

SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

Eph. 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

The opening chapter of the book took us back to the counsels of God and let us see God purposed from eternity to call out a new - redeemed.

In chapter two, he tells how in God's time he created this redeemed society.

He says there is a mighty power at work raising believers from the death of sin.

When Paul speaks of you -- Gentiles.

When Paul speaks of us -- Jews.

^{ch. 3-} The first seven verses are one long involved sentence -- life-sized portrait of our lost condition.

Two leading ideas -- (1) You were dead. (2) God hath quickened.

Spiritual biography describing what believers once were apart from Christ, what they have become in Christ, and God's purpose in effecting this remarkable transformation.

I. THE STATE BEFORE CONVERSION - V. 1-3

1. (Deadness) - V. 1.

"Dead in trespasses and sin."

By nature man is lost.

God describes a sinner - helpless.

Trespasses: Literally means to slip or fall, a false step. Losing ones way and straying from the right road. Failing to grasp and slipping from the truth. Failed to take the right road. Are we in life where we ought to be?

Sin: Missing the mark - a shooting word, his arrow misses the target. Not like man drove up farm on barn lots of targets, bulls eye shot out -- found out it was farmer's son. Must be expert. No, farmer - he shoots first, then puts up the target over the place.

All are alike -- no degrees in death. We are not somewhat dead in trespasses and sin.

We are completely dead.

Jairus, 12 year old daughter - was dead.

Lazarus, Martha said he is now corrupt.

The first funeral service I held was for a baby at Point Texas. Stood on the porch and said a few words and then walked to cemetery in a field. It was hard on that family. Today if I go to a beautiful chapel with flowers it is still the same. No degrees in death.

God says -- that this is an exact picture of our fallen nature.

Look at two people -- one is fine looking, the other is evil. Bible says both are dead.

2. (Enslavement) to Evil - V. 2-3

V. 2'

(1) Talks about Walking -- To regulate ones life. Walks in trespasses and sins.

They are reminded of the past.

Traveled in the trend of the world.

Children of disobedience -- man broke loose from God. Adam.

(2) Conformed to standard of this world. V. 2-B.

(3) Ruled over by Satan - V. 2-C.

Life was shaped by the Master of all evil.

V. 3A

(4) At the mercy of their passions - V. 3A.

Lust - we went to the limit in sin! Point is clear -- all men in lust, a desire for the unforbidden.

Self, it signifies man apart from God

3rd state before conviction -
Deadness 1st
Enslavement 2nd

V. 3B

3. Objects of Divine Wrath - V. 3B

By nature children of wrath -- actually worthy of wrath.

Many think of God as easy-going -- good natured -- grandfatherly. Being God of wrath unthinkable!

Someone poor is a child of poverty -- all of us are children of wrath.

Psa. 51 - David - "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity." Some misinterpret that --saying that act of love is sin. Not true. He was saying when I was born sin was in me. Original sin.

Child not have to be taught be selfish -- or tell untruth -- all are alike -- no education will eradicate it.

Hunter in India -- river overflowed. He escaped to little island, high ground. A tiger swam out of swift current to the island. Stood like a domestic cat. Hunter took his gun and shot it. Was that inhuman. It was wild. Hunter tried to sleep, tiger would eat the man. Sin by nature -- fallen people.

II. THE CHRISTIAN POSITION - V. 4-6

How can a dead man believe? Repent - be saved.

Answer - (he cannot) save himself!

How can he ever hear, feel, repent, be saved?

You can attend a service held in French. You cannot understand. Someone interprets into English - your mind is enlightened. Dead man is like that, spirit must open his eyes.

1. Object of Divine Mercy - V. 4

(1) God is the author of the change wrought in believers.

(2) This change is grounded in the mercy and great love of God.

Point of christain

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Man is precious, God has been moved to deliver man. How it happened.
object divine mercy 1st

(2) Resurrected to New Life - V. 5-6

V. 5 "Quickened" method by which God saves -- "raised" "seated".

If we are dead we need life - not patch up job.

Nichodemus - need birth of spirit - J. 3:6.

To make alive -- took place when we were dead. By grace you have been completely saved.

Result is you are in a saved state.

Spiritual Resurrection -

V. 6 "Raised". Not saved to remain in mire. "Made to sit together."

Fellowship with the Living Christ. Made alive together with -- raised up together with -- made to sit together with.

Lazarus was raised - grave clothes removed!

Hard for people to believe this.

A man walks down the aisle giving his heart to Jesus (said) "I don't understand it, either I am a new creation or the whole world is altered, for everything is different."

The presence of God is felt -- Jacob, surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not. This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate to Heaven." Gen. 28:16, 17.

Story of Negro engineer on river ferry boat in America. Not worry engines soiled with grim from lack of care. The engineer was soundly converted.

First thing he did was go back to his ferry boat and polish his engines until every part shone like a mirror. A passenger commented on the change. "What have you been up to? What set you cleaning and polishing those old engines?" "Sir, said the engineer, "I've got a glory."

That is what Christ does for a man. He gives a man a glory.

George Matheson preached in Edinburgh. There was an old woman who lived in a cellar in filthy conditions. After some months under Matheson's ministry -- changes took place. He came by her cellar and found she was gone. He tracked her down, found her in an attic room. She was poor, but the attic was as light and airy and clean -- the cellar was dark -- dirty -- dismal. "I see you have changed your house." "Ay, she said, I have. "You cannot hear George Matheson preach and live in a cellar."

"Deep in the human heart, crushed by the temper,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore"
Is the way the hymn says it.

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free."

Made us sit Heavenly Glories

V. 7 - What will we do in the ages to come? "That he might demonstrate" -- we are put on (display) as God's evidence of the riches of his grace.

Scientists are amazed at the lunar material taken from the moon. Tried to analyze it, look through microscopes, they are overwhelmed.

They say, "to our amazement the moon is covered with little beads of glass." They say it has great amounts of titanium which, in its oxide form, can lend light more beautifully and more gloriously than a diamond.

On the moon there are no trees, no vegetation, no clouds, ocean, or mist, but there are craters and irregular features like the channeled glass on the lamp on the headlight of your automobile.

The moon is a perfect reflector. That is what makes it shine.

Scientists say the material on the moon is the most glorious reflector that man could imagine.

They did not have to go to the moon to find that out. God said in Genesis that He made the moon a giant reflector to give light over the earth by night. It reflects the light of the Glory of God.

That is what we are going to do, in the ages to come. Reflect the mercy, kindness, grace of God.

What a prospect! I've got a glory.