

Text: Eph 2.1-3

The first ten verses form the first section which I am calling:

The Work of God in Saving Men

Three sentences in Greek in these verses:

First: 1-7

Second: 8-9

Third: 10

Our title for the first sentence:

What You Were and What We Are

(We will only make it through the first half of this tonight)

Object of the sentence: **And you were dead**

Subject: **God**

Action: **1. Made us alive, 2. Raised us up, 3. Seated us with Him**

What You Were will be tonight's subject, verse 1-3.

Definitions:

You were dead = **spiritual death**

"The comparison is as a dead body is unable to respond to any stimulus from its environment so the spiritually dead man is unable to respond in a positive manner to God. The point of comparison is insensibility and lack of response. The nonfigurative statement would be: you were unable to respond in any way to God."¹

This is the common line, but if it is to be pressed this far, then the dead soul couldn't respond negatively to God either. Dead is dead.

"This death is spiritual, not physical, for unsaved people are very much alive physically. Death signifies absence of communication

¹ Graham, *An Exegetical Summary of Ephesians*, 105.

with the living. One who is dead spiritually has no communication with God; he is separated from God.”²

Trespasses = **stepping out of the path**

Sins = **missing the mark**

Together = **sins of every kind, the repeated environment of those “being dead”**

Sin’s relationship to walk = **sphere or environment**

Three categories of sin:

1. **According to the course of the world**
2. **According to the prince of the power of the air**
3. **Of the spirit now working**

Sons of disobedience = **lost people, bearing the traits of disobedience**

Notice “we” (3) and “you” (1) — who does Paul mean?

You = **Gentile believers in Ephesus**

We = **Jewish believers (incl Paul)**

The character of the sins of verse 3 = **internal**

Difference between lusts of flesh and desires of flesh and mind = **impulses of human nature vs. decisions of depraved mind**

Why the distinction between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians and their sinful pasts? — Jews prided themselves on not walking according to the world, but their inner sins gave them the same destination

Children of wrath = **a close relationship with wrath, i.e. their destiny**

And who are “the rest”? **The Gentiles, who share the same destiny**

This is **Who We Were**

² Hoehner, “Ephesians in BKCNT,” 622.