

Ephesians Chapter Two

Summary

Paul reflects on the terrible situation of the believers before they believed in Christ and the grace of God that has spared them. Paul explained in Ephesians Chapter 2 that Jesus brought the people who were dead in sins and trespasses to life. They, who once walked according to power of the flesh, have been raised to sit in heavenly places with Jesus Christ. They have all been saved by faith and the gift of God but not works. In Ephesians Chapter 2, Jesus Christ reconciles Gentiles and Jews.

In Ephesians Chapter 2, Paul said that God also made a covenant with the Gentiles. He said that Christ's blood also covers their sins in order to bring them close to Him. Therefore, they can receive the hope and promise in Christ and no longer be separated from the love of God.

Paul said that the Gentiles were no longer strangers. They had become fellow citizens in the kingdom of God together with the saints. They were built on the foundation of the Lord's temple. Paul even said that the word of God had become their foundation while Christ was the chief cornerstone. This is God's way of reconciliation. We have a need for reconciliation and Jesus has given it to us and for this we cannot THANK HIM ENOUGH.

Ephesians 2:1

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

a. **And you He made alive:** The words **He made alive** are in italics, which indicates that they are added to the text but implied from the context. Paul wrote to believers who were **made alive** by God's work.

Paul ended the last chapter by considering that the ultimate example of God's power was the resurrection of Jesus. Now Paul considers what the implications of Jesus' resurrection power are for our life.

b. **Who were dead in trespasses and sins:** Though Christians are now **alive**, they must never forget where they came *from*. They were **dead in trespasses and sins**.

There are many kinds of life: vegetable life, animal life, mental life, moral life, and spiritual life. A being might be alive in one sense but dead in another. To be spiritually dead does not mean that we are physically dead, socially dead, or psychologically dead. Yet it is a real death, a "dead death" nonetheless. "The most vital part of man's personality - the spirit - is dead to the most important factor in life - God. Not in a moral sense, nor a mental sense, but in a spiritual sense, poor

humanity is dead, and so the word of God again and again most positively describes it.” (Spurgeon)

One of the most controversial areas in theology is – in what manner, and to what extent, is a person **dead** before conversion? Must a person be converted *before* he can believe? Some people who argue that man must be regenerated *before* he can believe like to say that a dead man cannot believe. That would mean unredeemed man is *exactly like* a dead man, because a dead man also *cannot sin*. However, we are wrong if we think that **dead in trespasses and sins** says *everything* about man’s lost condition. It is an error because the Bible uses many different pictures to describe the state of the unsaved man, saying he is:

- Blind ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)).
- A slave to sin ([Romans 6:17](#)).
- A lover of darkness ([John 3:19-20](#)).
- Sick ([Mark 2:17](#)).
- Lost ([Luke 15](#)).
- An alien, a stranger, a foreigner ([Ephesians 2:12](#), [2:19](#)).
- A child of wrath ([Ephesians 2:3](#)).
- Under the power of darkness ([Colossians 1:13](#)).

Therefore, in some ways the unregenerate man is dead; in other ways he is not. So, it is valid to *appeal to all men to believe*. We need not look for evidence of regeneration before we tell men to believe and be saved. The Spirit and Word work upon us as men by rational motives, setting before us life and good, death and evil.

So the Lord deals with his spiritual man; he draws them out of the present state and circumstances, in which they are by nature, to himself, and to his Son, and to follow after him, and run in the ways of his commandments; and which he does not by force and compulsion against their wills, nor by mere moral persuasion, but by the invincible power of his grace, sweetly working upon them, and attracting them; he does it by revealing Christ in them, in the glories of his person and in the riches of his grace, and by letting in his love into their hearts; and by kind invitations, precious promises, and divine teachings, attended with his powerful and efficacious grace.

In trespasses and sins: The idea behind the word **trespasses** is that we have crossed a line, challenging God’s boundaries. The idea behind the word **sins** is that we have

missed a mark, the perfect standards of God. **Trespases** speaks of man as a rebel, **sins** speaks of man as a failure. Before God we are both rebels and failures.