

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:1-5

“And you he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as others. But god, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),....”

INTRODUCTION

In the Old Testament.....Christ concealed

In the New Testament.....Christ revealed

The book of Ephesians....the Swiss Alps of scripture.....setting out clearly the finished work of Christ and the believer's relationship with Him.

SUB TITLE “FROM DEATH TO LIFE “

Eph 2:1.....”made alive” implies that once upon a time we were dead or lifeless.

Everyone wants to live forever, if not here and now, certainly in an afterlife.

Visit cemeteries and mausoleums and consider the lengths that different cultures go to in order to preserve bodies in the hope of living for ever.

A PICTURE OF DEATH

Ephesian 2 : 1” Dead in trespasses and sins”

Romans 3 : 23.. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

The disobedience of Adam (his sin) condemned all humankind to bear a burden of a sin nature.

This separates mankind from God and prevents us having a relationship with Him.

The full ramifications of the sin nature are found in Eph 2 : 2 and 3.

BUT GOD

Eph 2 : 4 “.....**RICH in MERCY....**” Because of His great love for us” made us alive”.

The Amplified Bible.....” Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us....”

Wuest’s translation.....” Being wealthy in the sphere of mercy...”

ALIVE

Eph 2 : 5 “.....made us alive together with Christ...”

Greek word SUNZOOPOIEO means to “ quicken together with, to make alive with “

English word quicken.....to restore to life

to become alive, to receive life

to give and preserve life

See **Romans 8**.....The Apostle Paul sets out the freedom believer's have....no longer bound by a sin nature, BUT NOW, in Christ we have spiritual life.

Note Rom 8 : 10 and 11

AN EXPLANATION

1 Thessalonians 5 : 23 “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

The Greek word preserve has the following sense.....
Body, Soul , Spirit....the continuous preservation of the believer as a single, complete act, without reference to the time in its accomplishment!

THE QUESTION

How does all this take place in us?

Refer to Gospel of John, chapter three.

Note particularly verses 3, 5 and 6.

See also Romans chapter 10 and verses 9, 10 and 13