

An Appeal to the Saved

—OR—

Why Did God Leave You Here After He Saved You?

—Ephesians 2:1-10—

Our text bears out the "common salvation" of which every blood bought, born-again, child of God has experienced. From the deadness of sin to the regeneration of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus; from the walking and fulfilling of our own lusts to walking in those works which God has ordained. You, brother and sister in Christ, why even you that are here and still *dead in trespasses and in sins* mark those middle verses for the cause of Salvation:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved; (Eph.2:4,5); and again in Eph.2:8,9--For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God not of works, lest any man should boast.

Yes, this is the way it happened to me, and the way it happened to every one who is saved; down from Adam and Eve and righteous Abel till the last of God's sheep shall be gathered in. Let those words: "rich mercy", "great love", "he loved us", "grace" permeate your soul. Roll them across your heart, for without them we would be eternally lost.

Addressing the Lost

You that are here, and without Christ—do you not see yourself in Verses 1-3? And how shall you get over to "saved" of verse 5? You cannot get there except you go through "God" of Verse 4! You cannot get there except you go through His "rich mercy"! You cannot get there except you go through His love and His regeneration! **Jn.14:6** —*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* NOTE: when Christ Jesus spoke unto Nicodemus of regeneration and being born-again, that He preached unto Nicodemus Jesus Christ and Him Crucified: **Jn.3:7, 14-16**. So you that are here on that side of the bridge, you that are still *dead in trespasses and in sins*, you cannot cross that gulf except you come by Jesus Christ.

Addressing the Saved

You that have come by the way of the Cross, we wish to appeal unto you. For you have come by faith in Christ Jesus, you have been regenerated. We ask you this question. Now it is a serious question. It is a question that demands an answer. It is a question, that what you think, what you feel, what you believe bears no weight for the answer. **WHY DID GOD LEAVE YOU HERE ON EARTH AFTER HE SAVED**

YOU? Notice, Why Did God? And whenever we ask "Why God" did anything, we must consult the Scriptures. And so let us pursue this question for it has eternal ramifications for you and me who have been saved.

Why did God leave me here:

Did God leave me here to pursue my own personal wants and wishes? What did Jesus say unto His disciples when He called them? Did He not say unto them "follow me" (**Matt.4:19; Jn.1:43**)? Is it not a characteristic of His sheep to follow the Shepherd (**Jn.10:27**)? Did not Christ say that if any man would serve Him he must "follow me"? (**Jn.12:26**).

Thus, may we not say that God left us here on this earth to follow Him? Certainly so!

Observe, death of Jesus Christ, the disciples misunderstood this calling to follow the Lord. Was not Simon Peter a fisherman with James and John, the two sons of Zebedee when the Lord called Him? (**Lk.5:10**)? And after that the Lord was crucified did not Simon Peter say, "I go a fishing" (**Jn.21:3**)? And did not our Lord and Savior come and rebuke, reprove and instruct Simon Peter concerning this matter (**Jn.21:15-25**)? You see, the purpose of Simon Peter's life was no longer to catch fish, but to be a fisher of men, and a feeder of sheep, and to "follow the Lord".

Did not Simon Peter later write to this effect, stating, *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you"* (**1Pet.4:1-4**).

We may conclude, can we not, that God did not leave you and I here, upon this earth, to pursue any earthly endeavors, personal wants and wishes, careers, or anything of it's like.

What Does God's Word Say about "Why He Left Me Here Upon This Earth"? Let us return to our text of **Ephesians 2:1-10**—for in this passage of Scripture we do find our answer.

Praising God: Note if you would: **Eph.2:7**—*"that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"*. To point out the exceeding riches of His grace. I believe that this began when He saved us and will continue through all eternity. Did Not the Holy Spirit record that this salvation was done to *"the praise and glory of His grace"*? (**Eph.1:4-6**). Does it not say in **Rom.9:23**—*"And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had*

afore prepared unto glory"? There is it! "Vessels of mercy"! Does that not tie in with our "rich in mercy" of Eph.2:4?

Does Scripture not say pertaining to Israel of old: "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise" (Isa.43:21)? Did not Simon Peter reiterate this for us today as well? "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1Pet.2:9)? And do not the Scriptures tell us that He is to be glorified in the church (Eph.3:21)? Do we not praise Him in extolling His Name in preaching, in teaching, in singing, in submitting to His will (Heb.13:15,16; Psalms.150:1-16)?

Ordained Works: Observe: Eph.2:10—works He has ordained. The word "ordained" = *to prepare before*. Beloved, God hath already prepared the works before us! Just as Israel of old had to go in and do the work of subduing the land, we must go in and do these works, that God hath already prepared for us. Did not Jesus say "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (Jn.15:16)?

Concluding Thoughts

So here we have plain Scripture instructing us of the reason of which God has left us here, upon this earth, after He saved us. We are here two-fold: 1) To Praise Him, His glory and His grace, to shew that praise with our life, our being. 2) To do those works of which He has ordained for us to do. Let us be about these two things, for the hour in which our Lord comes to call us home, to answer these two things: have you been praising me? Have you been doing that which I ordained you to do?

You that are here and *dead in trespasses and in sins*, will you not come unto God by Him? Will you not by God's rich mercy and free grace be saved today? Come while it is called today. ***For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2Corinthians 6:2.***