

4 – THE REALITY OF SALVATION (EPHESIANS 2:1-10)

I. Our Past Condition (Ephesians 2:1-3)

A. A Textual Issue

- The phrase “He made alive” in verse 1 is not in the Greek manuscripts.
- This phrase was added into the text by the translators to further explain “you.”
- That is why the phrase is shown in your Bibles with italics.

B. Spiritually Dead (Ephesians 2:1)

- Paul writes that his readers were spiritually dead.

SCRIPTURE Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

- We were spiritually dead because of our transgressions and sins.
- Transgressions and sins are deliberate acts against God as we fail to live as we should.

SCRIPTURE Romans 3:23

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

C. Our Past Influences (Ephesians 2:2-3)

- Paul points out that we sinned because we gave into three influences.
- We were influenced by the world culture or system.
- We were influenced by “prince of the power of the air,” who we know as Satan.

SCRIPTURE 1 John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

- We were influenced by our lusts to fulfill the desires of our flesh and mind.

D. Our Past Nature (Ephesians 2:3)

- Paul points out that we were by nature, children of wrath, like other unbelievers.
- The “children of wrath” or “objects of wrath” refer to those who deserve God’s punishment.

A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

II. God's Love Expressed (Ephesians 2:4-7)

- Paul expresses that God is rich in mercy because of His great love that he loved us with.
- God loved us with this great love when we were dead in our trespasses and sins.
- Because of his love, he made us alive with Christ because we were saved by grace.

SCRIPTURE Romans 6:4-5

⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

- God raised believers up and seated them in heavenly places.
- Being seated in heavenly places reflects that believers share in Christ's authority or position now.
- The reason that God did this for believers is so that he can show riches of his grace toward us.

III. The Nature of Salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- Believers have been saved by God's grace through their faith.
- Salvation is not from our efforts, but rather salvation is a gift of God.
- Salvation is not the results of anything that we can do ourselves.
- No one can boast of their efforts since salvation is a gift of God's grace.

IV. Our Present Condition (Ephesians 2:10)

- Paul points out that believers are God's workmanship or work of art.
- Believers were created in Christ Jesus for good works.
- God prepared the good works before hand so that we should walk in them.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 37:23-24

²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord,
And He delights in his way.

²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;
For the Lord upholds *him* with His hand.