

The Church, God's Plan for this Age: The Difference Christ Makes in the Life of a Believer

Ephesians 2:1-10

Sunday, June 28, 2020

In this passage, Paul paints a stark contrast between the church and the world. Paul makes it very clear, that you're either part of the world system that is dominated by Satan, or you are a part of the church which is ruled by Christ (1:20-23). In this message we'll learn the great difference that Christ makes in the life of a believer.

2:1 "You" – saints, believers in Jesus Christ (1:1)

2:1 "hath he quicked" – made alive (cf. 2:5)

1. Your Position Before Christ (1-3)

a. Dead in trespasses and sins (1)

- i. How is it that you were dead while physically alive?
- ii. Genesis 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
- iii. Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
- iv. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death:"
- v. Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."
- vi. Our sins and trespasses separate us from God; this spiritual alienation is spiritual death (Isa 59:2).

b. Disobedient to the law of God (2)

- i. You walked according to the course of this world.
 1. You were controlled by the values and attitudes of this world.
 2. You had no power to resist the world's immense pressure to conform (Romans 12:2).
- ii. You walked according to the prince of the power of the air.
 1. John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is not truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
- iii. You walked according to the spirit of this disobedient world system.
 1. The western world worships the creation, not their Creator (Romans 1) (Evolution).
 2. The religions of the world create their own ways to God.

c. Deceived by your depraved desires (3)

- i. Since the lost man is dead to spiritual things, he is governed by his own deceitful desires.
 1. 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
 2. The world tells us to follow our heart, but our heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).
- ii. We were under God's wrath.
 1. John 3:18, 36 "He that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the **wrath of God abideth on him.**"
 2. Romans 1:18 "For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold (suppress) the truth in unrighteousness."

2. Your Position After Christ (4-10)

a. You are made alive (4-5).

- i. Because God is so loving, He extended His mercy to us (4-5a).
- ii. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

- iii. God's love cannot be earned; it is an act of mercy on underserving sinners – "even when we were dead in sins."
 - iv. God's mercy is a gift of grace – "by grace ye are saved."
 - b. You are raised up with Christ (6a).
 - i. This resurrection is called the New Birth (John 3).
 - ii. The moment you place your faith in Christ, you pass from death to life.
 - iii. John 5:29 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life."
 - c. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places (6b).
 - i. Your salvation is not probationary; it's permanent the very moment you place your faith in Christ!
 - ii. Spiritually, you are already seated with Christ high above all earthly and demonic powers.
 - d. You are trophies of God's grace (7-9).
 - i. Our redemption will be an eternal testament to the riches of God's grace in showing His kindness toward us through Christ!
 - ii. The fact that salvation is a gift of God's grace received by faith glorifies God!
 - iii. If we could be saved by our works, we would broast about our works for all of eternity!
 - e. You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to accomplish good works (10).
 - i. Your salvation was accomplished by God's workmanship, not yours!
 - ii. You were made alive in Christ to accomplish the very work of Christ as part of the body of Christ!
 - iii. God foreordained that He would not only save us by grace through faith in Christ, but that He would also incorporate us into the very body of Christ to accomplish the work of Christ for His glory!
 - f. Summary: The world and the church are in distinct contrast. The church has Christ as its head, and the world is under the dominion of satan. Christ is the perfect God-man, Who is bound to believers by His very blood; the prince of this world is an unembodied spirit, an alien and a usurper, who dominates and destroys all who follow him. Christ so blesses the church that it becomes His "fullness," the other sheds darkness and distress all around him. Christ has His Spirit endwelling the church, leading it to holiness; the other exercises a subtile and debasing influence over the minds of his vassals who are the "children of disobedience" (paraphrase of John Eadie).

Conclusion:

1. Have you been made alive?
2. Have you received God's grace?
3. If you have been made alive, are you taking full advantage of your relationship with God through Chirst?
4. Are you resting in Christ's finished work, or is your soul in turmoil, as if God's gift is probationary?
5. Are you confident of Christ's victory over the wicked one, or are you allowing yourself to be indtimidated?
6. Are you boasting about God's grace in your life? Do the people around you know your story of faith in Christ?
7. How are you furthering Christ'