**Ephesus: Before & After Conversion**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 18th, 2018

Text: Eph. 2:1-18

### Intro

1. The Ephesian saints stand as examples of obedience to God’s word.
2. Once they obeyed they also demonstrated the transforming power of the gospel! (Before & After)
3. Many forms of advertising use pictures of the “Before” and the “After.”
   1. A Weight loss commercial shows pictures of a person before & after the product.
   2. The purpose of this type of advertising is to show what the product will do.
4. In Eph. 2:1-18*,* Paul pictures one in sin and then contrasts this with the spiritual condition of one in Christ saved by God’s grace.
   1. This “before” & “after” the gospel picture shows the power of the “gospel of salvation” *(Eph. 1:13)* to really change people’s lives (Rom. 1:16: “Power of God for salvation”).
   2. Paul reminds them of what they were before the gospel and what they became after!
5. True conversion to Christ involves a real change of heart, life, and spiritual state! *(Mt. 18:3; Acts 3:19)*

#### ***Before*** Conversion, One Is “Dead in Sins”

* 1. Eph. 2:1: “Dead in sins.”
  2. “Dead” means separated.
     1. Js. 2:26: Physical death results when the spirit of man is separated from the fleshly body.
     2. *Eph. 2:1:* Spiritual death, or separation from God because of man’s sins and transgressions.
  3. Spiritual death, or separation from God, is caused by:
     1. Eph. 2:2: Men walking “according to the course of this world.”
     2. Eph. 2:2: Having a spirit of “disobedience.”
     3. Eph. 2:3: “Indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind.”
  4. *After* conversion, one is “dead to sin” & “Alive in Christ” – Rom*.*6:1-7
     1. Rom. 6:1: One who is “dead to sin” does not “continue in” sinful living.
     2. Rom. 6:4: One who is “dead to sin” lives a “new life.”
     3. Rom. 6:6: One who is “dead to sin” does not “serve sin.”
     4. Rom. 6:11: One who is “dead to sin” is “alive unto God.”
     5. Eph. 2:4-5: Though dead in our sins, He “made us alive together with Christ.”
  5. Before: Dead in sin. After: Alive in Christ!

#### ***Before*** Conversion, One “Walks According to the Course of This World”

* 1. Eph. 2:2: “The course of this world.”
  2. The “course” of “this world” means the “cycle or present round of things.” (Vine, Vol. I, p. 249.)
     1. Some characteristics typical of the “course of this world”:
        1. *Eph. 4:17:* A vain mind (futile, empty, profitless)
        2. *Eph. 4:19:* A life devoted to lasciviousness and uncleanness.
        3. *Gal. 5:19-21:* The “works of the flesh.”
        4. I Cor. 6:9-10: Unrighteousness.
     2. Eph. 2:2: The basic spirit of the world is disobedience toward God and godly living. (Eph. 5:6)
  3. The life of one walking “according to the course of this world” is:
     1. I Pet. 1:18: A “futile” or empty life. (Rom. 6:21: Reward is death)
  4. *After* conversion, one “walks in good works” – Eph. 2:10
     1. “Good” (in connection with works), “describes that which, being good in its character to constitution, is beneficial in its effect.” (Vine, Col. II, p. 163)
     2. II Tim. 3:16-17: These “good works” are set forth in God’s word.
     3. Eph. 3:20-21: After conversion, one can use his life to the glory of God.
     4. Eph. 5:7-17: Walk in the light, walk as being wise, know God’s will!
     5. Mt. 5:16: One may use his life to lead others to glorify God.
  5. Before: Walked according to the world. After: Walks in good works!

#### ***Before*** Conversion, One Is a “Child of Wrath”

* 1. Eph. 2:3: “Child of wrath.”
  2. The same book of Ephesians, which reveals God’s great love, mercy, and grace *(Eph. 2:4-5),* also reveals His wrath *(Eph. 5:6).*
     1. Eph. 5:6: The “children of disobedience” shall know the wrath of God.
     2. *Heb. 10:26,31:* To sin willfully is to expect judgment. It is a “terrifying thing” to fall into the hands of the living God!
     3. II Cor. 5:10-11: Paul appreciated the truth concerning God’s wrath and he, therefore, sought to lead men to salvation in Christ.
     4. Rom. 2:5-10: The “day of wrath” is the Day of Judgment.
  3. Men have never sinned with impunity!
     1. Adam and Eve died (were separated from God) because of sin *(Gen. 3).*
     2. *Rom. 6:23:* The wages of sin is death!
  4. *After* conversion, one is a child of God.
     1. Eph. 2:16: He is reconciled to God (Rom. 5:10).
     2. Eph. 2:18: He has access to the Father.
     3. Eph. 2:19: He is in God’s household (family – I Jn. 3:1).
     4. Rom. 8:14-17: He is an “heir of God” and the inheritance is “reserved in heaven” *(I Peter 1:3-5) – “saved from the wrath of God” (Rom. 5:8-10)*
  5. Before: A child of wrath. After: A child of God!

## Conclusion

1. Eph. 1:13; Rom. 1:16: There is power in the gospel by which men are saved from sin.
2. There is a great change involved in conversion. This change demonstrates the love of God, the power of Christ’s blood, and the power of the gospel *(Rom. 1:16).*
3. *Before* Conversion, one is:
   1. Dead in sin.
   2. One who walks according to the course of the world.
   3. A child of wrath (set for destruction).
4. *After* Conversion, one is:
   1. Alive in Christ.
   2. One who walks in good works.
   3. A child of God (heirs with Christ).
5. The gospel changes lives from darkness of sin to light and hope of Heaven!
6. The gospel is God’s power to save – Have you obeyed its call?
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
8. If a Christian in error, Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!