



Get Out Of The Graveyard

Ephesians 2:1–10

Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 17–21.



Ephesians 2:1–10 (NKJV)

1 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),

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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.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



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- Paul turns to a complementary truth: our spiritual position in Christ. First, he explains what God has done for all sinners in general; then, he explains what God did for the Gentiles in particular.
- The sinner who trusts Christ has been raised and seated on the throne (Eph. 2:1–10), and believing Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled and set into the temple (Eph. 2:11–22).



- What a miracle of God's grace! We are taken out of the great graveyard of sin and placed into the throne room of glory.
- Perhaps the easiest way for us to approach this long paragraph is to see four specific works.

Sin's Work Against Us *(Eph. 2:1–3)*

- Paul gives us a full-length picture of the unsaved person's terrible spiritual condition in these three verses.
- Note his characteristics:

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He Is Dead (v. 1)

- Of course, this means spiritually dead; that is, he cannot understand and appreciate spiritual things.
- He possesses no spiritual life, and he can do nothing of himself to please God, just as a person physically dead does not respond to physical stimuli. Hence, a person spiritually dead is unable to respond to spiritual things. A corpse does not hear the conversation going on in the funeral home.
- He has no appetite for food or drink; he feels no pain; he is dead. Just so with the inner man of the unsaved person.

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- His spiritual faculties are not functioning, and they cannot function until God gives him life.
- The cause of this spiritual death is “trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).
- “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).
- In the Bible, death means “separation,” not only physically, as the spirit separated from the body, but also spiritually, as the spirit separated from God.
- The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead!

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James 2:26 (NKJV)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

- He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection.
- All lost sinners are dead, and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay.

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This means that our world is one vast graveyard, filled with people who are dead while they live.

1 Timothy 5:6 (NKJV)

But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

Pleasure [spatalao /spat·al·ah·o/] v. It is to live luxuriously, lead a voluptuous life, (give one's self to pleasure).

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He Is Disobedient (Vv. 2–3a)

This was the beginning of man's spiritual death—his disobedience to the will of God.

- God said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17).
- Satan said, “Ye shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:4), and because they believed this lie, the first man and woman sinned and experienced immediate spiritual death and ultimately physical death.



- Since that time, humanity has lived in disobedience to God. Three forces encourage a man in his disobedience—the world, the devil, and the flesh.

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The World

- The world, or world-system, puts pressure on each person to try to get him to conform.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Jesus Christ was not “of this world,” and neither are His people.



The World

John 17:14 (NKJV)

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- The unsaved person, either consciously or unconsciously, is controlled by the values and attitudes of this world.

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The Devil

The devil is “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

- This does not mean that Satan is personally at work in the life of each unbeliever since Satan as a created being is limited in space.
- Unlike God, who is omnipresent, Satan cannot be in all places at one time.
- Because of his demonic associates and his power over the world system, Satan influences all unbelievers' lives and seeks to influence believers.

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The Devil

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

John 12:31 (NKJV)

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

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The Devil

- He wants to make people “children of disobedience.” He was disobedient to God, so he wants others to disobey Him too.

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV)

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,

Ephesians 5:6 (NKJV)

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

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The Devil

- One of Satan's chief tools for getting people to disobey God is lies. He is a liar, and it was his lie at the beginning of human history, "Ye shall not surely die," that plunged the human race into sin.

John 8:44 (NKJV)

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. e



The Devil

- When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- The unsaved multitudes in today's world system disobey God because they believe the lies of Satan. When a person believes and practices a lie, he becomes a child of disobedience

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The Flesh

- The flesh is the third force that encourages the unbeliever to disobey God. By the flesh, Paul does not mean the body; its body is not sinful because of itself.
- The flesh refers to that fallen nature that we were born with, that wants to control the body and the mind and make us disobey God.
- Why does a sinner behave like a sinner? Because he has the nature of a sinner. This sinful nature the Bible calls “the flesh.”

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The Flesh

Psalm 51:5 (NKJV)

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 58:3 (NKJV)

The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

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The Flesh

- Is it any wonder that the unsaved person is disobedient to God? He is controlled by the world, the flesh, and the devil, the three great enemies of God!
- And he cannot change his nature or, of himself, overcome the world and the devil.
- He needs outside help, and that help can come only from God.



He Is Depraved (v. 3b)

- The lost sinner lives to please the “desires of the flesh and the wishes of the mind” (literal translation). His actions are sinful because his appetites are sinful.
- When you apply the word depraved to the unsaved person, you are not saying that he only does evil or is incapable of doing good. You are simply saying that he is incapable of doing anything to merit salvation or meet the high standards of God’s holiness.

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He Is Depraved (v. 3b)

- Jesus said that lost sinners do good to each other (Luke 6:33) and to their children (Luke 11:13), but they cannot do anything spiritually good to please God.
- The natives on Malta kindly assisted Paul and his friends after the shipwreck certainly did good works, but they still needed to be saved (Acts 28:1–2).

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He Is Doomed (v. 3c)

- By nature, children of wrath! By deed, children of disobedience!
The unsaved person is condemned already.

John 3:18 (NKJV)

“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.

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He Is Doomed (v. 3c)

- The sentence has been passed, but God in His mercy is staying the sentence's execution.

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He Is Doomed (v. 3c)

2 Peter 3:8–10 (NKJV)

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

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He Is Doomed (v. 3c)

- Man cannot save himself, but God, in His grace, steps into make salvation possible.

Ephesians 2:3 (NKJV)

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.

- “But God!”—what a difference those two words make! This leads to the second work.

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Ephesians 2:4–7 (NKJV)

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.

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