

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Part One Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:1-3 **2 SLIDES**

And **you** (~~He made alive~~) who **were dead** in trespasses [a falling away] and sins [sinful acts] ² in which **you once [used to walk] walked** according to the course of this world [aimlessly, pointlessly without direction without purpose], 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.

After seeing in verses 20-23 of chapter one, the exceeding **greatness of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus**, the wonder and the glory **in His heavenly position beside the Father, reigning in power and as the Head of the church** ... suddenly, in Chapter two -

THE FOCUS CHANGES TO US

PAUL UNEXPECTEDLY TURNS TO US AND SAYS ... **'AND YOU!'**

It's like we've been watching this magnificent movie on a giant screen where we've been caught up into the heights of Heaven where it's all about the Lord Jesus -

SLIDE **WHEN A HAND COMES OUT OF THE SCREEN, A SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON US & A VOICE SAYS, 'WHAT ABOUT YOU?'**

You say, 'Who me?'

The Voice says, **'YES YOU** ... **NOW YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE ... I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHO YOU WERE**'.

So you say, 'Ok, I know I'm blessed with every spiritual blessing (V3), I'm chosen to be holy and blameless (V4), predestined to be a son of God (V5), I'm accepted as and in The Son of His Love (V6), I have Redemption according to the riches of His grace (V7), He has made Grace Abound toward me so I could begin to understand these mysteries (V8-9), I have obtained an inheritance in glory (V11), I've been sealed with The Holy Spirit of Promise (V14).

I KNOW ALL THESE THINGS FROM CHAPTER ONE. WHAT MORE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT ME?

So The Voice says, 'Yes, you are all that by His Grace ... and now that you begin to see who you are and all the blessings you have -

YOU ARE SECURE ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHOW YOU WHO YOU REALLY WERE AND WHERE YOU CAME FROM

SO PAUL PULLS NO PUNCHES & TELLS US

Ephesians 2:1-3 **SLIDE**

- 1) You were dead in trespasses [falling away] and sins [sinful acts]***
- 2) You once walked according to the course of this world [aimlessly and pointlessly without direction without purpose]***
- 3) You once walked according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience***
- 4) We all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind***
- 5) We were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.***

You say, 'This is the most damning, dark and depressing description ever given of me -

YOU'RE TELLING ME, I WAS DEAD & I WALKED IN DEATH ... I WAS BOUND FOR DESTRUCTION ... CONTROLLED BY SATAN ... TAKEN OVER BY LUST ... & BOUND FOR ETERNAL JUDGEMENT?

THE VOICE SAYS ... YES!'

You say, 'Well, I know John Newton wrote, in Amazing Grace that I once was totally **lost** and totally **blind** ... but now I am found and I see ...'

The Voice continues,

'That's true, but it's not enough! You were in a far worse state than just being lost. You were beyond lost ...

YOU HADN'T JUST GONE ASTRAY ...

YOU WERE DEAD'

We were also far more than blind.

Even though we were blind ... the reason we couldn't see anything was because -

WE WERE TOTALLY DEAD

Romans 5:12 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also **death was passed on to all men**, because all sinned.

Locke writes, “Ye were so entirely under the power of sin, that ye had no more power, nor hope, nor ability, to get out of it, than men dead and buried have to get out of their graves.”

Benson writes:

‘Not only diseased, but dead; absolutely devoid of all spiritual life and as incapable of quickening yourselves, as persons literally dead are of restoring their bodies to life.’

IT IS FROM THIS DEATH STATE THAT EVERY OTHER DEPRAVITY GREW

SLIDE THE REGRESSION OF THE DEATH STATE

These verses 1-3 in Ephesians chapter two describe our former state under 5 headings of descending order of degradation

- 1. THE CONDITION OF THE SINNER**
- 2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**
- 3. THE CONTROL OF SATAN**
- 4. THE CONTAMINATION OF OUR SOUL**
- 5. THE CONDEMNATION OF OUR SPIRIT**

ALL SPROUTING FROM OUR DEATH CONDITION

BUT HERE’S THE GOOD NEWS!

THIS CONDITION IS NO LONGER OUR CONDITION

Notice these verses are all written in **the past tense**

This is the key to understanding these verses and gives us the courage to be able to look at them!

IT WAS WHO I WAS ... BUT IT’S NO LONGER WHO I AM

Ephesians 2:1-3 **2 SLIDES**

And **you** (He-made-alive) who **were dead** in trespasses [a falling away] and sins [sinful acts] ² in which **you once [used to walk] walked** according to the course of this world [aimlessly, pointlessly without direction without purpose], 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.

YOU **WERE** DEAD / YOU **ONCE WALKED** ... the past tense ...

Then Paul includes himself – The Jews and every other believer ...
WE **ONCE CONDUCTED** OURSELVES / WE **WERE ALL THE**
CHILDREN OF WRATH ... **ALL PAST TENSE.**

Romans 6:13 **SLIDE**

... Present yourselves to God as being **alive from the dead** ...

Ephesians 2:4-5 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

... Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy **made us alive with Christ**, even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!

SEEING FROM A SAFE & SECURE PLACE

NB: Paul is telling these things to the Ephesians not because they weren't saved but because they were saved.

Ephesians 1:15 NET Bible

... I ... heard of **your faith in the Lord Jesus** and your love for all the saints

The Lord could not show you the magnitude of this horror while you were still in that death state as it would have been too devastating ... But ...

HE IS SAYING, NOW YOU'RE REALISING YOU ARE BLESSED & ACCEPTED, CHOSEN, HOLY & ADOPTED AS SONS ... YOU CAN SECURELY LOOK AT THE FOUL STATE OF WHO YOU USED TO BE.

BUT WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO SEE THIS?

WHY DOES HE WANT US TO LOOK AT WHO WE WERE ...

He doesn't want us to wallow in it or get sentimental and melancholy saying, 'I am unworthy of all He has done for me' ... No!

HERE ARE 3 REASON WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO LOOK AT THIS.

SLIDE GOD WANTS US TO SEE OUR FORMER STATE

• **TO COME TO A REVELATION OF THE DEPTH OF SIN**

Here, under the Lord's strong arm, He allows us to peer into the depths of our former depravity.

The magnitude of this sin takes our breath away ...

BUT JESUS HOLDS US CLOSE as we grow weak at the knees ...

No longer will you, or could you, excuse any sin ...

BUT HERE WE SEE HOW GREAT THIS GRACE IS THAT SAVED US

We weep in gratitude as His grace rises above the abyss ...

THE LORD ALSO WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND THE HORROR OF SIN & SPIRITUAL DEATH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM

- If you grasp this you will weep because you start to feel how much you have been loved
- If you grasp this you will weep because you start to see how beautiful you have become being cleansed from all that ...
- You feel free compared to how bound you were before ...
- You were dead ... Now you're completely alive with Jesus
- *You see how different you are now ... how blessed you are ... how separate you are.*

SLIDE GOD WANTS US TO SEE OUR FORMER STATE

• **TO COME TO TERMS WITH OUR FORMER NATURE**

Some of us still think we were not that bad. We think God saved us because **there was something worth saving** ...

But there wasn't!

SALVATION IS ONLY FOR SINNERS.

ONLY SINNERS CAN BE SAVED!

BUT MANY GOOD PEOPLE, CLEVER PEOPLE & RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CAN'T ACCEPT THEY WERE SINNERS ...

THEREFORE THE GOSPEL IS INEFFECTIVE TO THEM ...

I've shared the gospel with lost people who have said things like ...

'I'm not that bad' ...

And I say to them, 'Well the gospel is not for you! The good news of God is only for those who ARE THAT BAD! Miserable sinners – dead in trespasses and sins ...'

Look at what Jesus said to the Pharisees ...

Mark 2:17 New Living Translation

When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

GOD WANTS ME TO ACCEPT MY FORMER STATE KNOWING IT IS NO LONGER ME, BUT IT WAS ME !!!

Romans 4:5

*But to him who ... believes on Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is accounted for righteousness,*

Romans 5:6 **SLIDE**

*For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for **the ungodly**.*

THERE HAS NEVER EVER BEEN A RIGHTEOUS PERSON SAVED.

CAN YOU ADMIT YOU WERE ONE OF THESE PEOPLE?

CAN YOU ADMIT YOUR SALVATION WAS BEYOND ANY EFFORT ON YOUR PART?

SLIDE GOD WANTS US TO SEE OUR FORMER STATE

- **TO COME TO CLOSURE OF MY PAST**

Some of us cannot move on in God's purpose for us because we have not concluded things in our past.

It's imperative that we come to closure with the state of our past...

Many of us have been **afraid to face the failures** of our past ... **the pain of our failure** ... And we've just shoved many past sins away in some dark cupboard of our unconsciousness ... along with the **suppressed feelings of failure and guilt.**

THERE ARE so many things we have done wrong ... It's good to be able to look at these with the Lord and LET HIM SEPARATE US FROM THEM.

HERE GOD IS TELLING YOU ... YOU WERE FAR WORSE THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT ... BUT **THAT IS NOW IN THE PAST ... NOW YOU ARE ALIVE WITH ME.**

Colossians 2:13 **SLIDE**

*And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive** together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses,***

HAVE YOU COME TO TERMS WITH YOUR PAST?

Some people say 'It's all under the Blood, brother.'

But the saying, 'It's under The Blood' doesn't mean anything ...It is not Scriptural and doesn't cut it!!!

HAVE I SETTLED IT IN MY HEART?

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOW 100% FREE FROM WHO I WAS - THAT PERSON WAS ME ...

WE CAN ONLY LET SOMETHING GO AFTER WE'VE FIRST OWNED

IT

DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE REALLY FREE???

*Open it up and let the Lord gently **take the weight of it from you.***

The weight of suppressed guilt and condemnation for things you've failed at in your past

You do not have to know it specifically ... but let him dissolve the weight of guilt and sorrow of failure. Open your closet. Let him take it ... till you know you are free from your past ...

King of Hearts - Randy Stonehill **SLIDE**

Pockets full of pain and fear ... That's a load there's just no need to carry

*Let it go and leave it here ... Now there's no price that's left to pay
With one more mile or one more day*

BECOMING IMMUNE TO ACCUSATION & SILENCING ACCUSING VOICES

FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE MAY LAY ON YOU ABOUT YOUR PAST ACTIONS & FAILURES ... YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY - *'Oh I was actually far worse than that. I was the Walking Dead. I functioned in a death state ... I was morally corrupt (this is hard for us to accept) ... I was a servant of Satan ... (Can you accept it?)*

ANYTHING YOU MAY BE ACCUSED OF ABOUT YOUR PAST ... PALES INTO INSIGNIFICANCE TO WHO YOU REALLY WERE ... YOU WERE WORSE THAN ANYTHING ANYONE COULD EVER ACCUSE YOU OF. AND HERE ... GOD TELLS YOU!!! NOT IN CONDEMNATION ... BUT IN GRACE.

'MY SIN WAS GREAT YOUR LOVE WAS GREATER' (What a Beautiful Name)

- **PEOPLE ACCUSE YOU OF YOUR WRONG ACTIONS**
- **GOD ACCUSED YOU OF YOUR WRONG NATURE ... AND FORGAVE YOU**

Were SIN DID abound... Grace does Much More Abound.

She that is forgiven much ... loves much
If you want to Love God and people more ... THIS IS THE KEY

SEE HOW MUCH YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN

We have NOT been made better.

We have been made NEW!

JESUS DIDN'T DIE TO MAKE PEOPLE GOOD ...
HE CAME TO RAISE THE DEAD TO LIFE ...
TO TAKE OUT THAT CORRUPT NATURE & REPLACE IT WITH HIS
PURE NATURE ...