

Wanted: Dead or Alive

Eph 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

- A. Death & life are complete opposites; we are either dead or alive. Something cannot be both dead & alive at the same time.
- B. It works the same way spiritually. A person cannot be both spiritually dead & alive at the same time. It's either one or the other.
- C. We are here given the characteristics of those who are dead & of those who are alive. Are you dead or alive?

DEAD

- A. People are spiritually dead because of sin, v 1.
 - 1. Sin separates one from God (Is 59:2), and therefore makes one spiritually dead.
 - 2. Js 1:14-15.
 - 3. Sin is a cancer that always proves fatal. Sin should be our most dreaded “disease.”
- B. People are spiritually dead when they follow their own desires.
 - 1. In vv 2-3, the Bible basically says, “You did what everyone else was doing, you did what your own flesh told you to do.”
 - 2. In following their own desires, they follow Satan.
 - a. V 2.
 - b. A great paradox occurs here. In trying to do their own thing, these people became followers of Satan. They became his slaves.
 - 3. People who are spiritually dead are “children of wrath.”
 - a. The wrath of God rests upon them.
 - b. Wrath belongs to everyone—“children of wrath, like everyone else.”

ALIVE

- A. Christians are made alive by God, vv 4-5.
 - 1. We did not make ourselves alive with Christ, but it was the working of God.
 - 2. Since God is love (1 Jn 4:8), he wanted to make us alive with Christ.
 - 3. God's mercy allowed him to make us alive with Christ.
- B. Christians are made alive by grace, vv 5-9.
 - 1. We do not deserve to be made alive, but God does so because he loves us.
 - 2. Grace did not come as a result of anything we did; we could not do anything to deserve grace.
 - 3. “Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.”
- C. Christians are made alive for good works.
 - 1. We are created for good works—they are our purpose.
 - 2. God prepared this to be our way of life.
 - 3. We need to walk in good works & thus fulfill God's expectations for us.