

## Ephesians Chapter Two - Verses 2, 3, 4

With the starting of this new chapter, there is a transition in thought. Paul, who has been praising God and thanking Him for the faith of the Ephesians, and praying for their continued enlightenment, now begins to remind them of what they once were and what they now are in Christ. In the past, these Ephesians, although they knew the mysteries and secrets involved in their paganism, were spiritually dead in their disobedience and sins. They have now been “quickenened” or made alive

Paul is trying to let the church at Ephesus know the importance of walking in the character of the new man is God’s design for all who believe in Him. Non-Christians tend to hold to the idea that human viewpoint is more important than divine viewpoint. Non-believers do not care what God thinks or what His values are. There is both overt and subtle rebellion against God in this thinking. Spiritual things are not real to unbelievers. This thinking comes from the devil.

Paul describes satan, the devil, as the commander of the powers in the unseen world. Satan rules an evil spiritual kingdom—the demons and those who are against Christ. Believers know that Christ was victorious over the devil and his power through the resurrection. Jesus is the permanent ruler of the whole world; the devil is only the temporary ruler of the part of the world that chooses to follow him.

What we need to remember is that satan does have power in this world. He is the prince of the air with power. However, he is a prince and not The King! His power is real and allowed by God. (Luke 4:6; 13:16; Hebrews 2:14; Romans 6:5-11). He has power over the sons of disobedience—those who have not trusted Christ as Lord and savior. Demons are under the rule of satan who is a prince because he can manifest evil in this world through influencing people and commanding his demons.

His kingdom is in the invisible realm above the earth. This evil realm called the air could be an actual locality, but could also be synonymous with the world. Although satan has power and authority in the current world system in which we exist, his power is limited, always under the sovereign control of God, and it is temporary.

*Question—do you see yourself as more of a spiritual being or a natural being?*

The fact that all people without exception commit sin proves that without Christ we have a sinful nature. We are lost in sin and cannot save ourselves. Does this mean only Christians do good? Of course, not—many people do good to others. On a

relative scale, many are moral, kind, and law abiding. Comparing these people to criminals, we would say that they are very good. But, on God's absolute scale, no one is good enough to earn salvation. Only through being united with Christ's perfect life can we become good in God's sight.

Reconciliation is all about receiving Christ and those who are to receive God's wrath are subject to His anger because of their rejection of His Son. We cannot forget that we all once walked as the old man because of the sin nature we inherited from Adam. We do need to remember that it is not only our inherited nature that influences us, it is also the world's system and satan, the prince of the air.

*Question—do we constantly have to remind ourselves to walk in the new man or should it be automatic after salvation?*

Paul reminds us that we were dead to trespasses and sin and in God's eyes we were walking corpses. Man is spiritually dead but physically alive. He is a dead man walking. He is dead to God Himself, to His Word, to spiritual life, to God's truth, to all the reality that God affords to those who believe. Without the intervention by the Holy Spirit, man cannot come to know Jesus as Savior. It takes supernatural intervention by God Himself to deliver man from himself.

Unbelievers follow the standards of this world system, which are alien to God. Their ideals, thoughts, aims, aspirations, or hopes all relate to the present world system. As non-believers, we follow the world's plans, purposes, pursuits, and pleasures. There has to be a mind shift when we come to Christ to turn and begin following the plans, purposes, pursuits, and pleasures of God. We do not need to live any longer under sin's power. God does not take us out of the world, but gives us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us to a fulfilling life in Christ. God is rich in mercy and great love. We give Him no reason to love us, yet in the greatness of His love, He loves us with that great love anyway!

*Question - why do many religions baptize babies when this ritual does not take away the child's sin nature?*

To be born again spiritually requires the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a person to give that person a new spirit. Ezekiel 11:19-20 "And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God."

Until conversion happens we are as dead as the rest of the unsaved world. A person's nature controls their actions and thoughts. Being born again gives us new programming that directs our actions from the lusts of the flesh to the obedience of God's word. It is very important to understand that before Christ you are not able to control your sin nature.

*Question—do you think an unbeliever's sin nature blinds them to their own fallen condition?*

Now that we are born again does it mean we will never sin? Of course not. God did not create robots—we will still feel like sinning and sometimes we will sin. The difference is that before we became Christians, we were dead in sin and were slaves to our sinful nature. But now we are alive with Christ and have the power of the Holy Spirit to assist us in walking worthy of the Christian call.

The life Jesus gives is not merely eternal life in heaven but spiritual life on earth that empowers us to live out the purpose for which He created us. Every human being in the world exists in one of two categories: spiritually dead or spiritually alive. Religion cannot make a dead man live. Good works, effort, and tradition may look like life to other dead people, but they have no spiritual power to transform from the inside out. Jesus Christ paid the highest price to redeem us from the clutches of Satan. Sin destroys; surrender brings life. We were all dead in our trespasses and sins, but we can be made alive through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's mercies continue after salvation as He offers His redeemed children forgiveness when we sin ([1 John 1:9](#)). Because He is rich in mercy, His mercies never end. They are "new every morning" ([Lamentations 3:23](#)). We never have to fear that one day God will get fed up and stop His patient working in our lives ([2 Peter 3:9](#)). We never need to worry that we have "used up" our portion of grace and kindness because our God is rich in mercy. For this we are so thankful!!!