

WEEK 4 THE SAVING WORK OF GOD

April 30, 2017

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:1-9 (NKJV)

HERE IS HOW EPHESIANS 2:1-3 DESCRIBES MAN'S PREDICAMENT

1. HE IS DEAD (VERSE 1)

SPIRITUALLY DEAD—UNABLE TO APPRECIATE SPIRITUAL THINGS

NO SPIRITUAL LIFE

NO HUNGER OR THIRST FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS

NOT CONNECTED TO THE SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

HE IS DEAD IN NEED OF RESURRECTION

2. HE IS DISOBEDIENT (VERSES 2-3a)

THREE FORCES THAT ENCOURAGE MAN IN DISOBEDIENCE—SATAN, THE WORLD, AND THE FLESH

3. HE IS DEPRAVED (VERSE 3b)

DESIRES ARE SINFUL BECAUSE HIS APPETITIES ARE SINFUL

4. HE IS DOOMED (VERSE 3c)

BY NATURE, CHILDREN OF WRATH! BY DEED, CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE!

THE UNSAVED PERSON IS CONDEMNED ALREADY

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:18 (NKJV)

WHAT GOD HAS DONE TO REMEDY MAN'S PREDICAMENT

1. HE LOVED US (VERSE 4)

IN HIS LOVE HE RELATES TO SINNERS WITH HIS GRACE AND MERCY

IN HIS MERCY HE DOES NOT GIVE US WHAT WE DESERVE

IN HIS GRACE HE GIVES US WHAT WE DO NOT DESERVE

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

2. HE MADE US ALIVE (VERSE 5)

WE WERE DEAD. WE NEEDED RESURRECTION.

3. HE EXALTED US (VERSE 6)

OUR PHYSICAL POSITION IS EARTH, BUT OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION IS HEAVEN

4. HE KEEPS US (VERSES 7-9)

SALVATION IS A GIFT NOT A REWARD

IT IS HIS WORK NOT OURS

HE WILL FINISH AND KEEP US FOR HIS GLORY