

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Ephesians 2:1-10

Last time...the prayer for us by the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ, praying in one accord with God the Father

It is the will of the Father that we know Him more and more and more
The purpose of the gift of the spirit of wisdom and revelation is that we, His children, would know our Father!

We know our Father more by

- knowing Jesus Christ more (John 1:18)
 - the ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - study and meditation on the Word of God
- obedience, being doers of the Word and not hearers only
 - walking by faith, not by sight
 - walking in the Spirit, not by feelings

It is the will of the Father that we hear from Him, “**Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**” (Matt 25:21)

This time...God’s intervention in our lives, according to the good pleasure of His will (Ch 1:5), which He has purposed in Himself (Ch 1:9)

Eph 2:1-10

Reading our Bibles carefully...

v1 Notice that *hath he quickened* is italicized, meaning

- these words are not in the original Greek manuscript, the Received Text
- the KJV translators inserted these words and, with scholarly integrity and honesty, let us know so by italicizing them

Sometimes their inserted words helps, sometimes they don’t

This time I don’t think they help, taking v1-3 as a single sentence

Let’s ignore the man-inserted words and consider the verse as it was originally inspired by the Holy Spirit and written/recorded by the Apostle Paul

And you...the saints at Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus, the accepted in the beloved, those who first trusted in Christ, you and me, parts of the Body of Christ... continuing the thought from Ch 1:17-23, the people for whom the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ are praying, in one accord with the Father

who were...past tense

dead in trespasses and sins...regarding our being, the nature of our existence
dead...spiritually dead to God, separated/estranged from God
in trespasses...plural, willful and deliberate acts of disobedience and defiance of
God our Maker
and (in) sins...plural, missing the mark of God's perfection and glory
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matt 26:41b)

sins: our Wed night discussion as folks were leaving
sin, "missing the mark", is a profound understatement for how the holy
God is offended and grieved by mankind's being and behavior

trespasses: even worse than "sin"!!!!

All of us are guilty of both!

- trespasses and sins
- wrong-doing (our choice) and wrong-being (inheritance from Adam)

The order is important to the Author of these words!!!

Sins are indescribably bad enough (mindless "You do you")
but even worse are our trespasses (knowing, deliberate)!

The result of both is the same

- spiritual death (Ezk 18:4, Rom 6:23a)
- separated from God (Is 59:2), estrangement that is irreconcilable by us

v2-3 Wherein time past ye...all ya'll in the past, were in v1 (but no longer are PTL!)

1. walked according to the course of this world
"meandered", wandered aimlessly, living lives without meaning,
living meaningless lives because a life without God is a wasted life
according to...agreeing with...the way of this (cursed, corrupted) world

just going with the flow, like a dead fish floating down a river

2. (walked) according to the prince of the power of the air
("meandered", wandered aimlessly, living lives without meaning,
living meaningless lives)
according to...agreeing with...the prince of the power of the air...Satan
the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4)
the (unholy) spirit that works (his will and ways) in the children of
disobedience (toward God our Maker i.e. unbelievers)

taken captive by Satan's will (2 Tim 2:26, his will is our death)
minds blinded by unbelief to the glorious Gospel of Christ (2 Cor 4:3-4)

3. had our conversation
as children of disobedience
just going with the flow, like a dead fish floating down a river
taken captive by Satan's will, dead to God
minds blinded by unbelief to the glorious Gospel of Christ
lived the lifestyle of trespasses and sins...what we did, who we were

in times past..."BC", before we were born-again by the Spirit of God,
given the Spirit-ual power to become the children of God
in the (insatiable without an intervention) lusts (self-destructive desires) of
the flesh (Rom 7:18)
doing whatsoever our (not good) flesh and our (wrong self-absorbed) mind
wanted to do...we acting as the arbiters of what was right and
wrong, good and evil
4. by nature the children of wrath
our nature: sin nature, an existence of wrong-being and wrong-doing and
wrong-thinking
children of wrath...the wrath of the Almighty, offended God
even as others, just like the rest of the children of disobedience...
God being the Rightful and Truthful arbiter of right and wrong,
good and evil
and rightfully dispensing His wrath on all disobedience

Woe is me!!!

NOT a pretty picture!

The next 2 words...

v4a **But God!!!!**

But God intervened in our sorry lives!!!

But God...the most beautiful phrase in Scripture, expounded upon in v4-10 by
glorious "Who", "because", "what", and "why"!

But God Who

is rich in mercy...incalculable spiritual wealth to not give us what we deserve
delights in mercy, a God that forgives trespasses and sins against Him
(Micah 7:17, Ps 51:4)

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not
deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor
abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards,
nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were**
some of you: **but** ye **are** washed, but ye **are** sanctified, but ye **are** justified in the
name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our **God**. (1 Cor 6:9-11)

v4b-5a **But God because**

for His great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in sins

John 3:16

Rom 5:8

1 John 4:10

us...you and me, individually and collectively

1 Tim 2:4

2 Peter 3:9

God did NOT act on His justifiable wrath toward us in our trespasses and sins,

He acted on His mercy and His love!!!

God's intervention in our sorry lives is an act of the greatest love...His choice!!

In Ps 103 we are told that our Maker, The LORD Who *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy, chose to not deal with us according to our sins; to not rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pities (has compassion upon) *his* children, *so* the LORD pities (has compassion upon) them that fear Him. But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.

v5b-6 **But God what**

1. has quickened us together

has sovereignly by His power made alive to Him that which was dead to Him – sinners who accept His intervention (1 Cor 2:2)

taken dead fish going with the flow floating down the river and enlivened them to swim against the flow of the world like a salmon swimming upstream to be fruitful and multiply

This phrase, in the original Greek manuscript, must have been in the minds of the KJV translators, leading them to insert *hath he quickened* into the text in v1

But by ignoring their insertion in v1 we see the stark contrast we must see: the darkness of man's heart (v1-3) in contrast to the Light of God's heart (v4-10)

Did God quicken/enliven us because we were wonderful? Loveable?

Even just pleasant to be around?

Absolutely not!

Against the dark backdrop of our sinful hearts we see very clearly the beauty of God's mercy and grace and love

Like when a jeweler puts a diamond on a black velvet pad and shines a light on it, revealing its radiance and beauty!

The black velvet pad is...me and you in our trespasses and sins

The black velvet pad with a diamond on it is you and me "bearing" God's mercy and grace and love

The black velvet pad with a Light shining on the diamond is God's beauty and glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ

Rabbit trail: New Jerusalem where God Who is pure Light dwells with us
Rev 21:19-20

Notice: diamond is not included, not a "building material"

In our days, scientists have been able to generate pure light

- light from one direction, straight light
- lasers
- cross-polarized light (light filtered with lens placed at right angles)

When pure light is directed at the stones of New Jerusalem, their natural color "explodes" into even more brilliant color

When pure light is directed at diamonds (and rubies and garnets), they lose their color and brilliance, turn black as coal

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We are quickened/enlivened

- together...the Family of God
 - with Christ...as is the Head, so is the Body
- so imagine the beauty that God is going to reveal
- in us...Jesus-kind, no longer merely man-kind!
 - in New Jerusalem when we dwell with Him forever!

And parenthetically, we

- are no longer dead-in-sin and dead to God
- but are now dead-to-sin and alive to God

because of God's grace

In addition to His mercy, not given what we deserve (justice), but also His grace, given what we do not deserve (forgiveness)

2. has raised us up together
not just unto physical life, only to die again ala Lazarus etc
but unto eternal physical life (new body) and eternal spiritual life

raised up, lifted up, us who have humbled ourselves in the sight of God

- together...the Family of God
- (with Christ, v5b) and (in Christ, v6b)
- from the lowest place to the very highest place...Ch 1:21

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth
eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy
place, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit
(Is 57:15a)

3. made us sit
to rest, NOT to strive or labor
- together...the Family of God, with Him and each other
 - in heaven...the home of our Father, our home
 - in Christ Jesus...the Body and Bride of Christ

v7 **But God why**

That...for this purpose

in the ages to come

- during the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth
- forever in the New Heaven and New Earth

He might shew...declare, display, and demonstrate

the exceeding riches...the unsearchable and immeasurable and unquantifiable wealth

of His grace in His kindness...the fulness of His nature and His heart

Not here and not now but later, God He will declare, display, and demonstrate the
fulness of His nature and His heart!

toward us...v1 before God intervened in our sorry lives

i.e. the best for God's children is yet to come!

through Jesus Christ...

- But God Who "en"/in Jesus Christ
- But God because "en"/in Jesus Christ
- But God what "en"/in Jesus Christ
- But God why "en"/in Jesus Christ

How can we get even a glimpse of what our Father is saying to us in this verse,
the magnitude of the “Why” of “But God”?

Meditating (thinking and listening) on this verse, I was focused on 2 words

1. shew
2. us

in reverse order

Us...the children of God, born-again of the Spirit of God

How did God intervene in our sorry lives, individually or as a group?

Individually

How will our Father declare, display, and demonstrate the fulness of His nature
and His heart, individually or as a group?

Both

Why both?

How does a Father interact with His children, individually or as a group/Family?

Both

e.g. “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Rev 21:4)
requires a very personal, intimate, and individual touch!

That means we have “Abba Father” time in the ages to come, both individually
and as a group/Family!
(individually...1:1...wrap your head around that!)

Shew...declare, display, and demonstrate the fulness of His nature and His heart,
both individually and as a group/Family

A. As a Family

1. A revelation of the “tapestry” of unspeakable mystery and beauty He
“quilted” in His creation and during mankind’s time in this world,
the result of the sum of Rom 8:28

2. [*Story of Civilization* by Will and Ariel Durant]
10 volumes of between 800 and 1200 pages each
From Egypt and Mesopotamia to Europe until 1815

There are other volumes for civilizations in China, Americas,
Africa, etc, so imagine all those volumes being here too

By way of illustration, think of these as the books of God,
documenting His nature and His heart

Then consider what the Holy Spirit said about Jesus

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Every page as 1000 years of the Infinite God declaring, displaying, and demonstrating the fulness of His nature and His heart to us, His Family

B. Individually, in our intimate 1:1 Abba Father time

1. All our "Why?"s will be answered
Why did _____ happen?
Why did _____ not happen?
Why did You not answer my prayer?
Why did You answer my prayer the way You did?

He will lovingly shew/declare/display/demonstrate to me/you individually the fulness of how

- He worked all things together for good to them that love Him, to them who are the called according to *His* purpose. (Rom 8:28)
- His grace is sufficient for me: for His strength was made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9)

I want to know, don't you?
Our Father will shew us individually

2. How He protected me/you from harm and evil when I/you never knew He was there
 - the fulness of His working in all the circumstances of my/your life
 - the fulness behind all the fingerprints we saw as well as all the ones we didn't see
3. What impact each of "my" good works had on the lives of others (Matt 5:16, further explained in v10)

Given who we naturally are and what we naturally do (v1), how can this possibly be?

v8-9 Because God intervened in our sorry lives and has saved us from the wages of our sin, spiritual death, eternal death, the 2nd death

By grace...God's favor that cannot be earned but is gladly given because He so chooses through faith...

- believing what God has said and done
- trusting 1 Cor 15:3-4 is pleasing to the Father as satisfaction for His justice
- leaning on Jesus to make us new, clean, and pleasing to the Father

But without faith (trusting, leaning on) *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God (comes personally, every person must come personally) must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder (the magnitude of which is unimaginable!) of them that diligently seek him. (Heb 11:6)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, (in context, the sin is self-righteousness), and let us run with patience (cheerful endurance) the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith (Heb 12:1-2a)

Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith **of** Jesus Christ (only per the *RT*) unto all and upon all them that believe: (Rom 3:22)

and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God

Whose faith saves us?!

Matt 17:19-21

Matt 19:25-26

What are the gifts of God?

- grace...the justifiable forgiveness of all our trespasses and sins
- faith...Heb 11:1, Rom 12:3
- salvation, the defeat of death our enemy (1 Cor 15:26, Heb 2:14-15) paid for in full by the Giver

not of works lest any man should boast

Even if

- I earned an "Atta boy!", a "gold star", for every good work I did for God of my own doing
- and my "gold stars" were equal in number to the stars in the universe

what will it get me when I stand before God based on my righteousness rather than on the righteousness of God which is by faith of Christ?

Hell, because my works for God do not count toward salvation from my trespasses and sins, only Jesus' work counts toward my salvation

Wow!

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

Therefore

- what person pays for (works to earn) a gift they are given?!
- what person has ever defeated death and made himself alive forever?
- what person would dare compare their righteousness/worthiness to God's (*Story of Civilization*, etc, etc, etc)
- what person in their right mind would even think about trying to earn God's righteousness (*Story of Civilization*, etc, etc, etc)?!
- what person, knowing what God has said and done, would not cry out to God to intervene in their sorry life?!

But not all do...in fact most do not (Matt 7:13-14)

Because of the blindness of pride and unbelief

Is 30:8-15

There will be absolutely NO braggarts in God's Home among God's Family!!!

There will be absolutely NO defiant, self-righteous deniers in heaven!

There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)

No one comes to the Father but by Jesus Christ (John 14:6)

The only way of salvation but by grace thru faith, **faith that is in Me** (Acts 26:18)

Salvation from eternal death is God's work and God's gift to whosoever will receive/believe/trust/lean on

For...because

v10 we are God's workmanship
workmanship (English) = *poiema* (Greek)
from which we get the English word "poem"

We are God's poem, a work of art and an expression of His being

We are created in Christ Jesus...made new creatures, Jesus-kind...unto good works.

It is the Father's will and plan that those still dead-in-sin and dead-to-Him would see Him in us, so that they too would

- believe, humble themselves before Him, and be made dead-to-sin and alive-to-God
- by grace thru faith, receive His gift of salvation from spiritual death, eternal death

God Who alone is good expresses Himself to those who are not good in the lives of those
He has made good (restored to the image of God)

Our “reflections” of Him in the daily circumstances of our lives in this world and in all
our relationships are the good works He has ordained us to walk in

That is a right response to God’s intervention in our lives!

Phil 2:12-13

2 Cor 5:15 he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto
themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Believer/Follower

Reflect Jesus to those around us by

- presenting your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is*
your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye
transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that
good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom 12:1-2)
- receiving power from on high to be the witness of Jesus Christ
(Acts 1:8, Matt 28:20)
- doing justly, and loving mercy, and walking humbly with thy God
(Micah 6:8b)
- forgiving as we have been forgiven (Matt 6:14-15)
- loving our neighbor as ourself (James 2:8, 1 John 4:19)

If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow
me. (Matt 16:24)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your
Father which is in heaven. (Matt 5:16), how we live/think/speak/act as a
testimony of our Father

Unbeliever

Please hear what God is saying to you in this passage

- you are a sinner, an grievous offense to God, dead-in-sin...
you are not a good person
- But God...
 - loves you
 - sent Jesus Christ to die for your sins, be buried, and raised unto eternal
life on the 3rd day
 - God is offering you a gift
 - grace – forgiveness
 - faith – to lean on Jesus to save you from the 2nd death
 - salvation – Life

Will you accept His gift?

If so, pray along with me...