

### 6.23.19 ~ Ephesians 2:1-7, Dead or Alive?

**See Ephesians 2:1-3...** Our Salvation is from SIN.

Our life before Christ is characterized by SIN (**Ephesians 2:2**), following "the ways of the world" (**Ephesians 2:3**), "gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature." This is a **past** condition for believers and a **present** condition for everyone else, (**v. 2**), "those who are disobedient" (see **Romans 5:12-17**).

Every person on earth has the same ancestral heritage [Adam and Eve] through whom sin entered the earth and has been passed on from generation to generation through every tribe, nation, language and culture.

Salvation is the work of God by which spiritually dead humans are made spiritually alive because of God's great love and mercy (**John 1:12-13; 2Corinthians 5:17**).

The world rejects God, His Word, and any notion of SIN; the world encourages us to focus our attention on ourselves, apart from the wisdom and knowledge of God.

**Psalms 14:1**, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good."

**Romans 1:16**, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

**1Corinthians 1:18**, "For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

**Galatians 2:20**, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

A physically dead person cannot see, hear, touch, taste, smell or think; and a spiritually dead person cannot know God, experience life with God, nor can they do God's will, for they remain dead in their sins (**Ephesians 2:1**), everyone starts out "dead in transgressions and sins, in which [we] used to live."

When we come to God through Christ, we go from death to life, from condemnation, to acceptance (**Romans 8:1-2**), "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

We are not spiritually dead because we commit sin; we are spiritually dead because of sin in us (cf. **Romans 5:12**); for although a person is physically alive, they are spiritually dead and by nature are children of wrath.

Everyone apart from God is spiritually dead, and this death has no degrees or levels (for you are either alive or dead). But it can be very difficult to know whether or not a person is spiritually dead or alive.

Everyone is not equally corrupt and wicked apart from God (by human standards), but everyone is equally guilty of sin and in need of God's forgiveness for sin; apart from God's forgiveness through Christ, we would all remain guilty, condemned to eternal judgment (cf. **Romans 3:11-12, 20-23; 6:23; 5:8; 8:1; 11:29**).

**See Ephesians 2:4-7...** It is only because of God's love and mercy that we are able to receive forgiveness, and to go from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive.

We are incapable of reaching the Holy and Righteous God of Creation, let alone of being made acceptable (perfect) in order to be in His presence.

God's desire is that we become recipients of His Mercy and Grace (forgiveness and eternal life), so that He might express His kindness to us through Christ, for all the world to see.

Applying all our human effort in an attempt to become holy and acceptable to God, would accomplish little more than someone attempting to jump across the ocean from Waldport, Oregon to Hawaii: Now, a child would not get very far, an adult would get a little farther, a trained athlete would get the farthest. But, everyone would fall miserably short of their destination.

In the same sense, no matter how hard anyone tries to reach God, or to become acceptable to God, using only human strength and power, all their efforts would produce about the same results as those who attempt to jump to Hawaii from Waldport -- their footprints would be left in the sand, temporally, until the next wave removed them.

**See Mark 10:18-27...** This man, by his own confession, had not committed murder or adultery, he hadn't stolen anything or given false testimony, he hadn't cheated anyone and he had honored his mother and father.

This man had done all the things that law and tradition and good citizenship required, but salvation isn't about what we do or who we are, this man couldn't obtain salvation because he failed to believe in, trust and follow Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**), "the only way" of God, "the only truth" of God, and "the only life" from God; no one comes to the Father but through Him, i.e., no one receives forgiveness, no one will be saved, no one has eternal life apart from God's Son, Jesus Christ.

During Jesus' pep talk with His disciples, in **John 16:8**, He told them that the Holy Spirit would come and "convict the world of guilt in regard to sin," and then (**verse 9**) He defined "sin" as, not believing in Him.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**, "in these last days, God has spoken to us in His Son, through whom He made the world; He is the radiance of God's glory & exact representation of God's nature (see **John 5:39-40; 6:28-29; 8:23-24; 10:10, 30**).

God's divine and sovereign revelation has been made through Christ, and also through all that He has made (for He is the Creator), and all those who reject God's Message and God's Messenger will be condemned.

**See Psalm 19:1-3**, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

**Romans 1:18-20**, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Those who choose to live apart from Christ (remaining spiritually dead), although they have physical life on this earth, will be forever separated from Him, at the moment of physical death (**Hebrews 9:27**) "...it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

Those who reject Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will receive God's ultimate judgment: separation from God and all things God, in Hell, where they will experience eternal darkness, pain, sorrow, and torment.

**John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." **18**, "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." **36**, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

All who believe in and receive God's Son, will receive God's reward, i.e., eternity with God and all things God: light, love, joy, and happiness.

**1John 5:11-13**, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

And this has made effectual through Jesus Christ: crucified, resurrected, and coming again.

Can you today, with full assurance, say, "I was dead in sin, but now I am alive in Christ." If you have any doubt in your heart that you belong to Jesus Christ and that you have received eternal life, please talk with me today.

*Pastor Mike*  
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