**March 19, 2017 “And You Were Dead” Ephesians 2:1-10**

It is my hope that you are enjoying our study of the Book of Ephesians as much as I am. If there is a book in the Bible that describes and clarifies what it means to be a Christian, I think Ephesians would be one of the first books anyone would study.

In chapter one, we discovered a number of things about God’s awesome plan of salvation and we also were given insight into all the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus because of the sovereign love of God toward those whom He has called into His family which is a living organism described in Ephesians as “the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Now in chapter two, Paul begins to explain the outworking of God’s plan of salvation in the lives of believers. He does so in chapter two in three aspects or phases in every Christians’ life.

1. Ephesians 2:1-3… our past
2. Ephesians 2:4-6… our present situation
3. Ephesians 2:7-10… our glorious future

Now the book of Ephesians is like many of the other books of the Bible in that it is a useful tool to help us understand some of the teachings of Christ through the simplifying and explanation of some of the most important doctrines found in the Word of God.

For example, John 3:1-6… what does it mean to be “born again?” This doctrine is explained in Ephesians 2:1-3.

For example, II Corinthians 5:17… “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things have passed away; behold new things have come.” This doctrine is explained in Ephesians 2:4-6.

For example, Daniel 12:3… and Philippians 2:14-16… “shining like stars”. These Scriptures are more fully explained in Ephesians 2:7-10

And on and on it goes in the book of Ephesians. My directive to you is to let the Spirit of God remind you of and direct you to many other Scriptures as you mediate on and study the book of Ephesians.

So let’s look at the progressions of the Christians’ life found in our passage today:

1. Saved from sin (Ephesians 2 1-3
2. Saved by love (Ephesians 2 4)
3. Made alive (Ephesians 2 5)
4. For a purpose (Ephesians 2 7)
5. Through faith (Ephesians 2 8)
6. Unto good works (Ephesians 2 10)

Before we get into our main text for today, I want to show the two resurrections listed in Ephesians. The first is found in Ephesians 1:19-21 and the second is found in Ephesians 2: 4-6

1. “and you were dead” (Ephesians 2 1)
   1. Condition of every single human being
      1. This helps me to understand many of the things going on in our world today
         1. Show on TV called “The walking dead”
            1. Read the “themes”
   2. Does that not explain much of what is going on in our world today?
      1. People are alive physically but dead spiritually
         1. Suicide bombers, killing anyone and everyone
         2. Rioters, violence
         3. Drugs and alcoholism
         4. Sex trafficking, pornography
         5. Wars and rumors of war
      2. They are literally “dead men walking”
         1. Unable to comprehend the love of God
         2. Unable to comprehend the forgiveness of God
         3. Unable to stop the very thing which is destroying them
            1. Which is the sin nature

Psalm 51:5

Psalm 58:3

Genesis 6:5

* + - 1. Man is dead because he is born a sinner

1. “In trespasses and sins”
   1. Paraptema… means to stumble or fall
   2. Hamartia… means to miss the mark
      1. Clarifies what these two things are in our lives
         1. Romans 3:23… “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”
         2. Romans 1:18-21
   3. Sin in its basic form is this: falling short or missing the mark in glorifying God
      1. It is not so much an issue of what we do
      2. Rather it is an issue of not doing what all mankind is called to do
         1. Which is to glorify God!!!
   4. How can we glorify God in our human condition?
      1. By being perfectly holy and sinless
      2. That is the standard
         1. James 4:17
   5. You see man is dead… he is unable to reach the standard God has set

No matter how hard he tries, no matter how much education he has or does not have, no matter his environment or his financial status… the issue remains… he has sinned and come short of glorifying God.