

# EPHESIANS

## GRACE & GLORY

### COMMENTARY AND QUESTIONS | EPHESIANS 2:1-10 | part 04

#### Ephesians 2:1-10\_ “Dead people Live”

1And 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 and the mind and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, make 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, not 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.

#### COMMENTARY

##### Failures and Rebels:

In verses 1-3, Paul describes the human condition prior to conversion. Contrary to what culture and popular belief says about people, men and women apart from being saved are spiritually dead (v. 1) and objects of God’s wrath (v. 3). Further, Paul carefully chooses the words “trespasses” and “sins” to illustrate the full scope of the human condition. A trespass is a false step or a deviation from the right path. The word sin in this passage refers to a failing to meet a certain standard. In short, we are rebels who detour of the right path and failures who always fall short of God’s standard. This is a humbling passage to read! **God must sober us before He satisfies us.** In the end, a correct knowledge of our condition apart from Christ will produce wonder and amazement at our new identify in Christ!

##### God’s Response:

Verse 4 begins with what could be the greatest three-letter word in the entire Bible: “But.” After painting a vivid picture of our human condition, Paul describes the initiating act of God in response to our condition. There are three phrases that indicate exactly what God has done to save us. He made us alive, raised us up, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places. These three acts mirror what God did when He brought Jesus back from the dead, raised Jesus up, and seated Jesus at His right hand. The successive historical events are known as the resurrection, ascension, and succession.

##### God’s Reasons:

Furthermore, the reason why God saved us is saturated throughout these seven verses. First, God saved us because He is “rich in mercy” and “because of the great love with which he loved us” (v.4). Also, it is clear that there is a purpose and a reason why each person is “appointed to eternal life” (Acts 13:48) or granted salvation. According to verse 7, we are given salvation and chosen by God so we can display the “immeasurable riches of his grace”, and in verse 10 we are God’s “workmanship” created for “good works.” Therefore, we can conclude this detailed description of our salvation simply by saying that we are saved by God...and for God.

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### QUESTIONS:

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Write down any insights/thoughts/questions from it.
2. Describe Paul's description of the human condition (vv. 1-3) in your own words.
3. Why do you think Paul started with the human condition (vv. 1-3) before stating what God has done to make salvation possible? Take some time this week to meditate on your condition apart from Christ.
4. According to verses 5 and 6, what are the three things that God does in our salvation?
5. For what reasons did God save us (cf. verse 7, 10)? Are you walking well in the works that God has prepared for you? Explain.
6. Verse 8 says that salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned. Why is it important that we understand this? What can you do to keep yourself from believing that salvation is something we can earn?
7. In light of this passage, fill in the sentence: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is...
8. Spend some time in praise for the salvation God has given you in Christ and in prayer for those known to you who remain "dead" to God.