

## **SPIRITUAL DEATH**

We begin a new series of lessons entitled, “Saved by Grace.” The context for these lessons will be Eph.2:1-10.

Eph.2:1-10 consist of three Greek sentences: 2:1-7; 8-9; 10. We will divide Eph.2:1-7 into these three parts.

- Eph.2:1-3 We are physical born spiritual dead in Adam.
- Eph.2:4 It takes God to get us out of our position in Adam. and into a position in Christ.
- Eph.2:5-7 We must be saved by God’s grace to be spiritual alive in Christ.

**This lesson will study four aspects of Spiritual Death because of every unbeliever’s position in Adam.**

### **1. In Eph.2:1, Paul explains that every member of the human race is physically born spiritually dead because of Adam’s sin (Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12).**

We will break down Eph.2:1 into six parts to help us understand Spiritual Death.

- **1<sup>st</sup> And** (continuative conj.) A trailer hitch connecting Eph.2:1-10 to the previous context (spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph.1:3-23).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> You (prolepsis** use of personal pronoun for emphasis (su/ a.pl.m/ **you all**) – This explains the state of every believer prior to salvation. You do not need this personal pronoun since it is included in the participle (eimi).
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Were** (eimi/ p.a.ptc.a.pl.m) [Absolute Status Quo (ASQ) verb of existence - “being” - not were) It is connected with three eimi (p.a.ptc) (Eph.2:1, 4, 5) – [Eph.2:1] (spiritual dead position in first Adam) and Eph.2:5 (spiritual alive position in last Adam/ 1 Cor.15:45) – [Eph.2:4] is the bridge from Eph.2:13 to Eph.2:5-10.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Dead** (nekros/ a.pl.m) – We will see in point 2 that this is not typical Greek word used for spiritual death. Nekros is used to emphasize that spiritual death occurs inside a living body of an unbeliever (Col.2:12-14; Rom.8:9-11).
- **5<sup>th</sup> In the transgressions** (l.pl.n) and (adjunctive conj. joining nouns) **and the sins** (l.pl.f) - status of unbeliever because of Adam’s original sin.
- **6<sup>th</sup> You** (su/ g.pl.m/ personal pronoun) – **You all** – state of every member of the human race before grace salvation – spiritually dead while physically alive (2:1-3). This was the status of every believer prior to grace salvation.

### **2. The doctrinal concept of spiritual death comes from Gen.2:17.**

**“But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat (lo akal/ kal impf.2ps) [prohibitive with consequence] (from it), for in the day that you eat (akal/ kal infin) [eating] from it you will surely die (muth/kal infin/ muth kal impf) [dying you will die].”**

**Hebrew Grammar:** The absolute kal infinitive placed before the finite verb (kal impf) intensifies the finite verb.

- Note the Hebrew grammar connection between eating and dying in Gen.2:17.

### **The typical Greek word for spiritual death is thanatos.**

(Rom.5:12) “Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death (ho thanatos) through sin, and so death (ho thanatos/ spiritual) spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Rom.5:14, 17, and 21; John 5:24)

(1 Cor.15:20) “Christ has been raised from the dead” (nekros).

(1 Cor.15:21) “Since by man came death (thantos) and resurrection of the dead (nekros).

(1 Cor.15:22) “in Adam all die (apothnesko) and in Christ all shall be made alive.

(1 Pet.3:18) “For Christ also died (apothnesko/ a.a.ind.3ps) [Sacrificial sin-spiritual death offering]

(1 Pet.1:19; Rom.5:8; Ps.22:1) for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order to bring us to God, having been put to death (thanatoo/ perf.p.ptc.n.s.m) in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

### **3. Spiritual death means the unbeliever is dead regarding a Father-son relationship with God. The unbeliever is separated from this relationship with God in time (spiritual dead in a living body).**

Jesus told Nicodemus, a very religious person, that he must be “born again” in order to see and to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:1-21).

**Paul taught that all mankind needed to be saved because they were sinners.** A spiritually dead person is a sinner.

(1 Tim.1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinner** (Hamartolos), among whom I am foremost of all.”

(Rom.5:8, 19) “But God demonstrated His love towards us, in that while we were yet **sinners**, Christ died for us.”

### **4. Sinners are illegitimate children adopted by God’s grace salvation through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).**

(Heb.12:7-8) “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as sons; for what son is there whom the father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

**Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is adopted by redemption from the slave market of Adam’s sin.**

(Gal.4:5) “In order that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons.”

(Gal.4:7) “Therefore we are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an **heir** through God.”