

THE PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US
PART 2—WHEN WE WERE SINNERS GOD SAVED US
EPHESIANS 2:1-5

Introduction

Here in Chapter 2 we have begun to look at **the proof of God's love for us!**

In our first message on these first five verses we looked at just the first proof. And that was this: **WHEN WE WERE DEAD, GOD RESURRECTED US:**
WE WERE DEAD.
WE WERE DISOBEDIENT.
WE WERE DELIVERED.

Today we want to expand on the **disobedience** we mentioned previously as we look at proof number two.

WHEN WE WERE SINNERS GOD SAVED US!

WE WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS!

Before conversion, **we lived our lives in trespasses and sins!** We said last week that **it was our trespasses and sins that separated us from God!**

In other words our **trespasses and sins placed us in our state of death!** It is while we were living in those trespasses and sins that we were dead (or separated from God)!

The word “*trespasses*” means “to fall, to slip, to blunder, to deviate, to turn aside, or to wander away.”

So a person who trespasses can be described as one who...

1. Falls from the right way.
2. Slips from doing what they should.
3. Blunders and fails.
4. Deviates off the right road.
5. Turns aside from what is right.
6. Wanders away from God and righteousness.

The word “*sins*” means “to miss the mark.”

W.E. Vine points out in his Expository Dictionary that “**sin**” is the term **most often used to describe man's fallen condition!**

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It is what is meant by coming short of the glory of God! We were created to live in a state of God's glory, but it is evident that we do not!

There is no glory—no glow, no splendor, no brilliance, no light shining out from us!
And there is certainly no glory or light emanating from our behavior!

Listening to any newscast on any given day is clear evidence of man's not so glorious behavior!

The point is this: God is perfect but we are imperfect!
And imperfection is as different from perfection as day is from night!
Imperfection is short—totally and absolutely short—of perfection. We are ever so short of God's perfect glory:

1. None of us measure up to God!
2. None of us are on the same level as God!
3. None of us reach up to God in and of ourselves!

We sin; we miss the mark of life!
We do not and cannot live a perfect life no matter how hard we try!
We may be respectable among our peers, but we are imperfect!
We are never all that God intended for us to be!

There is none of us who are free from selfishness and strife all the time—not perfectly!

There is none of us who treat others like we should all the time—not perfectly!

There is no child who obeys authorities placed over us all the time—not perfectly!

There is none of us who are as good and kind and helpful as we should be all the time—not perfectly!

There is none of us who discipline our body in eating, exercising,

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and sleeping all the time—not perfectly!

There is none of us who control our minds from impure and selfish thoughts all the time—not perfectly!

There is no person who are good stewards of all that God has given us all the time—not perfectly!

We are not perfect; we are short of perfection—short of God’s glory—short of the purpose for which God created us! This is what is meant by sin!

And sin separates man from God! Man is dead (separated) in trespasses and sins! He is dead because he blunders and comes short of God!

Now, notice the description of the one who is dead in trespasses and sins in verses two and three:

I. THE ONE WHO IS DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS WALKS AFTER THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD [i.e. AGE]! (VS. 2)

This simply means that he follows the world in its opinions, its life, its speculations, its pleasures, its selfishness, its purposes, its positions, its values, and its standards.

Jesus made this statement in *Matthew 16:26*—“*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*”

Jesus also warned in *Luke 21:34*—“*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*”

The apostle James said in *James 4:4*—“*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*”
The apostle John had this to say in *1 John 2:15*—“*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the*

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love of the Father is not in him.”

THE ONE WHO IS DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS WALKS AFTER THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD [i.e. AGE]!

II. THE ONE WHO IS DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS WALKS UNDER THE POWER OF SATAN! (VS. 2)

Note that Satan is called the “*prince of the power of the air.*” Man was never created to be evil or to do evil.

Evil originated with an alien force, an alien force that exists in another world an unseen world! I’m not talking about life on other planets in the regions beyond, I’m talking about the spiritual world or dimension of being!

The Bible calls that evil force a person and he is named Satan or the devil! We need to realize that the spiritual world has access to this world and can influence the spirit of man!

Man, who has a free will, has chosen to follow the evil way of Satan. When Satan tries to influence the spirit of man to sin, man often listens and sins! This is exactly what Scripture declares:

John 8:44—“*Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4—“*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*”

Ephesians 6:12—“*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”

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1 Peter 5:8--"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

THE ONE WHO IS DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS WALKS ACCORDING TO THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD. . . UNDER THE POWER OF SATAN. . .

III. THE ONE WHO IS DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS WALKS IN DISOBEDIENCE! (VS. 2-3)

Very simply, the one who is dead in trespasses and sins refuses to obey God (i.e refuses to do what God says)! He chooses to do what he wants instead of what God wants!

He is classified by God as one of the "*children of disobedience.*" He is a child of disobedience; that is, he is in the family of disobedience, not in the family of God!

Matthew 7:26-27--"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

1 Peter 2:25--"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

2 Peter 2:15--"[The disobedient] have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness"

A. Before Conversion Our Manner Of Living Was A Life That Was Patterned After The Disobedient Of The World.(Vs 3)

Note the words, "*among whom.*" They refer to the children of disobedience mentioned in the previous verse.

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It says that the life of the disobedient is a **life controlled by the lusts of the flesh and a life of fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.**

In **Galatians 5:19-21** the Apostle Paul gave a list of "*the works of the flesh*" that these lusts bring forth!

The unconverted man lives **to fulfill the desires of his flesh and mind!** In reality, he has nothing else for which to live! He knows nothing **but** this world and its appeal!

So therefore, he seeks as much of the world as he can possess and enjoy! His life is **self-centered, not God-centered;** world-centered, not heaven-centered; selfish, not giving!

The unconverted man spends his life with the disobedient of the world living after the lusts of the flesh and the desires of the mind!

B. Before Conversion, We Were By Nature The Children Of Wrath!

The unconverted man acts against God; not for God!

He rejects God; he does not receive God!

He ignores God; he does not confess God!

He denies God; he does not acknowledge God!

He curses God; he does not praise God!

He may serve religion; he does not serve God!

The unconverted man may honor his personal idea of Who God is, but he does not God as He is in Truth nor does he honor Christ, the very Son of God!

The lost man is a child of wrath, not a child of God!

Therefore, he will reap what he has sown and the wrath of God will fall upon him if he remains in his lost state.

John 3:36--"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the

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wrath of God abideth on him.”

Romans 1:18—“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness”

Romans 2:8— “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath”

Conclusion

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”

But praise God we who are saved have been delivered from our trespasses and sins!

Ephesians 2:1—“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”

Romans 4:25—“[Christ] who was delivered for our offences [trespasses], and was raised again for our justification”

2 Corinthians 5:19— “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Ephesians 1:7—“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins [trespasses], according to the riches of his grace.”

Colossians 2:13—“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses”