

Lessons in Salvation -- Lesson 5

Introduction:

We have said that the word “gospel” means good news of salvation. In the next two lessons we want to fully understand the wonder of what God does for us in Christ when we believe the gospel. This week we begin by looking at Ephesians 2:1-3. In the next lesson we will look at 2:4-10.

Read this passage at least five times, then answer the questions as best you can:

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² 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, ³ 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.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJ)

God saves dead men and women. If I went to a local cemetery and went to every grave and invited every person to church next Sunday, how many would show up? Why?

When God saves a man He overcomes three obstacles:

- We were “dead in trespasses and sins.” What does “dead” mean in Ephesians 2:1? Think about your answer to the previous question. What is the difference between dead in a cemetery and “dead in trespasses and sins”?
- We “walked according to the course of this world.” What does “walk” mean? What does “world” mean?
- We walked “according to the prince of the power of the air . . .” Who is this and what does it mean?

What does he mean in verse 3 when he says “we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind”? Give three personal examples.

What does he mean when he says that we were “by nature children of wrath, just as the others”? Whose wrath is he talking about? (Read Romans 1:16-32 for further explanation of “wrath.”)