

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
EPHESIANS**

Message Three

**Dead in Offenses
and Made Alive Together with Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:1-10

Eph. 2:1-10—And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, ²In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; ³Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest; ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ⁶And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, ⁷That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God; ⁹Not of works that no one should boast. ¹⁰For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

I. “Dead in your offenses and sins”—Eph. 2:1:

- A. Offenses are acts that overstep the limit of one's rights, and sins are evil doings.
- B. Before we were saved, we were dead—v. 1:

Eph. 2:1—And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,

- 1. *Dead* refers to the deadness of our spirit, which pervaded our entire being.
- 2. By being dead in offenses and sins, we lost the function that enables us to contact God:
 - a. Spiritual death has annulled the function of our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22a.
2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
 - b. No matter how active we were in our body and soul, we were deadened in our spirit, unable to be one with God and have fellowship with God.
- 3. Being dead in our offenses and sins, we “once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience”—Eph. 2:2.
- 4. *This world* refers to the satanic system, which is composed of many ages—4:14.

Eph. 4:14—That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

5. *The age* here refers to a part, a section, an aspect, the present and modern appearance, of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose—6:12.
Eph. 6:12—For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- C. *The spirit* (2:2), in apposition to *the authority of the air*, refers to the aggregate of all the evil angelic authorities, over which Satan is the ruler.
Eph. 2:2—In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- D. When we were dead in offenses and sins, we walked not only according to the age of the world but also according to Satan, the ruler of the aerial authority, the evil spiritual power.
- E. Three evil things—the age of this world outside of us, the ruler of the aerial authority above us and within us, and the lusts of our flesh in our fallen nature—dominated our life—vv. 2-3.
Eph. 2:2-3—In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; ³Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest;

II. “When we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ”—v. 5a:

- A. As dead persons, we needed to be made alive—v. 5a:
Eph. 2:5—Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
 1. Being made alive causes us to express Christ.
 2. God made us alive by imparting His eternal life, which is Christ Himself (Col. 3:4), into our dead spirit through His Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2).
Col. 3:4—When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Rom. 8:2—For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 3. God enlivened us together with Christ when He enlivened the crucified Christ; therefore, He made us alive together with Christ.
- B. By grace we have been saved—Eph. 2:5b, 8-9:
Eph. 2:5—Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
Eph. 2:8-9—For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God; ⁹Not of works that no one should boast.
 1. We thank the Lord that we have grace through Jesus Christ and that this grace is free—2 Cor. 12:9a.

2 Cor. 12:9—And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

2. In Ephesians 2:5b *grace* denotes not only God freely dispensed into us for our enjoyment but also God's action in freely saving us.

Eph. 2:5—Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

3. By such grace we have been saved out of our wretched position of death into the marvelous realm of life—1 Cor. 15:10.

1 Cor. 15:10—But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

- C. We were saved not only as sinners but also as dead persons, and not only by Christ's redemption but also by His resurrection with its resurrection life, and even by His ascension with its transcendency—John 11:25; 20:17:

John 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 20:17—Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

1. This is the transcending salvation given to the dead sinners by the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ, the very embodiment of the processed Triune God—11:25; Eph. 4:8-10.

John 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Eph. 4:8-10—Therefore *the Scripture* says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men." ⁹(Now this, "He ascended," what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)

2. Such a salvation produces the church as the issue of the processed Divine Trinity for His expression—2 Cor. 13:14.

2 Cor. 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- D. "And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus"—Eph. 2:6:

1. To make us alive is the initial step of God's salvation in life; after this, God raised us up from the position of death.
2. The third step of God's salvation in life is to seat us together in the heavenlies—v. 6.

Eph. 2:6—And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

3. God not only raised us up from the position of death, but He also seated us in the highest place in the universe—1:19-21; 2:6.

Eph. 1:19-21—And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, ²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

Eph. 2:6—And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

4. The heavenlies are the highest position, into which we have been saved in Christ—v. 6:

Eph. 2:6—And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

- a. In the book of Ephesians, Christ as our life has saved us into a position in which we are above all God's enemies—v. 6.

Eph. 2:6—And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

- b. Here in the heavenly atmosphere, with a heavenly nature and a heavenly characteristic, we are a heavenly people—1:3, 20; 3:10; 6:12.

Eph. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph. 1:20—Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph. 3:10—In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Eph. 6:12—For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of evil in the heavenlies.

5. It was in Christ that God seated us all altogether, once for all, in the heavenlies—2:6:

Eph. 2:6—And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

- a. This was accomplished when Christ ascended to the heavens, and it has been applied to us by the Spirit of Christ ever since we believed in Him—John 20:17; Eph. 4:8-10.

John 20:17—Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

Eph. 4:8-10—Therefore *the Scripture* says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.”⁹(Now this, “He ascended,” what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He

who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)

- b. Today we realize and experience this reality in our spirit through faith in the accomplished fact.
- 6. “That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”—2:7:
 - a. To display is to exhibit to the whole universe publicly.
 - b. The ages are the ages of the millennium and eternity future.
 - c. Kindness is a benevolent goodness that issues out of mercy and love.
 - d. God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, was full of kindness toward us—v. 4.
Eph. 2:4—But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 7. “For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus”—v. 10a:
Eph. 2:10—For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.
 - a. We must believe the fact that in Christ Jesus we are the masterpiece of God.
 - b. God has made many things, but none of them is as dear, precious, valuable, and desirable as the church—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22; 3:10.
Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
Eph. 1:22—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
Eph. 3:10—In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
 - c. Only one item of God’s work in the universe is His masterpiece, and this masterpiece is the church.
 - d. As God’s masterpiece, the church as the Body of Christ, is the fullness of the One who fills all in all—1:23.
Eph. 1:23—Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.