

The Christian Struggle

Ephesians 2

- ▶ **1** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

▶ followed the ways of this world



- ▶ gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts



- ▶ the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



How are we saved from these?

- ▶ Gal 2: 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

What is our responsibility?

- ▶ 13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
- ▶ **16. So** I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 17 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.