

Lesson XII.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE EPHESIANS

March 22, 1903

Ephesians 2 : 1-10. Study Eph. 2 : 1-22—Memory Verses, 4-7.

Golden Text—By grace are ye saved through faith.—Eph. 2 : 8.

God : 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

Seeing that the time had come for him to leave Ephesus, Paul called the believers together, and, bidding them a loving farewell he went away into another city.

Knowing how much harder it would be for the Ephesian Christians to remain faithful on the side of Christ when he was not there to warn and encourage them, Paul sent them a letter reminding them that it was now their part to live such holy and upright lives, that others of their fellow-countrymen should be won to love and honor their new Master.

In this letter, which was called the "Epistle (or Letter) to the Ephesians," Paul sent special messages to the Gentile Christians who had so lately given up their heathen gods to serve Christ. And he drew for them two pictures, showing how they had lived before they had received the gospel and how after.

In the first picture Paul described the old heathen life of the Ephesians, saying, "Before you became believers in Jesus your souls

1 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 Je'sus.

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Je sus.

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

were dead in trespasses and sins. You were so accustomed to doing what was wrong and following the ways of the heathen about you, that your minds had become dull and stupid, until it was almost impossible for you to tell right from wrong. And not only you who were Gentiles, but the Jews also, God's own chosen people, were given up to the same kinds of sinful enjoyment and wickedness.

"But now," said the apostle, "look at the second picture. There you see yourselves, who were once so low and ignorant that you took no pleasure in anything holy or good, sitting at the feet of Jesus learning from God Himself how you may best please and obey Him. For He, having saved us by His blood, has given us the forgiveness of all our sins."

"Now," said Paul, "How is it that the things we once loved we now hate? Is it because we ourselves are any better? Surely not.

"It is only because of the kindness and