

Ephesians 2:1-3

First section of this chapter is 2:1-10 and is made up of just two sentences in Greek:

- a. 2:1-7 with “God” as subject and “made alive” as the main verb mentioned in 2:4-5
- b. 2:8-11

We see three levels in the first sentence:

- a. the sinful state
- b. God’s love and mercy
- c. Salvation

The verb “live/walk” or περιπατησωμεν is used twice in 2:1-10. It is a style of Hebrew use of walking and denotes ethical conduct or a way of life.:

- a. for the unbelieving state in 2:2 translated in NIV as “you used to live or literally “you walked”
- b. for the believing state in 2:10 translated in NIV as “for us to do” or literally “we might walk”

Before being made alive in Christ Paul uses verses 2:1-3 to describe the spiritually dead state of the unbeliever with reference to the bondage of the unbeliever and the enemies of the believer:

- a. their environment – “the ways of this world” (2:2) – THE WORLD
- b. inner bent toward evil – “the cravings of our sinful nature” (2:3) – THE FLESH
- c. supernatural and powerful oppressive master – “the ruler of the kingdom of the air – THE DEVIL

In this condition the unbeliever is an object of God’s wrath

2:1

“you” refers to “you Gentiles”. Verse 2:3 says “we also” or “we Jews”. In 2:3b Paul includes “the rest of mankind.”

Spiritual death means separated or alienated from Spiritual life, or the source of life which is God

“dead in your trespasses and sins” or “dead because of trespasses and sins” both are possible. “Trespasses” and “Sins” are used by Paul as synonyms. Both refer to what a person has done in transgressing the will and law of God by committing some false step or failure. Adam did this in Romans 5:16-20 and Israel did it in Romans 11:11-12. It is rebellion towards God as seen in Romans 4:25 and Matthew 6:15.

- Trespasses is παραπτωματα .means falling aside
- Sins is ‘αμαρτιας .means missing the mark.

Inherited Sin, Imputed Sin, and Personal Sin

Inherited sin is the sin nature we inherit from our fathers, who got it from their fathers all the way back to Adam. Adam placed the human seed into a condition of sin. The image of this sin nature was reproduced in his children (Genesis 5:3). This is called inherited sin.

Imputed sin refers to sin that is charged legally to our account. To impute means to attribute, credit, or ascribe to someone else. There have been three imputations in history:

1. Adam imputed the penalty for his sin to the human race (Romans 5:12-21).
2. The sin of man and men's personal sins were imputed to Jesus on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Peter 2:24).
3. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to a believer (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Personal sin refers to sins we commit ourselves. Personal sins are committed by both unbelievers and believers. The personal sins committed by a believer do not cause them to lose their salvation, but they do obstruct fellowship with God.

Sin	Scripture	Transmission	Consequence	Remedy
INHERITED SIN	Ephesians 2:3	Generation to Generation	Spiritual Death	Redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit
IMPUTED SIN	Romans 5:12	Directly deposited into your account from Adam	Physical Death	Imputed Righteousness directly deposited into your account by Christ
PERSONAL SINS	Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9	(None)	Loss of Fellowship	Confession and Forgiveness

New Testament uses "dead" in reference to spiritual again in 2:5 but also in:

- Romans 11:15, 20
- Ephesians 5:14
- Colossians 2:13

2:2

"once" is used in contrast to their present state. "Once you were" but "now you are"

This life was not freedom but fearful bondage.

The World:

NIV: "you followed the ways of this world" is literally "you walked according to the age ("aion") of this world. In the Jewish mind there were two ages or aions. This present age and the one to come. In the past they had ethics and values of their societies and cultures of this old age.

The Devil

Ephesians reveals more about evil spiritual forces than any other NT book

4:27

6:11

6:16

"Ruler" is an OT term for a national, local or tribal leader

Kingdom is a sphere or realm of influence

Air refers to the place of spiritual forces and influence

Satan is defeated but continues to make his influence felt

2:3