

TAKING INVENTORY
"What we need to know about Salvation."
Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. **TRAPPED** - What a powerful picture of **SALVATION**.
 - a) Our condition before salvation is:
 - 1) We were helpless...
 - 2) Cut off
 - 3) And in the dark...
 - b) If God had not come down to where we were and rescued us from our hopeless situation, we would have been lost forever.
2. In **Ephesians 2:1-10**, Paul gives us a before and after picture of our salvation.
 - a) This passage is great to share with an unbeliever.
 - b) But it is also an excellent text for believers to study, to be reminded of what God has done in Christ for those who could do nothing to save themselves.

I. WHY WE NEED TO BE SAVED?

A. WE WERE BORN SPIRITUALLY DEAD

1. Vs 1
 - a) "**dead**"
 - 1) To be **dead** is to be lifeless.
 - 2) To be **spiritually dead**, means dead towards God.
 - b) **AND...there is no way we can save ourselves.**
2. When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they were sinless and had communication and fellowship with God.
3. **Ephesians 4:18**
 - a) "**alienated from the life of God**"
4. Because a lost person is spiritually dead, "**spiritual truth**" can't be understood.
5. **Psalms 51:5**
6. **Ephesians 2:1**
 - a) "**dead in trespasses and sins**"
 - 1) To "**trespass**" is to cross the line.

b) "**sin**" - means to miss the mark

1) **Romans 3:23**

a. "**fall short**" - means to miss the mark

B. HEADED THE WRONG DIRECTION

1. Vs 2a

a) "**in which you once walked**"

1) That's the way we were living.

b) "**following the course of this world**"

1) Which means we were living according to the world's values and beliefs.

c) "**following the prince of the power of the air**"

1) And boy doesn't Satan make this world look good.

3. **Daniel 10:12-14**

a) It seems to be clear that demonic angels are assigned to the nations of the world to stir up unrighteousness and evil works.,

C. IN THE WRONG FAMILY

1. Vs 2b

a) "**the spirit that is now @ work in the sons of disobedience**"

2. Before salvation we were the "**sons of disobedience**".

3. Everybody in the world has disobeyed God's standards.

4. **James 2:10**

5. Vs 3

D. DOING WHAT COMES NATURAL

1. Vs 3

a) "**carrying out the desires of the body and mind**"

2. This describes how we lived to fulfill the lusts of our flesh.

3. Vs 3

a) "**desires**" - (lusts) = unbridled desires of all kinds

E. HEADED FOR DESTRUCTION

1. Vs 3

a) *"and were by nature children of wrath"*

2. Ephesians 1:19

a) Had it not been for the power of God, they would still be in that condition.

3. The next 2 words are some of the greatest in the Bible.

a) Vs 4

1) *"But God"*

a. Adam and Eve would have been lost forever - **But God**

b. Noah and his family would have been drowned with the rest of the world - **But God**

c. Abraham would have been forever forsaken because of sin - **But God.**

d. Jonah would never have been given a second chance - **But God**

b) **GOD IS THE ONE WHO STEPS IN AND SAVES MANKIND FROM HIMSELF.**

II. THE CURE TO OUR PROBLEM

A. THE MERCY OF GOD

1. Vs 4

a) *"But God, bring rich..."*

1) Our God is RICH!!!

b) *"in mercy"*

1) To have mercy is to NOT give us what we DESERVE!!

2) If we got justice, we would get what we DO DESERVE!!

c) **WHAT WE DESERVE** - Eternal wrath, and eternal death.

2. No one could be saved without God's Mercy.

B. THE LOVE OF GOD

1. Vs 4

a) It was *"the great love with which He loved us"*

1) *It was because of His great love that He extended His Mercy to us.*

2. God's love is the only reason for our salvation.

a) **John 3:16**

3. How did God demonstrate His love to us?

a) **Vs 5**

1) *"even when we were dead in our trespasses..."*

4. **Romans 5:8**

a) We did nothing to deserve Christ's love.

5. **1 John 4:9-10**

C. THE GRACE OF GOD

1. Paul has been often called the Apostle of GRACE.

a) **Ephesians 2:5,7,8**

2. **REMEMBER:**

1) MERCY is God NOT giving us what we DO deserve.

2) and GRACE IS God giving us what we DON'T deserve.

3. **G.R.A.C.E.**

a) God's Riches at Christ's Expense

4. **1 Timothy 1:13-14**

D. SALVATION IS A GIFT

1. **Ephesians 2:8**

a) *"For by grace you have been saved"*

2. The only way to become a Christian is to accept the free gift of salvation offered by grace.

3. **Vs 8b**

a) *"and this is not of your own doing"*

4. **Vs 8**

a) *"It is the gift of God"*

5. It must be a gift!!! Because spiritually dead people can do nothing to earn it.

6. **Vs 9**

E. RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH

1. Vs 8

a) *"For by grace you have been saved...through faith."*

2. That's how we receive God's free gift.

3. Vs 9

a) *"lest anyone should boast"*

4. LISTEN UP:

a) When we get to heaven, we are going to boast about what Jesus did for us!!

5. The only way you can get to heaven is by receiving the gift of God.

a) **YOU REACH OUT AND TAKE IT BY FAITH!!!**

III. GOD'S ULTIMATE GOAL

A. PUT ON DISPLAY FOR ALL ETERNITY

1. Vs 6-7

2. **LISTEN UP:** Every Christian saved by grace, will be a trophy of grace, for all eternity in HEAVEN.

B, WE GET TO SERVE

1. Vs 10

a) *"for we are His workmanship"*

2. We are not saved by our works!!! We are most definitely saved for good works.

a) **Titus 2:14**

CONCLUSION:

1. If you are a Christian, you are God's **"workmanship"** (Masterpiece).

a) **WOW!!!** GOD fashioned you to **REPRESENT HIM** on this earth!!!

2. **God has done all the work necessary to save us.**

a) **WHY???** So that we might be prepared to **GLORIFY HIM!!!!!!!**

3. **QUESTION:** *How does your life reflect God's workmanship to the world around you?*