



Not of Works

Our spiritual redemption, our salvation, is not contingent upon our own works. Jesus Christ accomplished every last action required for our redemption and salvation. No works are requested of us in order to complete God's perfect plan of redemption. Absolutely none. Now, this does not mean you can live as you fool well please. It means that you are to abide within God's framework, his plan, which is laid out in his Word in the 7 Church Epistles, among which Ephesians details a spectacular account of grace, faith, gifts of God and the despair of boasting.

(Eph 2:1-9 KJV) *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: {2} Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: {3} Among whom also we*



all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. {4} But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, {5} Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) {6} And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: {7} That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kind-

ness toward us through Christ Jesus. {8} For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Starting in verse 1:

(Eph 2:1 KJV) *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:*

The finger is pointed—and *you!*

' . . . hath he quickened' is not supported.

It should read, "And you who were dead." That is as clear as it could be. Before God's act of kindness toward us through Christ Jesus, we were dead in trespasses and sins. Our plight was not a doing of ourselves; it was a doing of something far sinister than you could ever imagine or be—but we must continue

Not of Works

reading to discover this diabolical plot.

(Eph 2:2 KJV) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Your feet slogged among the garbage of trespasses and sins that you didn't contrive; they were orchestrated and delivered by 'the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.'

Take heed and take heart. What you might term 'your badness' isn't yours at all. It belongs to the foul fellows fixated and feasting on spiritual garbage, fully intent on off-loading it into the brains of every human soul.

All of life has its roots in the supernatural, not in the carnal or fleshly. Your mind will tell you otherwise, but, truth be told, we are players in an invisible war. Verse 2 tells us that we 'walked' according to the course of this world which is controlled by

a prince, a spirit, and many disobedient children.

The 'course' of this world literally means 'age' of this world. Think of 'ages of time'. 'Age' can have a dual meaning. Another can refer to a specific class of invisible creatures called Aeons. These 'Aeon' creatures are considered to be ruling gods, lesser gods, that oversee all worldly activities.

Those foul fellows populate an unseen realm. Nonetheless, they are there. Even with this limited knowledge, before your redemption, since you can't see them, how could you relate to associated causes and affects attached to them? Truth be told; you couldn't. Even so, we walked in this strange realm and suffered every day—until our redemption and salvation. It doesn't say that we ran; it says that we walked, and for most of us, it was slow going, maybe a crawl.

The children of disobedience are formidable, distasteful, and to be avoided as much as possible. They are children of 'the' disobedience. These creatures are dangerous, base, and full of iniquity. They offer nothing good;

they can only cause harm. They are sons of satan in whom he works, and upon whom God's wrath will eventually manifest. Don't worry. They'll get their due, and we'll get to watch. Don't worry again. They are formidable, but they flee from our presence. Light dispels darkness.

(Eph 2:3 KJV) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The most unsettling aspect of this atrocious and all-encompassing development is that we 'all' had our conversation, way of life and behavior, among or in them. Ours was a walk of lust, a walk of fleshly and mental desires that issued in the birth of more wrath. 'Flesh' refers to 'course' lusts of the body; 'mind' refers to 'refined' lusts of the mind. 'Mind' is the word for 'thoughts.' We were, by nature, the spawns of wrath, even as [also] others. 'Children' is to be omitted. It should literally read, '. . .

Not of Works

by nature of wrath . . . ‘Honestly, the only escape from this conundrum of confusion, pleasure and pain is Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in that.

(Eph 2:4-5 KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, {5} Even when we were dead in sins, hath [omit hath] quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Your only hope out of this foreboding mess is through God’s rich mercy and great love. We *were* dead to sins; we are made alive with Christ. God’s undeserved favor toward us brought salvation to us.

(Eph 2:6 KJV) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Salvation bespeaks many benefits, perhaps the chiefest of them being our new abode—in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That is far beyond any worldly footpath. God made us sit together . . . in Christ Jesus.

Let’s read verse 7 to answer why.

(Eph 2:7 KJV) That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

From verse 7, we learn that we have a lot more coming. He will show us the exceeding riches of his grace—once again, we see how Christ Jesus plays into our deliverance from this world, spiritually, mentally, and physically.

And then, the most beautiful verse of all [in this expose].

(Eph 2:8 KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

We are saved through faith that is absolutely not of ourselves; it is the gift of God.

(Eph 2:9 KJV) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The reason it took so long for you to ‘feel’ deliverance from the courses of this

world is because you could do *nothing* to speed it up or to facilitate it. Let that sink in for a moment. Religious works and boasting fail on every account.

Your deliverance came because of God’s gift, and day after day, it keeps on giving.

Much love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown