

Ephesians Part 6...Nov.27th 2016
Chapter 2:1-10

There is a lot of interest and fascination in the world today with zombies.

This is very evident by the television show The Walking Dead.

At its peak the show had 17 million viewers.

A zombie is defined as the body of a dead person given the semblance of life but one that is mute and will-less.

When it comes to zombies there are some who play the part of a zombie in a movie or drama...

And then there are others for a lack of a better term are living the zombie life now.

For the past 5 weeks we have been studying chapter one of Ephesians.

In chapter 1 verses 1-14 Paul presented **all that God has done** for human beings.

Then in verses 15-23 **he prays** that we would understand what God has done for us.

He prays that people would understand what it means to be elected, forgiven, redeemed, sealed by The Holy Spirit and granted an inheritance.

In other words all that we have in having Jesus Christ is found in chapter 1.

You could say in chapter one Paul gives us the plan of salvation.

In chapter 2 Paul tells us how we can be part of the plan.

In verses 1-3 Paul deals with the past.

Verses 4-6 and verses 8 and 9 Paul deals with the present.

Then in verses 7 and 10 Paul deals with the future.

Another way to say it is like this...

What a believer **was**....

What a believer **is**...

And what a believer **will be** when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Verse 1...*And you He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

- **If you are Christian** this is talking about your past.
- **If you are not a Christian** then this is talking about your present condition.

Either we were dead or we are dead.

Dead means inability to respond, no reaction.

When Paul talks about being dead he is not talking about being physically dead, he is talking about spiritually dead.

He is referring to being dead to God.

The body is alive but the inner man spiritually is dead.

Being spiritually dead means there is no capacity to respond.

In other words a person without God is the walking dead.

They are spiritual zombies because they don't know they are dead so they go through life motions.

Paul describes or defines this deadness in verse 1...

He says *dead in trespasses and sins*.

Spiritual deadness functions in sinfulness.

- A person is not dead because of sin...
- A person is dead because they are born in sin.

A person is not dead because they commit sin so it's not like we commit a sin and die.

We are born dead and that's why we sin.

Notice the words were dead in trespasses and sins.

We have learned that one of Paul's favorite phrases is... **In Christ**.

Chapter one was all about being In Christ.

Here he **shows us the opposite** of being in Christ is **being in** trespasses and sins.

The meaning of sin needs to be understood.

Sin means to miss the mark, or to miss the target.

Trespasses means to slip, fall or stumble or go the wrong direction.

This means sin is a failure to hit God's target.

To hit a target you have to know what the target is...

The target is found in Romans 3:23...*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

Sin is the failure to glorify God.

Most of us have been taught that sin is what we do.

But in reality sin is **not an issue** of *what we do...* **but what we fail to do.**

When we sin it means we fail to come to the glory of God.

Sinning is failing to live a holy and righteous life which brings glory to God.

Sin is missing the target and the target is not heaven it is the glory of God.

Here is a verse to back up what I said about sin being the failure to not do something.

John 16:8...*And when He is come The Holy Spirit He will reprove the world of sin meaning The Holy Spirit will convict people of sin.*

Verse 9 of John 16 **tells us what sin...**

Of sin because they believe not on Me.

This shows us the sin of which the Holy Spirit convicts is the sin of not doing something.

It is the sin of not living and believing on Jesus Christ and not being holy.

In other words man is born manifesting a total inability to accomplish God's standards.

Born spiritually dead unable to understand and appreciate spiritual things.

Spiritual faculties do not function and the person cannot do anything of himself to please or glorify God.

The unbeliever is not sick...he is dead.

Anyone without Christ is a spiritual zombie.

Verse 2...*In which you once walked according to the course of this world.*

According to the course of this world can also be...

The spirit of this age...or...influenced by this present age...going along with the crowd.

The Message says it like this...You let the world which doesn't know the first thing about living tell you how to live.

What this means is before a person is saved they are a player or a victim of the spirit of the age.

They walk according to the course of the world.

World here is not referring to the physical world.

It refers to the ideological world of sin.

The system of satan or the system satan generates.

The zombie the walking dead indulges in the sins of the times.

He/she lives up to the world's standards and does just what the world does.

The course of this world involves three main things.
Humanism...materialism and sex.

Humanism is all about me.

Materialism is about what I want.

Sex is about what you have that I want.

It's all about me attitude.

I am not the oldest here and I am by far not the youngest but I have to say people are spoiled rotten in this day.

There is a word that I was taught when I was young and even our dog understands it...no!

You can't have everything you want.

The course of the world, the spirit of this age is make me happy regardless of the cost.

Change laws...violate the Word of God just let me have it my way.

Verse 2 continues and says...*according to the prince of the power of the air.*

This tells us who is behind all the course of this world all the crime, evil and bad behavior in the world today.

The prince of the power of the air is another name for satan.

Air is not referring to the atmosphere it is referring to **the realm of ideas**.

It refers to attitude and concepts.

Satan is the one breathing ideas, and promoting concepts.

He is the one that breeds the influence and then pushes his agenda.

Satan is the one behind the trends.

Verse 2 goes on to say...*the spirit who not works in the sons of disobedience.*

This means satan draws people into disobedience to God and works to get people to conform to the world.

Man is disobedient because he is a spiritual zombie and can't respond obediently.

Verse 3...*Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh.*

Lusts of the flesh refers to strong evil passions.

They are listed in Gal.5:19-21

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh...flesh refers to fallen nature.

Fulfilling means drives or where a passion turns to a drive...

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh influences the mind to disobey God.

Resulting in children of wrath which means a person is standing in the path of God's judgment.

To sum up verses 1-3 they speak of the depravity of man and man being in a zombie state spiritually.

Verse 4...*But God, I love those two words but God.*

But God speaks of what it takes to turn a zombie into a new creation.

But God who is rich in mercy.

Rich means over-abounding in mercy.

Mercy pours out from God.

Because of His great love with which He loved us...

Salvation is based on love so love is God's motive for saving a person.

God reaches out in love to those who are dead in sin and walking through life a zombie.

He reaches to the *unworthy, ungrateful, unholy, degraded* that are walking in sin.

Those who are serving the prince of the air and those who are targets for the wrath of God and He comes and He pours out His love.

When we sin we sin against His love.

God reaches out in love and says I know what you did but I offer you and will give you complete forgiveness.

Verse 5...*Even when we were dead in trespasses made us alive together with Christ...*

When we become a Christian all the alienation is removed...

Spiritual death is removed and we become alive.

- That means all of sudden we are sensitive to God...
- All of sudden the Bible becomes important...
- All of a sudden life makes sense and we have a real reason to live.
- Suddenly our family increases as we have brothers and sisters in Christ.

You may say is that important oh yeah it's important when your world collapses and you have people praying for you and standing with you yes it is important.

Why did God do all this?

What purpose did He have in saving us?

Verse 6...*And raised us together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

This means our physical position is here on earth but our spiritual position is in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Verse 7...*That in the ages to come He might show us the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

It is important to understand when you read the words in the ages to come when those ages are.

The ages to come are at the moment of salvation immediately after we are saved God shows us the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness.

This tells us one reason why God saves us is so He can be kind to us forever.

We are not saved just to be kept out of hell or saved to get into heaven...

God saves us so He can shower His grace and kindness and riches upon us.

From the moment we are saved and through the ages God pours out on us the riches of His grace.

Verse 8...*For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God.*

Saved by grace through faith...

Faith is believing in someone or something.

You sat in that chair today by faith that it would do what the builder built it to do and that was hold you up.

I didn't see anyone come in here and look under the seat to see if it would hold them we just plop down by faith.

You drive under a bridge by faith and you **drive over a bridge** by faith.

You eat at a restaurant by faith you don't go in the kitchen to see what they are doing you eat what they send out because you have faith in the place and the cooks.

Every day in many ways we exercise faith.

If you can trust a bridge with the weight of your car and you trust the restaurant to serve you beef and not possum...

Then you should easily be able to trust God with your salvation and accept it by faith.

Faith is simply believing God will do what He says He will do.
Faith is the gift of God not of works lest anyone should boast.

A free gift.

We are always suspicious when we hear the word free.

If it is free something must be wrong with it.

While I was preparing this message I had a call from someone who said I had won a trip to the Bahamas and even had free food included in the deal.

Sounded too good to be true so I hung up.

Salvation sounds too good to be true...but it is good and it is a free gift.

Last verse, verse 10...*For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

The word workmanship is a Greek word that means poem.

Poem came to mean masterpiece.

We are God's masterpiece this means God's power is at work in our life shaping us and molding us into the image of Christ.

This means our conversion is not the end it is the beginning and God continues to work in us to make what He wants us to be.

In this life you either wear grave clothes or grace clothes.

Jesus called Lazarus from the dead and then told them to loose him from the grave clothes.

Jesus replaces grave clothes with grace clothes.