



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Ephesians, Chapter 2 (verses 1-10)

SALVATION BY GRACE

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

The dead sinner (1-3) In what way is a sinner dead? What caused death? What characterized sinner's condition? Who is the prince of the air? What are three enemies of man? Who are children of disobedience obedient to? Who are the children of wrath? What are some images of sinners (besides dead) in the Bible?

Dead sinner made Alive by God's Amazing Grace (4-10) What prompted God to intervene? What makes God's love great? How are we saved? How is the new life and ascension symbolically captured in baptism, and how is it connected to Christ on the cross? Are we seated in heavenly places now or in the future or both? What is grace? Who are we in-Christ? What good works are we supposed to do? How should the walk of a living believer be different from a dead soul?

4.28.21

An Important Question

Am I Dead or Alive?

Sinner/Dead Soul (1-3)

In what way is a sinner dead? What characterized sinner's condition? What do we mean by 'trespasses' and 'sins'? Who is the prince of the air? What are three enemies of man? Who are children of disobedience obedient to? Besides dead, What are some other images of sinners in the scriptures? Do we fit into any of these images?

Dead Sinner (2)

In what way is a sinner dead?

- Sinner is **spiritually dead**. Sinner is considered a 'Natural man' (I Corinthians 2:14-16); Believers are considered 'Spiritual' although some believers sadly become 'Carnal' (I Corinthians 3:1-3)

Triune Man And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 5:23)

Body, Soul, and Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:23)

Body – visible physical structure

Soul - world conscience

Spirit – God conscience

Dead sinners with dead spirits cannot commune with a Living God!

What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world but lose his own soul , **Mark 8:36**

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:24**

Dead Sinner

2 And you hath he quickened, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins

What caused death?

- **Transgressions** (breaking known laws)
- **Sins** (Falling short of God's perfect standards), moral failure caused by words, thoughts, deeds (known and unknown failures)
- **Quickened** – process by which dead are made alive (more later)

Three enemies (2,3)

3 enemies of a spiritual man

Ways of the World – worldly values & aspirations

Satan – prince of the air (I Peter 5:8)

Flesh – desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)

Children of disobedience – children rebellious to God's ways

Children of wrath - As sinners and descendants of Adam, we deserved to be children of wrath (subject to the wrath/ fiery judgement of God)

Dead ... and Other images of sinners

Blind (II Corinthians 4:4)

In darkness (Colossians 1:13)

Slaves (Romans 6:17)

Lovers of darkness (John 3:19)

Aliens (Ephesians 2:19)

Children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)

Fools (Psalms 14:1)

Stony heart (Ezekiel 36:26)



Do any of
these
apply to
you?

Dead sinner made Alive by God's Amazing Grace (4-10)

What prompted God to intervene? What makes God's love great? When did God start loving sinners? How are we saved? How is the new life and ascension symbolically captured in baptism, and how is it connected to Christ on the cross? Are we seated in heavenly places now or in the future or both? What is grace? Who are we in-Christ? What good works are we supposed to do? How should the walk of a living Christian be different from a dead soul?

But God ...

Changes everything!

God's motive ... (4)

- God is **rich in mercy**
- God is **generous in Love** (God is love, I John 4:16)

- We continue to enjoy **His mercy & Love**, beyond salvation!

- We did not deserve it pre-salvation and we do not deserve it post-salvation ... it's all **His Grace!** (I Corinthians 15:10)

Greatness of God's love

- God loved dead sinners (1-3) He loved us at our lowest point
- God loved us first (I John 4:19)
- We did not seek God, He sought us (Luke 19:10, John 15:16)
- He loved us when we were enemies to Him (Romans 5:10)

God demonstrates his own love for us in
this: While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8, NIV

Our salvation ... dead made Alive! (5)

Dead are Made Alive ... miracle of salvation!

Made us alive with Christ (imagery of the cross)

- Jesus became man (like us)
- He was nailed on the cross (our sins were nailed)
- He died and was buried (our sins were destroyed and put to death)
- He was resurrected (we were also made alive in-Christ, new birth)

John 5:24 (death to life experience available to all who believe)

- **Baptism** symbolizes this experience (Colossians 2:12)
 - **Paul's testimony following baptism...** "I am crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20)

Our ascension ... seated in heavenly places (6)

We are seated in heavenly places in-Christ, and through Christ

In FUTURE, we will be seated with Him and reign with Him.

(Daniel 7:18, II Timothy 2:11-13, Revelation 22:5)

TODAY, our heavenly position/future should change our perspective (Colossians 3:1, Mathew 6:33)



In the AGES TO COME (7) ... witness and worship continues ... even in Heaven we will be remembering and giving thanks for the blessed grace (Revelation 5: 9,10)

Exceeding riches of His Grace (8, 9)

Grace - God's unmerited indescribable favor

Salvation is a Gift of God

- It is 100% God's grace ... work on the cross is a "finished work"

Saved by exercising **faith** in the finished work on the cross; We cannot earn salvation by our works of the flesh!

Saved from **second death** (Revelation 2:11, 20:6,14, 21:8)

Who are we? What is our purpose? (10)

- We are **His workmanship** (masterpiece, special unique creation)
- We are **made new** (II Corinthians 5:17)
- We were **created & saved unto good works**
 - Good works foreordained
 - We must prayerfully discover the good works we have to do
 - Good works rewarded by God, if faithfully completed
 - Good works are the fruit of salvation