

A Matter of Life or Death

by Mary Kane
www.onlybyprayer.com

Walk Like an Ephesian **Chapter 2:1-10**

God has a special message for you today from His Word. Please take a few moments to go into His Holy Presence and ask for forgiveness for your sin and for your heart to be opened to receive the truth of the scriptures.

Now please read Ephesians 2:1-10 out loud.

1 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.

4 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.

Pause now to go back and highlight any significant verses and note any important insights God has given you from His Word.

In order to gain greater understanding of our text, please go to Blue Letter Bible (BLB) [Blue Letter Bible](http://www.BlueLetterBible.com) and read Ephesians 2:1-10 in two other versions. After you have finished your reading, please update your notes and highlights.

Now that you have finished reading, let's dig into the text!

According to verse 1, what was our condition before we came to Christ?

We were dead. Dead in the water. Dead in our sins. Dead men walking ... like zombies. Currently, for some unknown reason, zombies are a cultural phenomenon. One can take part in zombie flash mobs, zombie walks, and zombie experience days. Recently a well known cell phone company featured a zombie in a commercial. There are even websites dedicated completely to zombie interests. According to merriam-webster.com *zombie* means, among other things, *the walking dead*. Exactly what we were before we came to Jesus. Dead—destitute of force or power to do right.

In the original Greek the word for *death* in verse 1 is *nekros*. *Nekros* means deceased, departed, destitute of life, given up to sin and trespasses. Every action, every thought, every work of a dead person produces more death.

But what is the source of all this death? Please reread verses 2-3 and cite four sources of death that affect us:

Satan, the world, our flesh and our minds all tempt us to release death in our lives.

Please record two terms used to describe believers before we came to Christ (look at the end of verse 2 and 3)

While we were disobedient and deserving of God's wrath what did Christ do for us (verses 1 and 5)?

By the will of man, death came into the world, but by the will of God, Life came into the world! He has given us life, and life abundant. Beauty for ashes, light for darkness, life for death.

Earlier in this study, we read before we came to Christ, we walked in sin and death. What does it mean to *walk* in death and sin? A look in the original language will shed some light on the question at hand. The word *walk* in the original Greek is *peripateō*, which means to make one's way, to live for (imagine living for death), to regulate one's life, to pass one's life, to conduct one's life. To walk in death means to live according to the laws of death and sin. Interestingly, *peripateo* also means the garment one is clothed in. I have seen people who look like they clothe themselves in death ... black lipstick ... skull t-shirts and jewelry. Root of *peropateo*

also refers to a path. "There is a way (a path) which seems right to a man, but its end leads to death." Proverbs 14:12. But Jesus is the way (road or path), the truth and the life! Paths always lead to a particular place. In order reach a desired destination it is important to choose the right path—the right life.

What path are you walking? Where is your life leading you right now—to life or death?

If you are not on the right path what do you need to do?

Remember, God allows u-turns.

Let's turn our attention to an important phrase in verse 4, *made us alive together*. This phrase is rich with meaning. In the original Greek, *made us alive together* transliterates as *syzōopoieō*, which is a verb made up of the preposition *syn*, the noun *zoon* and the noun *poieō*. In particular *syzoopoieo* means *to make one alive together with another*. This word does not mean that we are alive *along aside* of another. It means we are alive together *joined with* another. In order to gain deeper understanding, let's study each word segment of *syzoopoieo*:

Syn: means *union*, hence we are alive *in* or *with* Christ.

Zoon: translates *a beast or a living being*. *Zoon* is a derivative of the verb *zao*,

Zao: means *to enjoy real life; to have true life and worthy of the name; to enjoy life active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God; fresh, strong, efficient, active, powerful, efficacious*.

Poieo: translates *to bring forth, to yield, to produce, to be made healthy, whole, healed*

Meditate upon the meaning of *syzoopoieo*. Now please apply what you have learned to the following task:

Please finish the following statement, "Because I am alive together with Christ, I ..."

Please restate what you used to be before Christ according to verse 1.

In the book of Deuteronomy, God asks us to make a choice, " ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; I place before you life and death."

Is there even a choice to be made? We can either walk as the living dead, stuck in the wages of sin, held captive by our corrupt desires and the will of Satan or we

can walk in union with Christ; blessed, worthy, powerful, full of grace, and productive. In Christ we live lives of meaning and purpose, we can minister to others because we have been healed of our sin and made whole. God asks us to choose: life or death. Please choose life. Perhaps like me you think that you don't deserve to choose life. I know I certainly didn't. Thankfully, God does not save us according to "merit pay" plan.

How were we saved? Please fill in the blanks:

"For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the _____ of God, not of _____, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

How are we described? Please fill in the blank:

"For we are His _____, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
Ephesians 2:11

Please go to BLB (<http://www.blueletterbible.org>), enter *Ephesians 2:11* in the search bar and do a word search for the word *workmanship*. (Instructions for *word search* procedures are listed in *Walk Like an Ephesian: I Am*) Record your findings below. Be sure to click on *Vines Expository Dictionary: View Entry* for an added blessing!

When did God appoint us to do these good works (verse 10)?

The NKJV uses the word *beforehand* (to dig a little deeper into the concept of *beforehand* please click on *Ephesians 3* link on the post page). Before he made you, before He created the foundation of the earth, knowing everything about you, God appointed you to do good works in His name. We are not *saved* by good works; we are appointed *to do* good works.

To walk like an Ephesian you must remember no matter where you have been, no matter what you have done, you are His *masterpiece ... His poem*; a beautiful, rare, priceless, treasure, created, gifted and ordained to do good works for His glory.

By Mary Kane
www.onlybyprayer.com
All rights reserved
Copyright 2014