

THE UNBELIEVER'S STATUS

In our last study we covered a lot of Greek grammar of our lesson text. Its importance was to show Paul's teaching method of laying out doctrines regarding every believer's Former Life as an unbeliever. When we hear Christian testimonies of their Former Life, they usually talk about how they personally lived prior to salvation whether good or bad.

While this was true also of Paul (Phil.3:1-9; 1 Tim.1:15), this is not what Paul is teaching in Eph.2:1-3. Paul is teaching that all unbelievers need to be saved the same way for the same reason (1 Cor.15:3-4, **22**; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Paul included himself formerly in this group of unbelievers with the phrase, "we too all." (Eph.2:3)

This lesson will study three aspects of the spiritual Status of Unbelievers in need of grace salvation.

1. Paul opened his study on the Status of Unbelievers - "you all were dead in your trespasses and sins (Eph.2:1)."

Every member of the human race is spiritual dead because of Adam's Original Sin (AOS).

(Rom.5:12) "Therefore, just as through one man's sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Gen.2:17)

This does not become an issue until God-consciousness or gospel hearing (Rom.3:23-24).

Then saved and lost becomes an issue in the unbeliever's life.

(John 5:24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

2. All the activities of unbelievers are under the cosmos diabolicus system of the Devil.

(Eph.2:2). "In which you formerly walked according to (kata+a of norm and standard of CD) the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

- **Unbeliever:** "In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds (ta noema) [something thought out to action] **of the unbelieving** so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Cor.4:4; Luke 18:18-27/ RYR)
- **Believer:** "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds (ta noema) **will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.**" (2 Cor.11:3; Matt.16:21-23/ Peter)

3. **When an unbeliever's life becomes anti-God (Negative Volition at God Consciousness) or anti-Christ (Negative Volition at Gospel Hearing), the unbeliever becomes a son of disobedience (apeitheia) [unpersuadable].**

(Rom.1:22) "Professing to be wise, they became fools." **Exchange** (Rom.1:23, 25, 26)

- (Rom.1:23)
- (Rom.1:25)
- (Rom.1:26)

The son of disobedience's life style (anastrophe) becomes dominated by indulgence of the flesh and mind (Eph.2:3) [Judas Iscariot] (Acts 1:18-19; John 13:27; 17:12) [son of perdition] (Matt.27:5).

Paul explains the process of becoming sons of disobedience by cosmos diabolicus:

(Eph.4:17-19) "walking in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, **because** of the ignorance that is in them, **because** of the hardness of their heart; and having given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."

As sons of disobedience, "we were by nature (**phusis**) [physical] [self-gratification] children of wrath." (Eph.2:3) [Reversionism]

Phusis is used by Paul in **Rom.1:26-28** (natural and unnatural) (Vs.24, 26, 28) ("God gave them over to").

- (Rom.1:24)
- (Rom.1:25)
- (Rom.1:26)
- (Rom.1:27)

(Rom.1:28) "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper."

(Rom.1:20-21) "**For since** the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. **For even though** they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.