

## Ephesians

### Lesson #7, Chapter 2:1-3

Before you begin ask God for wisdom and discernment as you study His Word.

1. Paul begins Chapter 2 with an all-important fact. What is it (verse 1)?
2. Notice that verse 1 begins with *and*. What previous thoughts in Chapter 1 are being connected to Chapter 2?
3. Explain what it means to be *dead* [Strong's #3498]. Is Paul talking about spiritual or physical death in verse 1?

Note: the NKJV includes the phrase *He made alive* in verse 1. This is because verse 5 contains the main verb for the phrase Paul begins in verse 1. The translators of the NKJV included it in verse 1 to join the verb with its subject so that it reads: You – whom He made alive – were dead in your trespasses and sins.

4. Notice that verse 1 says that we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Define the words *trespasses* [Strong's #3900] and *sins* [Strong's #266].
5. What are the results of being spiritually dead in sin? See Jn. 5:21, 24-25; Rom. 3:10-11, 23; 5:12-21.

6. According to verses 1 and 2 how did you *walk*?
  
7. Explain what it means to walk according to the *course of this world* (NIV *when you followed the ways of this world*). See verse 2; 4:17; 1 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 1:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
  
8. Not only were we the walking dead, completely cut off from God, but we see that Satan also plays a role. What is it? See verse 2; Matt. 13:19; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:26.
  
9. What do you notice about the use of pronouns in verses 1-3 and how Paul uses them to convey important spiritual truths?
  
10. How does Paul say we have all lived? See verse 3.
  
11. Explain what it means to live in the lusts of our flesh after you have looked up the following verses. See Rom. 1:24; 13:14; Eph. 4:22; Titus 3:3; James 1:14-15; 1 Pet. 1:14; 2:11; 4:2-3; and 1 Jn. 2:16.
  
12. Verse 3 records that not only were we living in the lusts of our flesh but we were also continually *indulging* (NIV *gratifying*; KJV *fulfilling* [Strong's #4160]) the desires of our flesh and mind. What picture is being painted here about the walking dead?

13. Not only were we spiritually dead, following the world, living in the lusts of our flesh as we continually indulged ourselves, we were also *by nature children of wrath*. What does that phrase mean? See also Jn. 3:36; Rom. 5:12-14.
14. Based upon what you have learned so far complete the following sentences:
- a. All men are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. I walked \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. I lived \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. My nature is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Summarize what you learn from the following verses about man, his sin, and his attitude toward God: Gen. 8:21; Jn. 3:19-21; Rom. 1:28-32; 8:6-8; Eph. 4:17-19; Titus 1:15-16.
16. It is important to understand that verses 1-3 paint an accurate picture of every person to walk this earth with the exception of Jesus Christ. All men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). It is vitally important that you come to grips with this truth for without this understanding you can never appreciate the huge gulf that separates us from God and the enormity of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. And if you cannot and will not see that you are a sinner, with no hope of salvation except by His grace, then you cannot be saved. In the form of a prayer, explain how verses 1-3 are an accurate representation of you.

17. There is a word we have not looked at yet, but this one word communicates hope. It is *formerly*. What things were *formerly* true of you from verses 1-3?
  
18. What does that word *formerly* teach you about your life now that you are no longer one of the walking dead? See also 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:24-25; Col. 3:5-11; and Titus 2:11-14.
  
19. You might be thinking, "*Formerly?* Ha! I am still battling these things. They are still too much a part of my life. I wish I could say they were *formerly* true of me, but I can't." What do the following Scriptures teach us about turning away from sin and growing in Christ? See Rom. 8:1; Eph. 4:17-24; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Col. 2:6-7; Heb. 13:20-21; 2 Pet. 1:2-11; 1 Jn. 1:9.
  
20. Or you might be thinking, "*Formerly?* Ha! Those things aren't *formerly* true of me, I am still walking in my sins and indulging the desires of my flesh and mind. None of the things we studied in Chapter 1 are true of me. What hope is there for me? I am still a child of wrath." Record what you learn from the following verses: Acts 17:30-31; 26:18; Rom. 5:8; 6:23; 10:9, 13.

“What is it that God sees in man’s heart?

God sees in man’s heart a great deal more than we think of. God sees, and has seen in our hearts, lust, and blasphemy, and murder, and adultery, and malice, and wrath, and all uncharitableness. The heart never can be painted too black, unless you daub it with something blacker than the devil himself. It is as base as it can be. You have never committed murder, but yet you have had murder in your heart; you may never have stained your hands with lusts and the aspersions of uncleanness, but still it is in the heart.

Have you never imagined an evil thing?

Has your soul never for a moment doted on a pleasure which you were too chaste to indulge in, but which for a moment you surveyed with at least some little complacency and delight? Has not imagination often pictured, even to the solitary monk in his cell, greater vice than men in public life have ever dreamed of? And may not even the divine in his closet be conscious that blasphemies, and murders, and lust of the vilest class, can find a ready harbor even in the heart which he hopes is dedicated to God? Oh! Beloved, it is a sight that no human eye could endure: the sight of a heart really laid bare before one’s own inspection would startle us almost into insanity: but God sees the heart in all its bestial sensuousness, in all its wanderings and rebellions, in all its high-mindedness and pride; God has searched and knows it all together.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Charles Spurgeon, *Spurgeon’s Sermons, Vol. 4*, pgs. 171-172.