

## Understanding Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Eph. 2:1-7 (p.1242)

### Intro

You should be able to stand before God and praise Him because you are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ alone through faith in Jesus Christ; your standing before God is based on how good \_\_\_\_\_ is, and how good He has been.

Justification is by grace alone through \_\_\_\_\_ alone in Christ Jesus alone.

### I. **Because of His great \_\_\_\_\_, God raises the spiritually \_\_\_\_\_...**

Outside of Christ, we are spiritually dead—not literally dead or \_\_\_\_\_ dead, but as good as dead—\_\_\_\_\_ death and headed for death.

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...v.1,2***

*the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23)*

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience...v.1,2***

Apart from Christ, we are on the wrong \_\_\_\_\_ headed the \_\_\_\_\_ way; we have to be better than the \_\_\_\_\_ to get to heaven.

*the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Mt. 7:13)*

*unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:20)*

Apart from Christ, we live a lifestyle that deserves God's \_\_\_\_\_ and death, but we are also " \_\_\_\_\_ " to the things of God.

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind... v.1-3***

The \_\_\_\_\_ is a way of describing our sinful nature apart from the saving and sanctifying work of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Apart from Christ we are on the wrong path headed for judgment because we are \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh, living in a way that provokes God's \_\_\_\_\_.

***...were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...v.3-5***

**II. And makes us \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ.**

***...God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...v.4,5***

God is so \_\_\_\_\_ and merciful that He raises the spiritually dead even though we don't \_\_\_\_\_ it—even though we deserve the \_\_\_\_\_!

\_\_\_\_\_ is undeserved blessing; salvation is a completely \_\_\_\_\_ and undeserved gift that makes us spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.

*the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)*

***even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved... v.5***

God saves us from \_\_\_\_\_ and takes us to heaven; the Christian is now seated with \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavenly places.

***even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...v.4-6***

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-3)*

If you are trusting in Christ, in some sense the new "you" is \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven, and one day God is going to \_\_\_\_\_ you just how gracious He really is!

***by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:5-7)***

*...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (3:10)*

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You should be able to stand before God and praise Him because you are saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ; your standing before God is based on how good Jesus is, and how good He has been.

Justification is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone.

### I. **Because of His great love, God raises the spiritually dead...**

Outside of Christ, we are spiritually dead—not literally dead or physically dead, but as good as dead—deserving death and headed for death.

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...v.1,2***

*the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23)*

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience...v.1,2***

Apart from Christ, we are on the wrong path headed the wrong way; we have to be better than the best to get to heaven.

*the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Mt. 7:13)*

*unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:20)*

Apart from Christ, we live a lifestyle that deserves God's judgment and death, but we are also "dead" to the things of God.

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind... v.1-3***

The flesh is a way of describing our sinful nature apart from the saving and sanctifying work of God's Spirit.

Apart from Christ we are on the wrong path headed for judgment because we are walking in the flesh, living in a way that provokes God's wrath.

***...were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...v.3-5***

## **II. And makes us alive with Jesus Christ.**

***...God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...v.4,5***

God is so loving and merciful that He raises the spiritually dead even though we don't deserve it—even though we deserve the opposite!

Grace is undeserved blessing; salvation is a completely free and undeserved gift that makes us spiritually alive.

*the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)*

***even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved... v.5***

God saves us from hell and takes us to heaven; the Christian is now seated with Christ in the heavenly places.

***even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...v.4-6***

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-3)*

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