

Palmetto Baptist Church: April 19, 2020

Saved by Grace Alone: Ephesians 2:1-10

Verses 1-10 is one long sentence in the Greek.

“God helps those who help themselves” is not from the Bible but from ancient Greeks. As Paul emphasizes in this section, the truth is the exact opposite: God helps the helpless! Even more, he helps his enemies who have transgressed His holy law.¹

Definition of Grace: unmerited favor of God toward man

Kids: Draw a picture of your favorite Christmas present or birthday gift.

We can divide the sentence into three parts:

- 1. Without Christ you are separated from God. (1-3)**
- 2. With Christ you are connected to God. (4-7)**
- 3. Through Christ you are commissioned by God. (8-10)**

- **Past tense:** you were (1a), you once walked (2a), among whom we all once lived (3a), even when we were dead (5a)
- **Future reality:** Ultimate hope: BUT GOD (4a)
 - MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (5)
 - RAISED US UP WITH HIM (6a)
 - SEATED US WITH HIM (6b)
- **Present motivation:** You have been saved to serve. (8-10)
 - Salvation by grace through faith
 - Identifying the good work God has designed for you to accomplish

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^a and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.^b ⁴But^c God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

¹ ESV Study Bible on Ephesians 2:1-10

Illustration: Duke without Elijah 😊

I. Without Christ you are separated from God. (1-3)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...(1)

- **Past tense:** you were (1a), you once walked (2a), among whom we all once lived (3a), even when we were dead (5a)

A. You are hopeless. (1 & 3b)

1. You are separated from God at conception. (1)
 - **Dead in the trespasses:** violations of divine commandments
 - **Dead in the sins:** offenses against God in thought, word, or deed...the problem of missing the mark of God's holiness, righteousness, and perfection)

[John MacArthur Study Bible] **Dead in trespasses and sins.** A sobering reminder of the total sinfulness and lostness from which believers have been redeemed. "In" indicates the realm or sphere in which unregenerate sinners exist. They are not dead because of sinful acts they have committed but because of their sinful nature (cf. Matt. 12:35; 15:18-19).

Matthew 12:35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

Matthew 15:18-19 ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

And were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.(3)

- By nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (3b)

by nature: to be sons and daughters of Adam is to be born into fallen state (Ps. 51:5) and subject to God's condemnation as children of wrath. (ESV Study Bible)

Romans 5:12 ¹²Therefore, just as sin entered **the** world through one man, and death through **sin**, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-

Romans 6:23 ²³For **the** wages of **sin** is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Psalms 14:2-3 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

²in which you once walked...

2. You are separated from God by your actions. (2a)
 - You walked in a continuous pattern of outward rebellion and missing the mark (review the 10 Commandments)

A. *You are hopeless. (1 & 3b)*

B. You are helpless. (2-3a)

² following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^[a] and the mind...

1. You can be seduced by the world. (2a)
(Following the course of this world...)

- **Illustration of the Pied Piper**
- [John MacArthur Study Bible] **course of this world**: This refers to the world order, i.e., humanity's values and standards apart from God and Christ. In 2 Cor. 10:4-5, Paul refers to these ideologies that are like fortresses in which people are imprisoned, need to be set free, and brought captive to Christ and obedience to the truth. **(inherited condition of sin in the world)**
- Course (aiōna: age, power, authority, lordship, rulership) of this world
- Gut-driven ("Lust of the flesh, eyes, pride of life..." I John 2:15-16)

2. You can be swindled by Satan. (2b) (Following the prince of the power of the air... 6:12; John 12:30-32)

prince...spirit: reference to Satan (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4)

John 12:31 ³¹ **Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.**

John 14:30 ³⁰ **I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,**

John 16:11 ¹¹ **concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

2 Corinthians 4:4 ⁴ **In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

a. He wants you to remain ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11; I Peter 5:8; Eph. 6:12)

2 Corinthians 2:11 ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

1 Peter 5:8 ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:12 ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

b. He wants you to remain controlled by his desires. (The spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience... [5:6; I Peter 1:14; Rom. 11:30-32; I Cor. 6:9-10])

Using empty words of false teachers: Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Tempting you to do whatever feels good in the moment: 1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

Tempting you to embrace the theory of evolution as intellectual and scientific. STOP STRUGGLING WITH THE REALITY THAT YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO A CREATOR. This type of lie leads you to the conclusion that you evolved from an animal and therefore have a natural bent toward food, sex, and power. In other words, you are simply acting out what is normal. Romans 11:30-32 ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now ^[a] receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Tempting you to believe that God will overlook some sins. In the end, He will weigh out the good you have done against the bad you have done and let you into heaven. After all, you are not as bad as others. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous ^[a] will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ^[b] ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Sons of disobedience: a Hebrew-inspired phrase like “sons of this world” in contrast to “sons of light” (Lk. 16:8). They belong to the family of those who rebel against the holy and true God. (ESV Study Bible)

Disobedience (apeitheias: disbelief; to refuse to believe or reject the Christian message) (ESV Study Bible)

³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^[a] and the mind... **(intentional decision to give in to the sinful options)**

Passions of our flesh...

- **Passions (epithymiasis:** longing, craving, lust; to strongly desire to have what belongs to someone else and/or to engage in an activity that is morally wrong)
- **Flesh (sarkos:** the physical body and/or the psychological aspect of human nature which contrast with the spiritual nature; in other words, that aspect of human nature which is characterized by or reflects typical human reasoning and desires in contrast with those aspects of human thought and behavior which relate to God and the spiritual life)

Carrying out (present active participle: to perform or practice) **the desires of the body and the mind...**

- **Desires of the body: (sarkos:** the physical body)
- **Desires of the mind: (dianoīōn:** understanding, intelligence, mind)

To escape this hopeless imprisonments requires nothing short of a new birth or new creation (Eph. 2:10)

I. Without Christ you are separated from God (1-3)

A. *You are hopeless. (1 & 3b)*

B. *You are helpless. (2-3a)*

II. With Christ you are connected to God. (4-7)

Illustration: Zoom Bible Study with Tuesday morning LIFE GROUP!

In contrast to the hopeless state of the nonbeliever, Christians exult in the hope because of God's incredible grace and free salvation. Paul accents this grace in contrast to the pre-Christ hopelessness analyzed in vv. 1-3.

⁴But^[c] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so

that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

A. You are made alive together with Christ. (4-5)

1. Based on the rich mercy and great love of God (4)

But God: No hopeless fate looks any grimmer than that which awaits the forlorn company of mankind marching behind the “prince of the power of the air” (v.2) to their destruction under divine wrath. Just when things look the most desolate, Paul utters the greatest short phrase in the history of human speech: “But God!” rich in mercy. (ESV Study Bible)

Rich in mercy: God’s mercy on his helpless enemies flows from his own loving heart, not from anything they have done to deserve it. (ESV Study Bible)

2. Based on the sacrifice and submission of Christ (5)

when you were dead: Paul resumes his original thought, which began with “you were dead” in v. 1. (ESV Study Bible)

Made alive: That is, God gave us regeneration (new spiritual life within). This and the two verbs in v.6 (“raised up” and “seated with”) make up the main verbs of the long sentence in vv. 1-10. Since Christians were dead, they first had to be made alive before they could believe (and God did that together with Christ). This is why salvation is by grace alone. {JDO - talk about Ordo salutis: the order of salvation} (ESV Study Bible)

Ordo salutis (Latin: “**order of salvation**”) refers to a series of conceptual steps within the Christian doctrine of salvation.²

Answer: *Ordo Salutis* is the Latin for “the order of salvation,” which deals with the steps or stages in the salvation of a believer (e.g., election, foreknowledge, predestination, redemption, regeneration, justification, sanctification, glorification—see especially [Romans 8:29-30](#)). There is disagreement within the church concerning this order and about the causal connections among them. Before discussion, it might be helpful to provide some basic definitions of many of the terms involved:

The debate over *ordo salutis* is most keenly developed between the Reformed and Arminian systems. In the Reformed tradition, the *ordo salutis* is election / predestination, followed by evangelism, regeneration, conversion, justification, sanctification, and glorification. In the Arminian camp, the *ordo salutis* is evangelism, followed by faith / election, repentance, regeneration, justification, perseverance, and glorification. These stages may have various distinctions that are not represented here but serve to show the basic differences between the two

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/ordo-salutis.html>

systems. It should be noted that these need not be conceived as chronological steps - many of these stages are seen as distinctions within a single process that all (in one way or another) depend upon the work of God.

It is important to realize that the differences are much more than mere labels. One's *ordo salutis* has as much to do with the cause(s) of salvation itself as it does with salvation stages. For example, the Reformed position has faith as an effect of election rather than a cause of it (as the Arminians have it). Thus, there is a sense in which a person is saved in order to have faith. Where, then, should blame be laid if a person does not believe? The Arminian position has the believer responsible for whether or not God saves him, and thus a person must persevere to the end before he can be assured of salvation. What does this say about a believer's security? These and many other questions are dependent upon the *ordo salutis* for their answers, and it is thus important that a believer understands from which perspective those answers are given.

B. You are raised up with Christ. (6a)

Raised up with him: means that, because of Christ's resurrection, those who believe in him are given a new life spiritually in this age (regeneration). They will also be given renewed physical bodies when Christ returns (future resurrection). (ESV Study Bible)

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Daniel 12:3

Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

John 5:24-25

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

1 Corinthians 15:52

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Thess 4:16

Now the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

C. You are seated with Christ. (6b)

Seated with him in the heavenly places: God has allowed his people even now to share a measure of the authority that Christ has, seated at the right hand of God (*cf. 1:20-22 [power thru the church] 6:10-18; James 4:7; I John 4:4 [power against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places] a truth that would be especially important in Ephesus with all of its occult practices. (ESV Study Bible)

Past: made alive together with Christ (regeneration). Future: raised up with him (physical bodily resurrection in the future). Present: Seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (*above)

So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (7)

Verse 7 of ch. 2 answers the question of why God lavished such love upon his people: so that they marvel for all of eternity over the incredible kindness and love of God. It will take all of eternity to fathom God's love, and those who are saved will never plumb the depths of it (a window into our future worship in heaven!) (ESV Study Bible)

I. Without Christ you are separated from God (1-3)

- A. You are hopeless. (1 & 3b)
- B. You are helpless. (2-3a)

II. With Christ you are connected to God. (4-7)

- A. You are made alive together with Christ. (4-5)
- B. You are raised up with Christ. (6a)
- C. You are seated with Christ. (6b)

III. Through Christ you are commissioned by God. (8-10)

A. You were commissioned to believe the gospel.

- 1. You are saved by grace through faith. (8-9)

By grace: refers to God's favor upon those who have transgressed his law and sinned against him. But grace may also be understood as a "power" in these verses. God's grace not only offers salvation but also secures it. (ESV Study Bible)

Saved: refers to deliverance from God's wrath at the final judgment (Rom. 5:9); "by Grace you have been saved" is repeated from Eph. 2:5 for emphasis. The verb form for "have been saved" (Gk. *sesosmenoi*, perfect tense) communicates that the Christian's salvation is fully secured [past. future. present.] (ESV Study Bible)

Through faith: Faith is a confident true and reliance upon Christ Jesus and is the only means by which one can obtain salvation. (ESV Study Bible)

- 2. This is not your own doing. It is a gift of God. (8)

This: The Greek pronoun is neuter, while "grace" and "faith" are feminine. Accordingly, "this" points to the whole process of "salvation by grace through faith" as being the gift of God and not something that we can accomplish ourselves. This use of the neuter pronoun to take in the whole of a complex idea is quite common in Greek (e.g., 6:1); its use here makes it clear that faith, no less grace, is a gift of God. Salvation, therefore, in every respect, is not your own doing! (ESV Study Bible)

- 3. Not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (9)

Salvation is not by works. If it were, then those who are saved would get the glory. (ESV Study Bible)

III. Through Christ you are commissioned by God. (8-10)

A. You were commissioned to believe the gospel.

B. You commissioned to live out the gospel. (10)

¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1. For we are his workmanship

Workmanship: God's tapestry... handiwork

2. Created in Christ Jesus for good works

Created...for good works: Salvation is not based on works, but the good works Christians do are the result and consequences of God's new creation work. (ESV Study Bible)

3. Which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

[John MacArthur Study Bible] Like his salvation, a believer's sanctification and good works we're ordained before time began (Rom. 8:29-30)

[John MacArthur Study Bible] Good works can not produce salvation but are subsequent and resultant God-empowered fruits and evidences of it (cf. Jn. 15:8; Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:17; Titus 2:14; JAMES 2:16-26).

Saved by Grace Alone: Ephesians 2:1-10

I. Without Christ you are separated from God (1-3)

C. You are hopeless. (1 & 3b)

D. You are helpless. (2-3a)

II. With Christ you are connected to God. (4-7)

A. You are made alive together with Christ. (4-5)

B. You are raised up with Christ. (6a)

C. You are seated with Christ. (6b)

III. Through Christ you are commissioned by God. (8-10)

A. You were commissioned to believe the gospel. (8-9)

B. You commissioned to live out the gospel. (10)

Application:

- **Are you separated from God?**
 - Receive God's grace as a free gift. (Eph. 2:8-9)
- ***Christian. Have you allowed yourself to become seduced by the world or swindled by Satan?**
 - Memorize Ephesians 6:10-18
 - Guard your thoughts...Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:4-5)
 - Guard your heart. Idolatrous (Col. 3:5-9)
 - Evaluate your responses. Idolatrous (Col. 3:8-9)
- **Share a post on social media regarding what it means to you to be made alive together with Christ, raised up with Christ, and seated with Christ in the heavenly places.**
- **Ask God. Ask family and friends. Get to work.**
 - Talk with friends and family members about the good works you believe God has prepared you to do for the remainder of 2020.

*APPLICATION:

- Guard your thoughts...Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:4-5)**

Eph. 4:17-22

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Futility of their minds (17-19)

- No longer walk like the Gentiles (unbelievers) (17)
- Darkened understanding (18)
- Hardened heart (18)
- Calloused Conscience (19a)
 - Sensual [justifying sex outside of marriage] (19b)
 - Greedy [justifying the desire to take whatever you think will make you happy] (19c)
 - Impure [a willingness to cut corners to get whatever you want right now] (19d)

Colossians 3:5-9

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:^[a] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.^[b] ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self^[c] with its practices

ii. **Guard your heart.** Idolatrous (Col. 3:5-9)

1. Earthly Pleasure (pursuit of pleasure outside of the context that God ordained)
 - Sexual immorality (5)
 - Impurity (5)
 - Passion (5)
 - Evil desire (5)
 - Covetousness (5)

iii. **Evaluate your responses.** Idolatrous (Col. 3:8-9)

- An attempt to control people and circumstances around you (8)
 - Anger (response to perceived injustice)
 - Wrath (explosion of emotion)
 - Malice (bitterness and hatred)
 - Slander (destructive talk to pay-back the offender)
 - Obscene talk (a tactic used to create distance between you and others)
 - Lying (manipulation of the facts for personal benefit)