

The Lord or the World - Your Choice

Ephesians 2:1-10

Intro:

1. You are offered choices in this life all the time.
2. You reap the benefit - or suffer the consequences - of those choices. That's how you eventually learn to make right choices.
3. Most of the wrong choices you make have only temporary consequences.
 - a. Your car runs out of gas - you walk.
 - b. You say something unkind or thoughtless - you have to apologize or lose a relationship.
 - c. **ILL: Parenting using natural or logical consequences.**
4. The one choice you must make, because it has permanent consequences, is what do you do with the Lord Jesus? You Must make a choice!

I. v1-3 - You Can Choose the World & Be Spiritually Dead

- A. **v2** - Satan - the ruler of the kingdom of the air - provides the temptations of the world.
1. The pressures of your non believing friends & associates tempt you to go the worldly route.
 2. **Rom 12:2** (Phillips Paraphrase) - **Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within . . .**
- B. How do you respond?
1. **v1** - You walk into a Satan controlled life.
 - a. **Transgression** (παράπτωμα) = to trip, take a false step, so - fall away.
 - b. **Sin** (ἁμαρτία) = a missing of the mark, an archer missing the target.
 2. You simply let your desires control you. **Jam 1:14** - . . . **each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.**
- C. What are the results of the world controlled life?
1. We all sin - we all join the party!
 - a. **Rom 3:10** - **There is no one righteous, not even one . . .**
 - b. **Rom 3:23** - . . . **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .**
 2. **v3** - As a result, we become objects of God's wrath!

II. v4-10 - You Can Choose Lord Jesus & Be Made Spiritually Alive

- A. God provides an opportunity for you to be His instead of Satan's property.
1. What is the gift of God?
 - a. **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.** - v8-9
 - b. Τῇ γὰρ χάρτι ἐστε σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον· οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων, ἵνα μή τις καυχῆσθαι.
 - c. Case endings solve this problem!
 1. **Grace** (χάρτι), God's unmerited favor, is **dative**. That's the motivation behind the gift.
 2. **Faith** (πίστεως), trusting Lord Jesus as Savior, is **genitive**. That's the way of obtaining the gift.
 3. **Gift** (δῶρον) & **saved** (σεσωσμένοι) are both **nominative**, so - salvation is the gift of God.
 2. **v7** - What is the reason for the gift? God wants you to know His kindness!

B. How do you respond?

1. **v9** - How not to respond. - You don't respond by trying to do good things to earn salvation!
 - a. If life were a giant bookkeeping system where your merits would outweigh your demerits, you would be earning your way to heaven. Most people believe this is the way!
 - b. If this way were true, you could pound on the gates of heaven & demand entrance.
 - c. You could brag about how good you have been.
2. **v8** - How to respond. You respond by faith.
 - a. Faith is committing yourself to Jesus as Lord & Savior of your life.
 - b. Faith is trusting that Lord Jesus will fulfill His promises to you.
 - c. Faith is commitment seen in a Holy Spirit controlled life.

C. v10 - What are the results of a Holy Spirit controlled life? - OR - What happens when you respond to God's grace & accept His gift of salvation?

1. You become God's **workmanship** - His created product.
2. You begin living the **good works** life God had originally created you for.
3. What's the bottom line? - You do good works because of God's gift - not in order to get it!

**"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."**

**I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
(II Cor 6:2)**

ILL: "Come as You Are - Now"

**Now is the day of salvation.
Don't put it off!**

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