

Ephesians 2:1-10 WiW
Rhonda Telfer, Oct 4, 2017

“AND YOU...BUT GOD...FOR WE”

“AND YOU”

Tychicus read the whole letter aloud, at one sitting. Verse **1:23** leads to **2:1**; continued thought: *“And you were dead...”*

Think “symphony”—major key, with sudden minor key “movement” to emphasize the theme.

Verses 1-2

--Now you are “saints” (**1:1**)—you were “*dead in transgressions and sins*”

--Now you are adopted sons (**1:5**)—you were “*sons of disobedience*” and “*children of wrath.*” (Note Paul includes himself)

--Now you are connected to the exalted Christ (**1:23**), body to Head--you were helpless followers of the devil.

--Now God’s “*great might*” is at work in you (**1:19**)—before, the evil one was “*at work*” in you.

Note: For Ephesian gentiles, daily life was a constant attempt to ward off evil: charms, incantations, regular activities (travel, tending the fire, cleaning the cooking pot)

Verse 3a

We all (literally) “*conducted our lives*” moved by fleshly desires and sinful thoughts. It was our “nature.” It still is the unbelievers “nature”—life-dominating force, no escape.

Verse 3b

“*Children of wrath like the rest of mankind.*” Universal human corruption. In Romans, Paul expounds this doctrine We are saved from “sins” yes, but really saved from wrath.

Now we’re set to respond with amazement to...

“BUT GOD”

Verse 4

--Writing becomes energetic, infused with joy and gratitude (back to the major key☺)

“The greatest short statement in the history of human language “—*“But God, because He is rich in mercy”* (Baugh)

--We will see how RICH God is. (Contrast the temple of Artemis or the victorious Romans).

Verses 5-6

--Paul coined new words: *“co-made alive” “co-raised” “co-seated.”* No more prince of darkness. You are *with/in* Christ. From Baugh: *“When God was acting to raise and exalt Christ, he was concurrently acting on his people.”*

“co-made alive”—dead man needs resurrection! Only God can do that: it took *“the surpassing greatness of His power”* (1:19)

“co-raised” and *“co-seated”*--F.F. Bruce said, *“If raising Christ from death to sit at His own right had is the supreme demonstration of Gods power...raising you from spiritual death to share Christ’s place of exaltation is the supreme demonstration of His grace.*

Verse 7

--*“the coming ages”*^{3rd} use of that phrase. **1:21** says *“in this age and the one to come”*; **2:2** says *“walked in accordance with the age of this world”*

“The age of this world” (v 2) is where believers on earth still live. But spiritually we belong to the new age introduced by the work of Christ.

--In the unfolding new creation, God’s plans to show how *“immeasurably wealthy”* He is. Extravagant language!

--His wealth = His love, grace and kindness toward former *“children of wrath.”*

--He co-seats us to display us!

Verse 8-9

Well-known verse. Keep context in mind, in case you ever think it depends on you: all this (co-made alive, co-raised, co-seated) only God could do. It is not your doing. No possible room for boasting. We can't make a claim on God.

--In Greco-Roman Ephesus, buildings were replete with notices ie "boasts" of the lavish deeds of various benefactors, who were lovers of honor.

"FOR WE"

Verse 10

Creation language. God's "*workmanship*"—lit, "we are his creation, created." Every person is, of course, created, but we are a NEW CREATION. That's why Paul adds "*in Christ*."

The majesty of Ephesians is not only its elaborate language, but its comprehensiveness.

--Plan "before the foundation" (**v 1:4**)

--Original creation, humans in image of God: morally perfect and made to rule--the Fall (**2:1-3**)

--the work of Christ (next week's lesson☺)

--"Holy and blameless" rule being restored (**v. 1:4**)

In the ongoing new creation, "*we shall reign with Him*" (**2Tim2:12**) and "*Those who received the abundance of grace...will reign in life through...Jesus Christ*" (**Romans 5:17**).

-- "*works prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (**2:10b**) Wonderful redundancy: "beforehand" reminds us that God has had a plan for your life even before creating the earth. YOU HAVE A PURPOSE!

Soon we will see the whole world, visibly, under the reign of Christ. But it has begun; Christ HAS BEEN exalted. Right where you are today, you are walking in the new creation. And you have "work" to do. You have PURPOSE.

CONCLUSION

--Doesn't feel like it, day to day.

--Need to remember this passage

--Be encouraged by Paul's (inspired!) prayer in **1:18**.

--Encourage each other

--You're not "walking" in good works alone, but WITH Christ!

SOURCES

Westminster Sem. professor Steve Baugh. *Ephesians* commentary (Evangelical Exegetical series, Lexham Press, 2016).

F.F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Ephesians*, (Fleming Revell, 1961).

Geoffrey Wilson, *Ephesians* (Banner of Truth, 1978).