

War of the Worlds

Studies in Ephesians

"We Belong Dead"

Introduction to Ephesians 2:1-10

One of American Film Institute's top 500 movie quotes was the Bride of Frankenstein's statement to her husband, "We belong dead". The destruction they wreaked confirmed her thought. In God's plan, though, the opposite is true for mankind: we belong "alive", as we were in the beginning, in unbroken fellowship with God. Unfortunately this is not the present state of man. The study this week in Ephesians addresses this issue, and what God has done about it. According to Ephesians 2:1-3, the current condition of the human race is best described as "dead in trespasses and sins". Because mankind has chosen to follow the path of sin, he is separated from the source of life who is God. Additionally, man follows the course of this present age, is led about by the

insatiable lust of his flesh, intent on indulging the desires of the body and mind. As a result the human race, apart from God, is under the influence of Satan, who is the prince of the this world, the invisible force that is at work in all who are disobedient to God. Our course in this life has placed us under God's wrath of judgment from birth. Amazingly, though, God has done something for those who have set themselves against Him; He has made us alive together with Christ, and seated us with Him in heaven where He is. This could only happen by grace, since we deserve the opposite of what God has done for us. But, God, in order to show throughout eternity how kind He is, and how rich His grace is, has



**The war is on...
are you ready?**

brought life to the dead. Furthermore, He has given us the means to believe—faith itself is a gift—so that no one can take credit for what He has done for His objects of grace. Not only has He saved us; He has also prepared the good actions for us to carry out, and is constantly at work in us to make us into His "masterpiece" of grace. Although "we belong dead", by God's grace we have been made alive to live for Him.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 2:1-10

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 2:1. What condition are all of us in before we accept Christ? What caused this, and how was each part of us affected by this?

2. From 2:2 what 3 things governed the way we used to live? What does each of these things refer to? What does that explain about our world today?

3. According to 2:3 what guided our conduct before we came to Christ? What was the result of this (3c), and what do you think this means?

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Ephesians 2:1-10 Study Questions (cont)

4. What does 2:4-5 tell us about God's nature, and His attitude towards us? How would you explain to someone why God treats us this way?

5. Based on 2:5 what did God do for us (5b) and what was our condition when He did it (5a)? Why does grace (v5c) best describe how we have been saved?

6. From 2:6 what 2 things did God do for us once He gave us new life? What do you think these mean, and how should they apply practically to our lives each day?

7. According 2:7 what was God's reason for blessing us with His gracious salvation, and when will this happen? What does this tell us that God wants everyone to know about Him?

8. Read 2:8. What role does faith play in our salvation, and how do we get it? What really saves us, our faith, or God's grace? Apply this.

9. Looking at 2:9 what does not save us, and why did God set it up that way? What difference should this truth make to us each day ?

10. From 2:10 what is God doing for us each day, and what has He done for us? How should these facts give us hope and purpose in our daily lives?

11. Reflect on Eph 2:1-10. What was our condition before Christ, what did God do about it, and what is He doing about it each day? How do each of these show the fullness of God's grace?

Scripture to Remember

***“For by grace you have been saved,
and that not of yourselves,
it is the gift of God”
Ephesians 2:8***

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*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. As a group talk about the best guarantee you have ever gotten—and what made it so good.
2. Share with one another who you think the Holy Spirit is, and what He does. Do you view Him more as a person, or an it? Why?
3. Discuss why is it important to understand that we received all of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, rather than getting Him in “stages”.
4. Sealing signifies proof and promise; how does the Spirit provide internal and external proof of salvation? How does His presence guarantee future salvation?
5. How is the Holy Spirit the completion of God's covenant with us? How does His presence show we are His possession, and how does this provide protection?
6. Of the 5 things the sealing of the Holy Spirit signifies—proof, performance, possession, protection, and promise—which means most to you? Why?