

FROM DEATH TO LIFE Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

A New Creation in Christ

1. Ephesians is about God's eternal plan and your place in it
2. In Ch. 1 we see the spiritual blessings we have in Christ [1:3-14]
3. We also see a prayer for God's people [1:15-23]

—Bill Turner 12/2026

I. **WHAT WE WERE (v.1–3)**

(1) SPIRITUALLY DEAD (v.1)

1. The Bible deals with Reality—not just physical but Spiritual Reality
 - a) Physical Life and Physical Death
 - b) Spiritual Life and Spiritual Death
 - c) Eternal Life and Eternal Judicial Death
2. Three Stages of Life and Death: Physical, Spiritual and Eternal
 - a) **PHYSICAL DEATH:** Separation of the spirit and body when we physically die
 - b) **SPIRITUAL DEATH:** Being spiritually separated from God, the source of true life.
 - c) **ETERNAL JUDICIAL DEATH:** Eternal Separation from God – described by Jesus as outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
3. Sin is Terminal and Fatal...
 - a) Sin Kills Innocence... Kills the Conscience... Kills the Will... and Kills the Soul...
 - b) We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God... the penalty of sin is death.
 - c) Most people don't even know they are spiritually dead men walking... (1 Ti 5:6.)

(2) DECEIVED BY SATAN (v.2)

“The best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he is in prison.” – Fyodor Dostoyevsky

1. This is a Fallen World—because of satan, sin and death...
—and there is a spirit of darkness at work in this world
 - a) Demonic forces of darkness at work in the Spiritual realm...
 - b) But the terrible damage can be seen in the Physical Realm (**Eph. 6:12**)
2. The Bible refers to Satan as the “god of this world...”
 - a) The “ruler” of this world... “prince” of this world... ‘this eon’ > era, “age” NKJ
 - b) “Prince of the power of the air...” meaning above humans but below God in heaven
3. Satan is the deceiver of the world (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6**)
 - a) Deceiving billions through godless ideologies...
 - b) The Enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy (**Revelation 12:7-9; 12**)

(3) CONTROLLED BY OUR SELFISH DESIRES (v.3)

1. "No man is free who is a slave to the flesh." (**Seneca**)
 - a) This is the spirit of the age... the spirit of the fallen world we live in...
 - b) Selfish Ambition... Selfish Greed... Selfish Pride... Selfish Pleasure...
 - c) This is the strategy, staging area & attack point, of the enemy > the flesh

2. Which is why we never had peace...

- a) we were always in a constant state of striving for More...
- b) More Success, More Ambition, More Possessions, More Attention...

3. This is the Cult of Self Worship... (2 Timothy 3:1–5)

(4) CONDEMNED BY THE WRATH OF GOD (v.3)

1. Some may think that since God is love—He could not not have wrath...

- a) That wrath is somehow beneath the character of God...
- b) **God is Love** — and this is where we see His Mercy and Grace
- c) **God is Holy** — and this is where we see His Justice, Judgement and Wrath

2. The wrath of God is the holy revulsion of His being against all that is evil (Romans 1:18; 2:4–6)

**3. The day of wrath is the terrible day of judgement... (Revelation 11:17–19)
when every secret is revealed & every soul is judged**

- (1) We were Spiritually Dead... (2) Deceived by satan...
- (3) Controlled by our Desires... (4) Condemned by the wrath of God...

II. WHAT GOD DID (v.4–9)

(1) HE LOVED US (v.4)

1. Even when we were spiritually dead...

- a) Even under the wrath of God because of our sins...
- b) God loved us and sent His son to Die for us!

2. This is the good news of the gospel!

- a) God so loved the world that He gave His beloved Son... (John 3:16-19)

(2) HE MADE US ALIVE (v.5–7)

1. God raised Jesus from Death to Life so that He is alive forevermore...

- a) and He raised us up from Death to Life so we can be alive with Him forevermore!

2. To be born again—we had to die with Christ (Romans 6:3–6)

- a) By an incredible miracle that only God can comprehend...
- b) every Christian has been to the cross of calvary,
- c) and nailed there spiritually with the Savior and crucified with Christ,
- d) Then buried with Christ and raised to a new life!

3. If You have been Baptized into Christ—Your not the same person anymore!

- a) Your old self was crucified—your new self is alive from the dead!

(3) HE SAVED US (v.8)

1. It is at the Cross that we see God's great love for lost sinners

- a) We could not save ourselves—because we could not atone for our own sins
- b) There are not enough animals in the world for sacrifice
- c) There is not enough gold in all the mines on earth to pay your debt
- d) And ALL the Animals and ALL the gold are owned by God anyway!
- e) Your not giving God anything He doesn't already Own!

2. **But God loved you so much He paid your atonement Himself—**
He paid Your Debt in Full Himself! – This is the good news of the gospel!
 - a) “When men do try to work their way into God’s favor, one of two things will happen. Sincere, honest men will despair of ever succeeding; smug, ignorant men will boast.”
(Kenneth Boles, College Press)
3. **God’s way of salvation eliminates despair and boasting...**
because at the Cross—Jesus was killed for you.
 - a) Jesus left the glory of heaven—and the Word became Flesh
 - b) He lived a perfect life—but was arrested as a criminal by evil men
 - c) He was Beaten, Slapped, Spit on, Scourged, Put on Trial, Mocked with a robe of purple and crown of thorns. And then He was Crucified for our sins.
4. **God chose to save us in a way that no one can boast in themself...**
The cross of Christ is the great equalizer...
 - a) The Prideful are humbled at the Cross—when they see that Jesus died in their place
 - b) The Humble are lifted up at the cross—when they see the great love of God for them
5. **Our Faith is in Christ—not in ourselves—so there is no basis for boasting**
 - a) Jesus said, “So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’ ” (Lk 17:10 ESV)
6. **There is no room for boasting — but there is also no need for despair...**
 - a) **(Romans 6:23)** God’s plan of salvation can set you free! **(Mark 16:16)**

EX: Naaman, the leper, went to Elisha to be healed. He brought gifts and money to buy his healing. Elisha wouldn’t take his gifts. Naaman was not allowed to buy his healing.

He could only accept it as a gift of God, by believing and obeying the commandment of the Lord—It was only when he believed and obeyed that he was healed!

III. WHAT WE ARE NOW (v.10)¹

(1) A NEW CREATION

1. **If you have been baptized—you are not the same person! (2 Cor 5:17)**
2. **This is the purpose of God’s eternal plan (Colossians 1:21–22)**
3. **To make us like Christ! (Galatians 3:26-27)**
4. **By the Same Power that Raised Jesus from the Dead! (Romans 8:10–11)**

(2) CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS

1. **We’re not raised from death to life just stay in the graveyard...**
2. **We are His Workmanship: Created in Christ for good works**
3. **Jesus said you are the salt of the earth... the light of the world**
4. **(Matthew 5:13–16) For the Praise and Glory of God**

CONCLUSION:

1. **(John 10:10) Not only an abundant life but an eternal one (1 John 3:2)**

¹ Warren Wiersbe, Expository Outlines of the New Testament