this truth than we even realize. To be lost, without hope, justly condemned, and without hope would be more than we could bear.
 - This is precisely why people who do not have the hopeful truth that we do make up their own hope.
 - Man is incurably religious and always reaching for a god somewhere because deep in our souls we sense lostness, condemnation, and hopelessness.
-



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

- An old, but truthful saying ***No one is saved by works, but all are saved to do good works.***
 - Another one ***We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.***
 - Works do not save us, but good works always follow salvation.
-



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

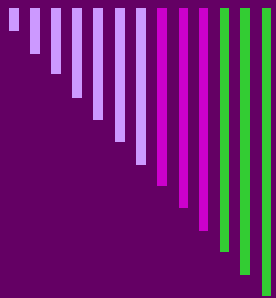
- There is some teaching that declares verses 8 & 9, but ignores verse #10 We need to reject the idea that one can be saved, but have no desire for good works.
 - This is one of those truths that does little to comfort us concerning a loved one who once made a profession of faith, but has had no changes in their life. James 2:20 tells us that faith without works is dead.
-



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

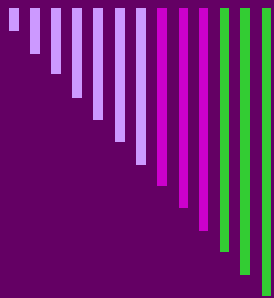
- Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." NIV
-



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

- This is the very idea behind regeneration. We are justified by faith and faith alone, but there is more to salvation than justification.
- In justification we are declared to be righteous, but in regeneration we are given a new and changed life.
- A huge part of the change is that we once pursued sin (Romans 6), but now we desire and pursue righteousness.



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

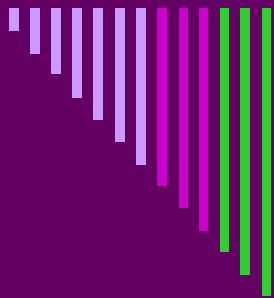
- We must reject 'cheap grace' for it does great harm in keeping the lost, lost.
- John 15:8 This is to *my Father's glory*, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. NIV
- In the end it does not matter how many aisles I have walked, how many sinner's prayers I have mouthed, or how many times I have raised my hand to be saved If I have no desire for good works, I am not saved.



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

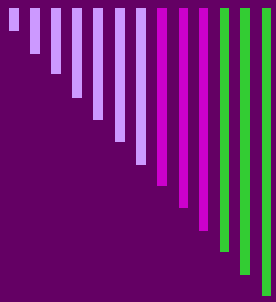
- 1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. NIV
-



Eph 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

- What did Paul mean by 'which God prepared in advance for us to do'?
- Since there seems to be no clear answer I take this liberty I believe it means that part of His will for life includes some specific things for me to do to glorify Him. In fact, He will lead me to the opportunities, I simply have to find them and do them.
- He has gifted us all differently and given us different circumstances in life Will I be Spirit led enough to follow Him to the works He has for me to do?



What do you think?
