

Get a Life!

*Ephesians*

Dead  
Or  
Alive?

Lesson Eight

# Get a Life!

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## *Ephesians*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

### Dead Or Alive?

**Lesson Goal:** To help students to understand that, without Christ, they are spiritually dead.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 2:20;

When we think of someone being dead, we may picture someone in a casket. They are not breathing, their heart is not beating. They are no longer alive. However, the Apostle Paul, in Ephesians, lets us know that you can be both alive and dead at the same time. He is talking about spiritual life and death.

Death is a way of life for those who do not believe in Jesus. What does that mean? Remember when Jesus was preaching the “Sermon On The Mount?” He said that there were two ways of living. One was the wide road that leads to catastrophe, and the other was the narrow road that leads to real life. (Mathew 7:13, 14) He said that many, many are on the wide road, but very few are on the narrow road. If you are living without the grace of God, His salvation, you are on the wide road that will ultimately get you to catastrophe... eternal death. Those who live their lives on the wide road are not guaranteed eternal life like those who are living on the narrow road...the way taught by Jesus.

Ephesians tells us that this spiritual death is characterized by “transgressions and sins.” If you could read the Greek words that Paul used when he wrote this, only a few years after Jesus died, you would see that the words are really word pictures. The word translated “transgressions” literally means to miss. It is a word that refers to someone shooting at a target and missing...maybe the arrow falls short of the target. Paul said, in another place, “For all have sinned and *fall short* of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) The other word, translated “sins” often refers to something more like a mistake because one is not careful. You might take the wrong road because you are not paying attention. The consequences are the same in both cases. You don’t do what should be done. So, there are two signs of a life that is headed for destruction: (1) Not doing what should be done...missing the mark; and (2) living carelessly so that we do harmful things even though they are not deliberate. It is a doomed life...spiritually dead already.

Another sign of spiritual death, Ephesians says, is “you followed the ways of this world.” (Ephesians 1:2) That refers to the way we behave in our everyday life. He is emphasizing the fact that spiritual death is the norm for humans, from the time Adam and Eve chose that kind of everyday living. The behavior doesn’t necessarily have to be bad behavior, it is just not Holy Spirit guided behavior. Living according to “the ways of this world” means that we don’t feel a need to live better than what the world requires in behavior. Our standards are set really low. If you are as good as the next guy, that is enough.

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Tim wanted to fit in with the crowd. His mom said, “Son, you are going to get into bad trouble!” Tim kept saying, “But Mom, everyone is doing it.” He couldn’t see why he should try to be better, or different, than anyone else. So, he just kept on doing the drugs and soon began to have to take things that didn’t belong to him so that he could afford to buy more drugs. Soon the drugs were controlling Tim...he had to have them just to get through the day. Sin is like that! We sin, at first, just because we can, and we think that we will always be in control. However, sin takes over and is soon in charge. Paul calls it “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.” (Ephesians 2:3)

Spiritual death is built into the fact that we are human. We don’t choose spiritual death. John 3:18 (*The Message*) says, “Anyone who trusts Him (Jesus) is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust Him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to Him.”

Ephesians says that Satan, referred to here as “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient,” (Ephesians 2:2) is controlling those who are following the ways of the world. It’s not as if humans are choosing to follow Satan, though some do. It is just a fact that if you are not following Jesus, by choice, your only option is to follow Satan...by default.

So, dead or alive? The Bible says that we are dead from the time we are born until we choose to follow Jesus. Life...real life...comes from God!

**Memory Verse:** “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world...” (Ephesians 2:1, 2)

\*Underlined sentences in the Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

# Student Worksheet

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### Dead Or Alive?

**Memory Verse:** “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world...” (Ephesians 2:1, 2)

>The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians, lets us know that you can be both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_...at the same time. He is talking about \_\_\_\_\_ life and death.

>If you are living without the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, His salvation, you are on the \_\_\_\_\_ road that will ultimately get you to catastrophe...eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

>The word translated “transgressions” literally means to \_\_\_\_\_.

>The other word, translated “sins” often refers to something more like a \_\_\_\_\_ because one is not careful.

>Living according to “the ways of this world” means that we don’t feel a \_\_\_\_\_ to live better than what the world requires in \_\_\_\_\_.

>We sin, at first, just because we can, and we think that we will always be in \_\_\_\_\_. However, sin takes over and is soon \_\_\_\_\_.

>The Bible says that we are \_\_\_\_\_ from the time we are \_\_\_\_\_ until we choose to follow \_\_\_\_\_.  
Life...real life...comes from \_\_\_\_\_.

### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.