

Subject: Once Dead in Sin, But Now We Have Been Made Alive
Scripture: Ephesians 2:1, 3

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

The blessings listed in the first chapter of Ephesians are all spiritual blessings. These blessings belong to all of the saints; bestowed upon the Believer by God. The second chapter of Ephesians opens, as well, with the blessing of being quickened (or made spiritually alive). This, too, is a work which is performed by God. But, Ephesians chapter two also makes known the sad and pitiful condition and state of the Believer before he was quickened.

OUR PRESENT CONDITION ***And you He made alive . . .***

At the moment of conversion:

- He who once was spiritually dead is now made spiritually alive. (*Eph 2:1, 4, 5*)
- The Spirit of God indwells the Believer. (*Romans 8:9 – 11*)
- The Believer is sealed by the Spirit until the Day of Redemption. (*Ephesians 1:13*)
- The Believer is baptized into the Body of Christ. (*1 Corinthians 12:12, 13*)
- The Believer is made a new creation, in Christ. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- The Believer is made a member of Christ's Body. (*Romans 12:4, 5*)
- The Believer is redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (*Psalms 107:2; Eph 1:7*)

OUR PAST CONDITION ***. . . who were dead in trespasses and sins***

We were “Children of Disobedience”

The condition of us all (regardless of any human earthly social classification)

- Common to all who are born is our disobedience to God. (*Romans 5:19; Eph 2:2*)
- Our common name and title was: Sinner. (*Romans 3:23; Romans 5:19*)
- Because of our disobedience to God, we were also children of wrath. (*Eph 2:3*)
- Dead in trespasses and sins does not refer to physical death.
- Spiritual death – Eph 4:18 “alienated from the life of God.”
- Sin defined: that conduct and nature in man that lacks conformity to the law of God and the character of God

Scripture references:

- *Romans 5:19. “For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*
- *Romans 3:23. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*

THREE GREAT ENEMIES OF MANKIND & EVERY BELIEVER **(The World, The Devil and The Flesh)**

Ephesians 2:1 – 3 reveals that in times past, our manner of living was:

- according to the course of this world (The World)
- according to the prince of the power of the air (The Devil)
 - the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience
- according to and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind (The Flesh)

THE WORLD

“Ye walked according to the course of this world”

COURSE:

The path over which something moves

Examples:

A race horse; The flight path of an airplane

The act of moving in a path from point-to-point

Behavior

A series of lectures or other matter dealing with a particular subject

Define “world”

There are three basic uses of the word “world” in scripture:

1. Refers to the earth.
2. Refers to the people of the earth.
3. Refers to the world system – This is the usage of “the world” in Ephesians 2.

THE WORLD SYSTEM is HOW THE WORLD OPERATES without recognizing its need for or dependence upon God.

- The world system is contrary to the will of God.

Scripture references:

1 John 2:15 – 17. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust of it; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

1 John 5:19b, “And we know that we are of God, and **the whole world** lieth in wickedness.” (Lit. the wicked one)

THE DEVIL

**“The prince of the power of the air,
the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.”**

- The prince, as stated in Ephesians 2 is the same as the devil and Satan.
- He is a spirit and, therefore, he is without flesh and blood.
- He is not seen with the natural eye.
- He is the mind behind the world system; governing from behind the scene.
- He is the rebellious world ruler.
- Jesus calls him “prince” in John 12:31; 14:30 and 16:11 (prince of this world).
- He moves the world system in a direction that is away from God and closer to himself.
- The natural course of the world is towards Satan, and away from God.
- He carries out his plans in the world through whoever he can use. But, he primarily carries out his plans through ungodly and, unredeemed people.

Scripture reference:

Eph 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

THE FLESH

“In the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind”

The term “the flesh” is used many ways in the Bible:

- The soft part of the body (vs. blood and bone)
- The totality of mankind (Isaiah 40:6). The voice said, Cry. And he said, “What shall I cry? All flesh is grass and all its goodliness (beauty) is like the flower of the field.”
- That which is not dependent upon the Spirit of God. (Romans 8:1 – 13)
- The unredeemed
 - Independent and does not see the need for God

Lusts – indicates strong desires

The flesh comprises the works of the soul as well as the lusts of the body.

Those in “the flesh” do not see their need for God. They depend totally on “self.”

Romans 8:8. “So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- Regardless of how good a work may be, if it is done without realizing God and a need for Him, it cannot please Him.
- “Good works” of the flesh displease God as does things that are knowingly vile and sinful

Scripture reference: *Read Romans 8:1 – 13. Notice and compare the words “flesh” and “spirit” as used in this text.*

©2013 “God’s Word, Alive!”

Permission is granted for non-commercial (free) distribution provided this notice appears.

“God’s Word, Alive!” P.O. Box 34215; Omaha, NE 68134 www.Godswordalive.org