

The Guilt of Man vs The Grace of God

Lesson 6 Questions

Ephesians 2:1-10

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in 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 as a result of works, that no one 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.”

Today we will break down Ephesians 2:1-10 into three main segments: (1) Verses 1-3, focus on fallen man and his hopeless condition (dead) as a result of his sin. (2) Verses 4-6 focus on God, and on His mercy and grace in making a provision for man's salvation in Christ. (3) Verses 7-10 focus on the purpose of salvation, to the praise of the glory of His grace. All together, they give a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Context

In Ephesians chapter 1 Paul focused our attention on the purpose of God and on the power of God, which assure the believer of the blessings which God has provided in Christ. The final verses of chapter 1 talk about the power of God which He has given in Jesus Christ, through His resurrection and ascension.

As you begin this study, reread Ephesians 1:18-23.

Man's Problem: Dead in Sin

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Firstly, Paul's purpose in the beginning of chapter two of Ephesians is to contrast the life of Christ vs our lives in the flesh. He begins with "And you ..." or translated in the NIV it says "as for you" a direct contrast of our former lives vs that of Christ in the last two verses of Ephesians 1.

Consider the contrast between Christ's position and ours. Eph.2:1-3

But we are _____, because of _____.

Christ is alive because of His righteousness

We _____ walked in accordance with this _____.

Christ is exalted, seated in the heavens;

We _____ in the lusts of our flesh, we were by nature _____ of wrath, even as _____.

Christ has been given power and authority over all other powers and authorities;

Death is ultimately the result of sin. But in our passage, Paul examines some of the contributing factors to our sin. First, men are sinners because they are born that way. We were, "by nature, children of wrath." We were sinners, subject to the wrath of God because of our sin nature, which we received at birth. The unbelieving world looks at children as innocent, influenced only by their environment. The Bible informs us that we were born in sin, having inherited the fallen nature of our forefather, Adam.

1. How would you share that truth with someone who wasn't sure about having a sin nature from birth. Psalms 58:3; Romans 3:23; Psalms 51:5; Ephesians 2:3; Jeremiah 17:9

Second, men sin and are therefore sinners because they follow the world in its course of sin and rebellion. Sinners hate to be alone in their sin, they want others to join them in their sin and unknowingly the penalty of sin.

2. Using the following verses(or others that you use), to show how the unbelieving mind is influenced. Proverbs 1:8-19; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 5:38; Proverbs 4:19

Third, unbelievers sin because they are unwittingly subject to the influence of Satan. *1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led (1 Corinthians 12:1-2).*

3. Use the following verses to explain how unbelievers can be easily deceived into believing what they do is ok. 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 1 John 3:8; Romans 7:7-25; Galatians 5:16-21

In and of ourselves, apart from God, we are desperately and hopelessly lost. We are not “sick,” we are “dead.” We are without life, without hope, without potential, without “worth.” Any value we may have, or any hope, must come from outside of us...and it does come, in Christ. This is the good news of the gospel, and that which Paul explains next, in verses 4-6.

**God’s Grace: Alive in Christ
(2:4-6)**

“4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by

grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,”

The words, “But God ...” keep us from despair. The condition of men in sin is not hopeless or terminal because God has come to the rescue of fallen men through His provision in Jesus Christ.

4. Studying the following verses, explain how it is God’s mercy alone that rescues us from death and gives us life. Romans 5:5-8; Romans 6:23; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:4-5; Psalms 25:6-7

God’s Purpose:

The Praise of the Glory of His Grace

(2:7-10)

“7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in 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 as a result of works, that no one 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.”

5. As we look at this passage, using the following verses or others, show how God through salvation shows the ‘surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus’. Phil 3:20-21; 1 Peter 1:4; rev 7:9-11; Eph 1:3-5; Eph 2:8-9

6. Looking at Ephesians 2:8-9, God clearly wants us to understand that His grace in salvation is not by any merit of our own. Look at 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17 and explain how these verses help us see why man's wisdom is so opposite of God's.

Conclusion – Our Joy in Salvation

Ephesians 2:10 tells us clearly that We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works....prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. A part of our salvation is living out our faith before others so that they see Christ in us and glorify Him. Explain how understanding and living this out brings us joy in our salvation, our service, and also brings glory to God. Use verses to back up your comments.
