



## Ephesians 4 From Death to Life



### **TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:1-10 ... 10 Verses, rich and hugely significant, in 3 sections**

- A. WHERE WE CAME FROM: Without Christ / hope .. Actually, far worse than that and desperately in need of a Saviour → We were DEAD in our sins (v1-3)
- B. HOW WE WERE SAVED: Rescue, salvation, new birth ... Glorious work of God's grace + mercy → God made us ALIVE with Christ (v4-7)
- C. WHAT WE DO NOW: God's plan, our response, His purpose → We are God's WORKMANSHIP (v8-10)

**TD Jakes:** "How long has it been since you glowingly + passionately expressed your gratitude that God saved you + delivered you from eternal darkness + damnation? If that is all God ever did for us, we have reason to shout + rejoice for the rest of our lives! To comprehend the incredible miracle we have experienced through our new life in Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Ephesians reminding us how despicable + ugly + dark our lives were before the light of Christ made us new + clean + free. We must never forget our Lord + Saviour delivered us from the terrible abyss of spiritual death." → *How often do you think about your salvation or celebrate it or give thanks for it? Do you really comprehend what you have been saved FROM and TO?*

### **A. BEFORE WE WERE SAVED**

#### **1. DEAD (v1)**

- \* When the Bible talks about DEATH, it's not talking about the CESSATION OF LIFE, but of SEPARATION.
- \* PHYSICAL death = separation of SPIRIT from BODY (not annihilation, but passing from one state of being to another. When a person dies, their spirit separates from their body, and their spirit continues to live somewhere, ultimately heaven or hell, 2 Cor 5:8)
- \* SPIRITUAL death = separation from GOD, not non-existence, Gen 2:17, Rom 5:12,6:23

#### **SPIRITUALLY DEAD means**

- a) SEPARATED from God: Who cannot have association with sin, because it is so utterly opposed to His nature / character. It is impossible for holy, righteous God to coexist with the unholy, just as it is impossible for light to allow darkness into a room.
- b) Destined for CONDEMNATION/hell=eternal separation (Heb 9:27,10:27, Rev 20:15)
- c) Not really ALIVE at all → The spirit that is DEAD is unable to connect with, understand or appreciate SPIRITUAL THINGS ... The unbeliever is not just SICK, but DEAD. They do not need RESUSCITATION, but RESURRECTION

→ *The unbeliever may be in varying degrees of health emotionally and mentally, but spiritually they are dead. What does this mean in reality? How does the spiritual affect the mental + emotional? Is it possible for the emotionally + mentally strong to fail to see their need for salvation? Do you know anyone like that? How do we pray for them?*

#### **2. DISOBEDIENT (v2)**

- \* The unsaved person, whether consciously or unconsciously, is CONTROLLED by the VALUES and ATTITUDES of the WORLD.
  - \* Not only is a sinner resistant / closed / dead to the things of God, but worse: constantly influenced by satan, world, flesh (fallen, sin nature)
- *Consider the picture of a PUPPETEER: The 'puppet' might think they're free, but actually the enemy is pulling strings. The strings are invisible, so people assume that they're in control of their lives. But when they try to break free, strings in puppeteer's hands restrain them. How accurate / applicable is this picture? Explain.*

### **3. DEPRAVED (Rom 5:19)**

- \* A SINNER behaves like a SINNER because they have a SIN NATURE ... that nature has sinful appetites. These appetites can, to an extent, be trained, even subdued, but only new birth can give you new appetites
- *Is it 'total' depravity? Can an unbeliever still do good things, even if flesh things, and do those even qualify as good? What does it mean to bear the 'image of God?' Does that still influence us, even though we're spiritually lifeless?*
- \* There is only one solution: We need a NEW NATURE.
- *If you were to transplant a cat's nature into your dog, they would change considerably (and vice-versa). What changes take place when we receive a new nature?*
- *People try to 'find life' by living 'THE' good life or by living 'A' good life, but ultimately only solution is inward transformation (new birth) from an external source (God Himself). Discuss!*

### **4. DOOMED → Hope-less, help-less, condemned**

### **B. GLORIOUSLY, GRACIOUSLY, FREELY SAVED**

- \* After v3 comes v4 ... BUT GOD
  - \* God's not left sinners abandoned in their SHAMEFUL, ENSLAVED, DESPERATE state.
  - \* Because of His great LOVE, He poured out MERCY and GRACE, and sent JESUS to rescue the perishing.
  - \* Here's the miracle: We could NEVER do it, 'BUT GOD.'
  - \* We were spiritually DEAD, but God made us ALIVE. (1 Cor 15:22, John 3:3-6, 10:10).
  - \* When we are BORN AGAIN, He BREATHED His BREATH into us and we become RECONNECTED to spiritual world.
- *How do we become reconnected? What can we now access that we couldn't before? (See 1 Cor 2:6-16) What does the God-kind of life (zoe) look like (John 10:10)?*
- *If spiritual new birth brings dead things back to life, what in your life has been or still could be brought back to life?*

### **C. GOD AT WORK IN US & THROUGH US**

- \* WORKMANSHIP = POIEMA: something MANUFACTURED, a DESIGN produced by an ARTISAN, a WORK of ART.
  - \* You are UNIQUELY POSITIONED → No-one else has been placed WHERE YOU ARE (in your family / community / town, with your friends, church,) with WHAT YOU HAVE (talents, personality, strengths, abilities).
- *Where have you been positioned? What do you have that God can use for His glory?*
- *How easy is it to fall into the 'comparison trap?' Why is this such a significant error? How do you escape from it? How does this verse / passage help?*
- \* Allow the Master Artisan to CONTINUE and COMPLETE His work IN you, so He can CONTINUE and COMPLETE His work THROUGH you.
- *What work is God doing IN you right now? What work do you sense He'd want to do in you, if only you'd let Him? What work is God doing THROUGH you right now? What do you think He might want to do through you in the future?*

### **RESPONSE: Which of these is it for you?**

1. WORSHIP → Gratitude for God's work FOR US ... If all saving us was all He ever did ...
2. INVITATION → Lord, come into my life + make me born again / alive
3. CONSECRATION → Lord, work IN me, to make me all I could be
4. COMMISSIONING → Lord, work THROUGH me ... To Your ends, for Your glory