

BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Ephesians 2:1-10

- I. **WE WERE** (1-3; 1 Cor 2:14; Col 3:5-7; Tit 3:3)—without Christ we *would be*
- A. **Spiritually Dead** (Gen 2:17; 2 Cor 15:22)—unable reform or recover; helpless
- B. **Disobedient** (Tit 3:3)—rebellious, not obeying God, acting as His enemies
1. **Following the World** (Jn 15:18-19; Jam 4:4; 1 Jn 4:5; 1 Cor 2:14)—makes us enemies of God
 2. **Serving the Devil** (Jn 8:44; 12:31; 14:30; 2 Cor 4:4)—deceitful, cruel master
 - a. **Following** —prince of the power of the air—ruler of this fallen world in opposition to God
 - b. **Being used by him**—He works on, in and through his slaves
 3. **Indulging Sinful Desires** (1 Thes 4:3-8; 1 Jn 2:15-16; Gal 5:16;)—contrary to God's character and the Holy Spirit's presence
 - a. **Living in passions of our flesh**
 - b. **Carrying out desires of the body and mind**
- C. **Deserving Wrath** (Rom 1:18)—there but for the grace of God...
- II. **BUT GOD** (4-7)
- A. **His Nature** (4-5a; Ps 103:8-12, 17; Jn 3:16; 15:13)
1. **Rich Mercy** (Lk 6:36; 2 Pet 3:9; Jam 1:20)—not just a little!
 2. **Great Love** (Jn 15:13; Rom 5:8; 1 Jn 4:8-10; Jer 31:3)—not average!
- B. **His Action** (5b-6)
1. **Made us alive** —a miracle of God; He *raised the dead!*
 2. **Raised us up** —enemy w/o prospect to sitting w Jesus at God's right hand!
 3. **Seated us in heavenly places**—spiritually our position *now*
- C. **His Motive** (7; 2 Sam 9)—loving kindness
- D. **His Agent** (6-7)—we did not earn any of these favors; *Jesus did it for us!*

III. OUR SALVATION (8-9)

A. By Grace (Rom 3:24; 11:6; 2 Cor 8:9; Tit 3:7)—undeserved favor; God’s work of redemption through the sacrificial atonement of Christ

B. Through Faith (Jn 1:12; 3:15-16; Rom 4:16; 5:1-2)—*saving* faith is hearing, understanding, believing, calling upon Christ for salvation, embracing Him as Lord

1. The means by which we appropriate what God offers

2. Takes place in the heart (Rom 10:9-10)—intellect, affection and will

3. Given by the Holy Spirit (8b; Jn 14:17)

a. He regenerates (Jn 1:12-13; 3:5)—brings from spiritual death to life

b. He gives spiritual sight (Jn 3:3; 2 Cor 4:4, 6)—to see, recognize

4. Produces action (Heb 11; Jam 2:17-24)—responds, acts in accordance with

C. The Gift of God (Rom 3:23; 4:4; 6:23)—grace itself *and* faith to receive it

D. What It Is NOT—not something we are capable of achieving

1. Not your own doing (Eph 1:4,5,11)—or even your own choosing

2. Not by your works (Rom 3:27-28; 4:4; Gal 2:16; Tit 3:4-5)—Jesus had to earn it for us

3. Not conducive to pride (Jer 9:23-24; Rom 4:2-8; 1 Cor 1:27-31; 2 Cor 10:17)—no one can boast

IV. OUR WORKS (10; Tit 3:5-8; Jn 15:5;)—*result*, not *cause* of our salvation

A. We are God’s workmanship (Ps 100:3)—God gets glory for beautiful saints

B. Created for Good Works (Tit 3:8)—God’s purpose, design, plan

C. God prepared in advance (Est 4:14; Isa 44:28)—us and particular works for us

D. That we should walk in them (Ex 20:2; Rom 6:13, 19)—already saved, now walk this way

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