**SHINE – SERMON NOTES
PART 4 – EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

**HOW INCREDIBLY BLESSED & SPIRITUALLY RICH WE ARE!**

 **Outline - Recap
Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ (Ephesians 1 – 3)

1. Our spiritual possessions in Christ (Ephesians 1:4-14)**

* + 1. **From the Father (Ephesians 1:4-6)**
		2. **From the Son (Ephesians 1:7-12)**
		3. **From the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)**

**First Prayer – for enlightenment (Ephesians 1:15-23)**

**2. *Our spiritual position in Christ* (Ephesians 2:1-22)**

**A. Raised and seated in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:1-10)**

**B. Reconciled and set into the temple (Ephesians 2:11-22)**

**Second Prayer – for enablement (Ephesians 3: 1-21)**

**II. Duty: Our Responsibilities in Christ (Ephesians 4 – 6)**

1. ***Walk in unity* (Ephesians 4:1-16)**

**2. *Walk in purity* (Ephesians 4:17 – 5:17)**

**A. Walk not as other Gentiles (Ephesians 4:17-32)**

**B. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-6)**

**C. Walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:7-14)**

**D. Walk carefully (Ephesians 5:15-17)

3. *Walk in harmony* (Ephesians 5:18 – 6:9)**

**A. Husbands and wives (Ephesians 5:18-33)**

**B. Parents and children (Ephesians 6:1-4)**

**C. Masters and servants (Ephesians 6:5-9)**

 **4. *Walk in victory* (Ephesians 6:10-24)**

**Ephesians 2:1 - 22**
*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

1. **Our spiritual position in Christ – 2:1-22**

**Overview of Chapter 2:**

Having described our *spiritual possessions in Christ* in Chapter 1, Paul now turns to a complementary truth: *our spiritual position in Christ*. First, he explains what God has done for all sinners in general and individually; then he explains what God has done for both Jew and Gentile. The sinner who repents and trusts in Christ as Lord and Saviour has been made alive, raised up and seated with Christ (Eph 2:1-10) and the believing Jew and Gentile have both been reconciled to God and to each and have been set together into the temple of the Lord (Eph 2:11-22). What a miracle of God’s grace. We are taken out of the dark graveyard of sin and placed into the heavenly realms in glory. Wow!

1. ***Raised and seated in heavenly places – Ephesians 2:1 -10***
2. **Sin’s work against us – 2:1-3

(i) He is dead (v1) –** This is of course spiritually dead – an inability to understand and appreciate spiritual things. He possesses no spiritual life and he can do nothing of himself to please God. Just as a physically dead person is unable to respond to physical stimuli, so is the inner man of a spiritually dead person. His spiritual faculties are not functioning, and they cannot function until God gives them life. The cause of this death is ‘trespasses and sins’ (v1). Romans 6:23 – ‘the wages of sin is death’.
In the Bible, death means separation – as in physically, the spirit separated from the body (James 2:26), but also spiritually, as in the spirit of man separated from God (Isaiah 59:2).
The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead! He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection. All lost sinners are dead and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay. The lost derelict on skid row may be more decayed outwardly than the society leader, but both are dead in sin – one corpse cannot be more dead than the other.

**(ii) He is disobedient (v2-3a) –** This was the beginning of man’s spiritual death – his disobedience to the will of God. God said in the garden to Adam ‘In the day you eat of it you will surely die’ (Gen. 2:17), then the serpent said ‘you shall not surely die’ (Gen. 3:4) and because they believed Satan’s lie, they experienced immediate spiritual death and ultimate physical death. Since that time, mankind has lived spiritually dead and therefore disobedient to God. There are three forces that encourage man to live in disobedience – the world, the Devil and the flesh.
*World –* The world or world system, puts pressure on each person to try and get us to conform (Do not conform to the pattern of this world – Rom 12:2). JESUS was not of this world and neither are His people (John 8:23; 17:14). But the unsaved person is controlled by the values and attitudes of this world, either consciously or unconsciously**.
How do we escape the tentacles of this world system?** Again, in Romans 12:2 ‘*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind’*. Nonconformity to the world system, thorough the transformation process of renewing our minds according to the values and attitudes of God. *Devil* – The devil is ‘the spirit who now is at work in those who are disobedient’ (v2). Unlike God, the devil is not omnipotent, but because of his demonic associates and his power over the world system (John 12:31), he influences the lives of all unbelievers and also seeks to influence believers. He wants to make people disobedient to God, because he himself was disobedient to God and his greatest weapon to plunge us into disobedience is LIES. JESUS called him the ‘father of lies’ (John 8:44) and whenever a person believes or practices a lie, he becomes a child of disobedience.  **How do we escape the lies of the devil?** JESUS said in John 8:31-32
‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’. *Flesh* – This is not the body, because the body itself is not sinful. The flesh refers to the fallen sinful nature we were born with, that wants to control our mind and body to make us disobey God.
Why does a dog do what it does? Because it has a dog’s nature. Doesn’t have to be taught to behave like a dog. It is a dog by nature. Simple.
Why does a sinner behave like a sinner? Because he has a sinful nature. Doesn’t have to be taught to behave like a sinner. He is a sinner by nature. Simple.
**How do we escape the clutches of the flesh?** By walking a life in the Spirit. According to Galatians 5:16 ‘So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature’. **(iii) He is depraved (v3b)-** When we apply the word depraved to the unsaved person, we are not saying that he only does evil, or that he is incapable of doing good. We are simply saying that he is incapable of doing anything to merit salvation or to meet the high standards of God’s holiness.  **(iv) He is doomed (v3c) –** By nature, children of wrath! By deed, children of disobedience! The unsaved person is condemned already. The sentence has been passed, but God in His mercy is staying the execution of the sentence
(2 Peter 3:8-10). Man cannot save himself, but God in His grace steps in to make salvation possible for all mankind.

1. **God’s work for us – 2:4-9
(i) He loved us (v4) –** By nature God is love (1 John 4:8). But God would love even if there were no sinners, because love is a part of His very nature. Theologians call love one of the attributes of God. But God has two kinds of attributes: those he possesses of Himself (intrinsic attributes such as life, love, holiness) and those by which He relates to His creation, especially to ma (relative attributes). For example, by nature God is truth, but when He relates to man, God’s truth becomes faithfulness. God is by nature holy and when He relates that holiness to man, it becomes righteousness or justice.
Love is one of God’s intrinsic attributes, but when this love is related to man, it becomes grace and mercy. God is rich in mercy (v4) and in grace (v7) and these make it possible to man to be saved. We are not saved by God’s love, but by His mercy and grace. In His mercy, He does not give us what we deserve (punishment for our sins) and in His grace He gives us what we do not deserve (total forgiveness and righteousness). All this of course was made possible because of the death of JESUS. It was at the cross that God displayed His hatred for sin and His love for sinners – all at the same time (Rom 5:8 & John 3:16). **(ii) He made us alive (v5) –** God has made us alive, even when we were dead in our sins. He accomplished this spiritual resurrection by the power of the Spirit, using His Word. According to 1 Peter 1:23 *‘For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God’.* Those who repent and believe in JESUS have now been made alive. This spiritual resurrection puts us in union with Christ; God ‘made us alive together with Christ’ (v5). As members of His body we are united to Him and we share in His resurrection life and power (Eph 1:19-20)  **(iii) He raised us up (v6) –** We are not raised from the dead and left in the graveyard.Because we are united with Christ, we have been raised with Him and our spiritual position is ‘in heavenly places in Christ’. We are to live out of this reality of our spiritual position, not stuck in our temporal condition. **(iv) He keeps us (v7-9) –** God’s purpose in our redemption is not simply to rescue us from hell, as great as a work that is. His ultimate purpose in our salvation is that for all eternity the church might glorify God’s grace. So, if God has an eternal purpose for us to fulfill, He will keep us now and for all eternity. Since we have not been saved by our good works, we cannot be lost by our bad works. Grace means that God does it all for JESUS’ sake. Our salvation is the gift of God, not a reward. Salvation cannot be ‘of works’ because salvation has already been completed on the cross. This is the work that God does for us, and it is a finished work (John 19:30). We can add nothing to it (Heb 10:1-14) and we dare take nothing away from it. When JESUS died the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom, signifying that the way to God way now open. There is no more need for earthly sacrifices. One sacrifice – the Lamb of God – has finished the great work of salvation. God did it all and He did it all by His grace.
2. **God’s work in and through us – 2:10
In us**

‘For we are His workmanship, created in Christ JESUS to do good works’. Is the Greek word *‘poiema’ – POEM* and it means – that which is made, a manufactured product. In other words, our conversion is not the end, it is the beginning. We are a part of God’s ‘new creation’ (2 Cor 5:17) and God continues to work in us to make us what He wants us to be – make us more like Christ (Rom 8:29).
How does He do this? Well, Christ finished His work of redemption for the entire planet on the cross, but then He rose from the dead and returned to heaven. From there He carries on His unfinished work of perfecting His church. Christ is equipping us for our walk with Him and our work with Him here on the earth, by the power of His Spirit.
He uses 3 special tools to accomplish this:
*a. Word of God* – 1 Thessalonians 2:13
*b. Prayer* – Ephesians 3:20-21
*c. Trials* – James 1:2-4 & 1 Peter 4:12-16

As we read, feed, study, meditate, memorise and put into practice God’s word – God’s word goes to work in our lives to cleanse, protect and nourish us. As we pray, God’s Spirit works in us to release the power and presence of God in our lives. As we go through trials, both inward and outward trials, the Spirit of God begins ministering strength, patience, perseverance, hope, peace and joy. Too many Christians think and live as though our conversion experience is all that really matters. But God has plans for us – plans to prosper us in the Kingdom. The same resurrection power that saved you and took you out the graveyard of sin can now daily help you live for CHRIST and glorify Him. God is busy working in us, so that He can also work through us!
**Through us**
The ‘works’ Paul talks about here have two special characteristics: they are ‘good’ works and they have been ‘prepared’ by the Father for us to walk in.
Firstly, they are ‘good’ not because the believer himself is good, but because the believer has a new nature from God in him and because the Holy Spirit works ‘both to will and to do according to His good pleasure’ (Phil 2:13).

We minimise the place of good works in the life of a believer because we wrongly conclude that we are not saved by works, therefore good works are evil. This is a mistake. JESUS said, ‘Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven’ (Matt 5:16). We do not perform works to earn our salvation or to glorify ourselves, however we do good works to prove our salvation and glorify our Father.
Our good works are evidence that we have been born again (James 2) and they are a testimony to the lost (1 Peter 2:12). They win us the right to be heard.
Secondly, they have been ‘prepared’ by our Father that we should walk in them. According to Acts 17:28 ‘From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him…’
This means that loving heavenly Father has a gracious plan for our lives and He wants us to walk in His will and fulfill His plan. His will is the best for us and for all those around us.

Conclusion:

Are you wearing ‘graveclothes’ or the ‘grace-clothes’ of Christ? Are you living in the freedom you have in Christ to love, worship and obey our heavenly Father or are you still bound by the habits of the old life in the graveyard of sin?

The power of sin has been broken off your life as a believer, you have been made alive, raised up and seated with Christ in heavenly places. Practice your position in Christ!
JESUS has worked for you; now let Him work in you and through you, that you may walk in the exciting, creative life He has prepared for you to live in!