



## **Eph. 2:1-10, Alive in Christ**

V1 **Problem:** Dead in sin. Why? Dead set rebellion against God.

V.2 **Problem 2:** When Adam sinned, we died spiritually. We could only gratify the flesh.

V.3 **The consequence:** our sin places us under God's wrath. If we don't understand the severity of our sin and the consequences, we'll never understand the glory of the His rescue plan.

V.4-5 **The Good News:** BUT GOD. Common theme- (Romans 5:8) ***But God being rich in mercy, but God showing his incomprehensible "love for us in that while we were yet sinners" he died for us.***

V.6-7 He then seated us (present tense) in heavenly places to demonstrate his riches toward us.

V8-9 How saved? Grace, by faith. Nothing we could do to earn it.

V.10 **2 big errors:** 1. We believe we must **gain enough merit** to add to the cross. 2. is that good works have no place since we are saved by grace through faith. But good works will follow saving faith. Implications of v.10:

1. **Predetermined Purpose:** Adoption into God's family means that life has meaning, and God invites us into his work. We find meaning surrendering our plans to His.
2. **Divine Design:** Since we are created in advance for this, I don't determine my meaning, God does.
3. **Right Reason:** I engage in his plan and do... not to earn my salvation, but in light of what God has done. The primary question we should be asking is: "what is God inviting me into?"

### **Grow Group Questions**

1. Why must we hold firmly to the concept of God's wrath? What do we lose if we minimize or deny it?
2. Why is it important to affirm that salvation is not a joint effort between God and men, but that it is all of God?
3. How do you see a balance of God's love, holiness and justice as demonstrated through the cross? Why is it wrong to emphasize one aspect of the attributes of God over another?
4. Why does saving faith include the evidence of repentance and submission to Christ as Lord? Is this adding works to faith, as some contend?