

Ephesians 2: 1-10

“Neo-Zombie Revival or The faith of the Neo-Living Dead”

The subject of this section is not given till verse 4 and the subject is **God**. The adjective is riches. So taking this all in we see the verses stressing the graciousness of God’s life-giving power, not the sinfulness of life without God.

3 negative statements are reversed in the event of salvation:

1: dead through trespasses (v1, 5) / made alive in Christ (v5)

The implication is that people can be **trapped** in sin and not know it. How can this be? We need to look at the next verse; People are *“following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, that spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient”*.

Angelic beings **inspire** the evil that men do.

2: living according to passions (v3) / risen in Christ (v6)

3: subject to demonic power (v2, 3b) / seated in the heavenly regions with Christ (v6)

Romans 6: 1-14 especially verses 12-14 state that Christians no longer live under **sin** or the passions of the body.

v8 brings us to the realization or the underlying fact that salvation is entirely God’s gift to mankind and not the result of human **effort**.

Ephesians requires holy and blameless conduct. Hence we recognize that God’s spirit enlightens, cleanses from sin, and sustains the life of holiness.

Conversion implies turning from a life where God was **absent**.

Now we see v10 where every Christian life as preordained by God. And each life has a purpose, good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ignatius of Loyola (1556) composed a process of spiritual discernment for Christians who are seeking to find what God intends for them. The most important rule is, “The love which moves me and makes me choose something has descended from above, from the love of God”.

Surprisingly there is more freedom in this new life than in the life controlled by sin, and death.

Ephesians 2: 1-10

“Neo-Zombie Revival or The faith of the Neo-Living Dead”

Neo-Zombie revival or Faith of the new living dead. This may sound strange but in actuality this is what Christianity is all about.

Take everything you know about Christianity and throw it out the window. Most of us look at it as a set of rules that rob us of all joy and life. We see it as a way for God to suppress our fun and freedom. We see a group of outdated trying to be hip people who have no real grasp of reality or the world we live in. These people just want to control us and our lives. We see them as the embodiment of all that is wrong in the world. We want them eliminated quickly. Sure there may be one or two that are ok, like Pope John Paul II or Mother Teresa, or maybe even Billy Graham. They are grandfatherly types who know they are close to death and are just trying to get into heaven. I however am young and want to experience all that life has. I can wait till I am older to worry about getting on God’s good side, right now I want to live. And if I did pick a religion it would be a cool one or a hodge-podge of all of them set to my rules, and standards.

It would condone what I like and want to do and exclude anything that would make me feel bad or guilty, or place any judgment on others in any way shape or form.

Sounds perfect. You have just described the religion of the prince of the power of the air. From a world stand point he has got it going on....

Let’s break this section down.

The **subject of this section is not given till verse 4 and the subject is God. The adjective is riches.** So taking this all in we see the verses stressing the graciousness of God’s life-giving power, not the sinfulness of life without God.

3 negative statements are reversed in the event of salvation:

1: dead through trespasses (v1, 5) / made alive in Christ (v5)

The implication is that **people can be trapped in sin and not know it.** How can this be? **How can people be trapped in sin and not know it?** We need to look at the next verse; People are *“following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, that spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient”*.

Angelic beings inspire the evil that men do.

2: living according to passions (v3) / risen in Christ (v6)

v3 refers to those trapped in sin as following the desires or urgings of the flesh and thought.

Implies that a personal power of evil is at work in leading people to sin.

Some people might like this section because they use the old phrase the devil made me do it. That would work except that we have free will and the Holy Spirit is working within us to enlighten us to the truth.

3: subject to demonic power (v2, 3b) / seated in the heavenly regions with Christ (v6)
Romans 6: 1-14 especially verses 12-14 state that Christians are no longer live under sin or the passions of the body.

v8 brings us to the realization or the underlying fact that salvation is entirely God's gift to mankind and not the result of human effort.

Ephesians requires holy and blameless conduct. Hence we recognize that God's spirit enlightens, cleanses from sin, and sustains the life of holiness.

Conversion implies turning from a life where God was absent.

The best example of understanding how this all works comes from the modern recovery movement.

1: Before we can see our life as in darkness, we must first experience self-recognition and conversion.

2: No one can make the journey from a way of life that is marked by death to a new life single-handedly. It doesn't only take the power of the person, but the power of God to break the deadly patters of the old life.

Now we see v10 where every Christian life as preordained by God. And each life has a purpose, good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ignatius of Loyola (1556) composed a process of spiritual discernment for Christians who are seeking to find what God intends for them. The most important rule is, "The love which moves me and makes me choose something has descended from above, from the love of God".

Hence the order of life begins with God first, and then the daily concerns of life remain part of the Christian experience, but they now belong to something greater.

Surprisingly there is more freedom in this new life than in the life controlled by sin, and death.

Use an acorn from my yard and show one without a tree and one with a tree growing out of it.