

Lesson XII.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE EPHESIANS

March 22, 1903

Ephesians 2: 1-10. Study Eph. 2: 1-22. Commit to memory vs. 4-7.

1 And you ¹ *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses; and sins;

2 Wherein ² in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, ³ the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

3 Among whom also we all ⁴ had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, ⁵ fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as ⁶ others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead ⁹ in sins, ¹⁰ hath quick-

ened us together with Christ, (by grace ¹¹ ye are saved.)

6 And ¹² hath raised us up ¹³ together, and made us sit ¹⁴ together in heavenly places in Christ Je'sus.

7 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in ¹⁵ his kindness toward us ¹⁶ through Christ Je'sus.

8 For by grace ¹⁷ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: ¹⁸ it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, ¹⁹ lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Je'sus ²⁰ unto good works, which God ²¹ hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Revised Version—¹ did he quicken, when ye were dead through your trespasses; ² aforetime; ³ of: sons; ⁴ once lived in the lusts; ⁵ doing; ⁶ Omit the; ⁷ the rest; ⁸ through our trespasses; ⁹ Omit hath; ¹⁰ have ye been; ¹¹ with him; ¹² with him in the; ¹³ Omit his; ¹⁴ in; ¹⁵ have ye been; ¹⁶ that no man should glory; ¹⁷ for; ¹⁸ afore prepared.

EXPLANATION

Connection—Three or four years after last lesson Paul was a prisoner in Rome, Acts. 28: 16. The lesson of to-day is taken from a letter which he wrote from his prison to the church at Ephesus.

1. **And you**; the Gentile Christians in the Ephesian church. **Quickened**; made alive. **Who were dead**; living in disobedience to God (v. 2), but through Paul's preaching (Acts 20: 17-21) they were brought to believe in and obey Christ, which is life, John 17: 3. **Trespasses and sins**; various forms of sin in thought and act.

2. **Ye walked**. They loved sin and lived in it, Ps. 1: 1. **In time past**; before their conversion. **According to the course of this world**; controlled by a worldly spirit. **The prince**; Satan, under whose influence they had been. **The power of the air**; the empire of evil spirits. **The spirit that now worketh**, etc.; the principle of evil in the lives of those who disobey God.

3. **We all**; even those now the purest and best. **Had our conversation**; "once lived" (Rev. Ver.) **The lusts of our flesh**; the low desires of one's nature, Gal. 5: 19-21. **Fulfilling**; obeying sinful desires and evil thoughts. **By nature**; in their sinful state before conversion. **Children of wrath**; objects of wrath because of their sins.

4, 5. **Rich in mercy**; full of pity for the sinner in his sin. **For his great love**; because of his great love. **Even when we were dead**. See on v. 1. **Quickened us** (made us alive) **together with Christ**. As He rose from the grave, we by faith rise from sin to holiness. **By grace**; by God's love and what that love has done for us and in us. **Ye are saved**. Salvation is a present blessing, though not fully completed, Phil. 2: 12, 13.

6, 7. **Hath raised us up with him** (Rev. Ver.). The believer may be truly said to have been raised with Christ (Col. 3: 1), for he could not have been saved if Christ had not risen. **Made us to sit with him** (Rev. Ver.); as sharing his holiness and glory. **In heavenly places**; literally "in the heavens." The blessing of being made alive, raised and enthroned with Christ is the believer's now (ch. 1: 13, 14), and shall be his more fully hereafter, 1 John 3: 2. **Ages to come**; future life. **Exceeding riches**; beyond thought or longing to express. **In his kindness**;

in saving from sin and unto a life of holiness.

8, 9. **By grace**. See on v. 5. **Through faith**; trust in the person and work of Christ. **Not of yourselves**. Salvation is a gift, John 4: 10. **Not of**



Paul: from a Roman Tablet about the Fourth Century

works. Nothing we can do can merit salvation. **Lest any man should boast**; or be proud of his own goodness.

10. **For**; giving the proof that salvation is a divine gift. **His workmanship**; it is God that makes us new creatures. **Created in Christ Jesus**. It is through His grace and by His power that we are renewed. **Unto good works**; to do good works, which are the result and not the cause of salvation.

Paul further reminds them of what they once were (vs. 11, 12), and of what Christ had done for them, vs. 13-18. They are now no longer aliens, but citizens, members of one family, joined in one, like the parts of a building, vs. 19-22. The gospel is for all men, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, of every color and every land in the world.