

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**EPHESIANS 2*****Ephesians 2***

In the last commentary on Ephesians 1, I simply introduced to you the people and places that Paul writes about in the book of Ephesians. The theme of the book is introduced in chapter one and then detailed in the chapters following. Chapter one establishes that all believers are supernaturally united in Christ Jesus at the moment of salvation. This makes us one in Him. This does not mean that you are no longer a man or woman, black or white, Jew or Gentile. You do not cease to be who you are or lose your particular role in the home or in society. What it means is that the Lord Jesus broke down the barriers to all of us becoming united into one body, one head, one Lord, and one faith, as we see in the chapters to come. It also means that the lifestyles we once lived that came from the attitudes we once had should be behind us, as we turned from those when we came to the Lord Jesus in repentance and trust. The entire book, but especially the first chapter, introduces us to the concept of being "in Christ," "seated in the heavenlies," which appears numerous times throughout this letter.

Chapter two begins with familiar passages to those who have been in evangelical churches, especially verses 8-9. Paul reminds the followers of Jesus that they were once "dead in trespasses and sins..." and then goes on to tell what that means.

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of

disobedience. All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath."

(Ephesians 2:1-3)

What does it mean to be "dead in trespasses and sins?" It means to be alienated or separated from God and His dominion and Lordship in our lives. We are in a state of falling away and missing the mark of God's righteousness and glory. This is what the Apostle meant in Romans when he said, ***"All have sinned (Missed the mark, the same word here) that is we fall short of the glory of God."*** (Romans 3:23) In that sinful and separated life, we walked/lived according to the course of this world, thinking like the world, living like the world. This was dictated by the devil/Satan, who rules/is the prince of this world and controls the airways, not ultimately, but in this present evil age. His spirit is the one who works in everyone who refuses to come under the Lordship of the God of heaven. The life we once lived was dominated by sinful and lustful living. BUT we are no longer under the evil prince's power and dominion in Jesus. We have been saved by the grace of God. Through the agency of faith, God gifts us salvation. The paragraph does not end at the end of verse nine, as you might have memorized along the way. Everyone, and each one who is saved by grace through faith, is preprogrammed for a destiny, and that is to live out our union with Christ in the way we live, called "good works" by the Apostle in verse ten.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank You, Lord, for giving me the gift of salvation. Please enable me the rest of my days to live my life as a thank You by living a life of good works that please You. Amen