

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
EPHESIANS, PT. 4 –SEATED IN HEAVENLY PLACES (EPH 2:1-10)
JANUARY 28TH, 2018 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Introduction

- A. We have established that the Gospel is not simply the story of the cross, though the story of the cross is central to the gospel. The gospel is the whole story God's glorious redemptive plan for all the ages. (Eph 1:9-10)
- B. There are a number of important contrasts in the gospel story that allow for the greatest clarity of understanding. For instance, the gospel impacts us in our immediate state but is a plan that continues for ages to come (Eph 2:7).
- C. Another contrast is the fact that the gospel not only contains the elements of mercy, but it also contains the elements of justice (Rom 1:16-18, Eph 2:3)
- D. In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul gives us another one of these critical contrasts to bring the greatest light to the glory of the gospel.
- E. The contrast is the horror of where you were before you were saved compared to the fantastic wonder of where you are now in Christ.

II. Dead in Trespasses

Ephesians 2:1-3 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.

- A. We were dead in your trespasses and sins
 - 1. We were without hope, without a way to save ourselves. We were completely lost, bankrupt, and destitute.
 - 2. Often we forget the severity of the state of our lost-ness and thus we lose gratitude for our salvation.
- B. You once walked according to:
 - 1. The course of this world (1 John 5:9)
 - 2. According to the prince of the power of the air
 - 3. The spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience
- C. We all used to conduct ourselves by this spirit:
 - 1. Living by the lusts of your flesh
 - 2. Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and (un-renewed) mind.
 - 3. Because of this rebellious nature you were destined for wrath

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III. Seated in heavenly places

Ephesians 1:4-10 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. 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.

- A. God is rich in mercy
- B. Because of His great love with which He loved us
- C. Even when we were dead in our transgressions and sins
- D. Made us alive together with Christ
- E. Raised us up together
- F. Made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- G. That in the ages to come
- H. He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us in Christ Jesus
- I. By grace you have been saved through faith, not of yourselves, it is the gift of God
- J. Not of works, lest any man should boast
- K. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for Good works,
- L. Which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.