

(Theme Slide)

**“What do you need
in order to . . . ?”**

2

**A goldmine question that I unearthed when developing the Marital Mentoring program was . . . READ SLIDE
-- In the midst of the frustrations of trying to put together a tool that would allow couples with solid marriages to be mentor couples, I finally asked this question.**

TR: This question reveals a lot of things in other areas as well.

**“What do you need
in order to . . .
walk in good works?”**

3

**Most of us want to do good works. So, what if I asked . . .READ SLIDE . . . what would your answer be?
-- Our answers reveal about us: Our understanding of the state of humanity, the nature of sin and evil, what is needed for salvation, and the very nature of what is a “good work.”**

TR: Our answers reveal if we are . . .



- Confused
- Calloused
- Clear

4

READ SLIDE

-- What does God say a person needs in order to walk in good works?

TR: Let's read through our passage for this week, Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:1-2 page 1079 in handout Bibles

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—

ESV

5

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 3

Ephesians 2:3

- among 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.

ESV

6

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 4

Ephesians 2:4-6

But 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,

ESV

7

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 7

Ephesians 2:7

so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 8

8

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ESV

9

READ SLIDE

TR: Using our sermon notes page, let's observe things from the text.

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 † so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

The passage seems to break into three main sections.

TR: The first two present to us . . .

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

a great contrast

11

. . . a contrast, marked by the transition word “BUT”

TR: The third section seems to give us . . .

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind
AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages
 † **THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE**
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 † this is not of ourselves
 † (It is) the gift of God,
 † not as a result of works
 † so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

a great contrast



a great purpose

12

. . . a great purpose (perhaps a great result) for the great contrast.

TR: If we outlined the big ideas, we would come up with something like . . .

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest.

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

**WE . . .
 . . . WERE DEAD . . .
 AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH**

13

READ SLIDE

TR: The second section then gives us the great contrast . . .

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realm
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

**WE . . .
 . . . WERE DEAD . . .
 AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH**

**BUT GOD . . .
 MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST
 AND RAISED US UP . . .
 AND SEATED US . . .**

14

READ SLIDE

TR: And then the third section tells us the great purpose for this great contrast . . .

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
↑ in which we walked
↑ according to the path of this world
↑ the ruler of the air
↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
↑ among whom we all formerly once lived
↑ in the desires of the flesh
↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
↑ even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
↑ Being rich in mercy
↑ Because of His great love with which He loved us
↑ Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
↑ (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
↑ in the heavenly places/realm
↑ in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
↑ in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
↑ . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
↑ this is not of ourselves
↑ (It is) the gift of God,
↑ not as a result of works
↑ so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
↑ having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
↑ that God prepared beforehand
↑ so that we might walk in them.

WE . . .
... WERE DEAD . . .
AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH

BUT GOD . . .
MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST
AND RAISED US UP . . .
AND SEATED US . . .

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . .
THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

READ SLIDE

TR: If we go through each section again, a bit more in-depth, we find out more about the bad news, from verses 1-3.

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest.

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realm
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

**WE . . .
 . . . WERE DEAD . . .
 AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH**

**The main idea is . . . READ SLIDE
 TR: Now let's zoom in a bit . . .**

WE . . . (1-3)

. . . WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS

↑ in which we walked

↑ according to the path of this world

↑ according to the ruler of the air

↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

↑ among whom we all formerly once lived

↑ in the desires of the flesh

↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH

↑ even as the rest

17

On the slides we see a screen capture of what is in our worship fliers.

TR: Starting at the top we read that we were dead in our trespasses and sins . . . in which we walked.

WE . . . (1-3)

... WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS

↑ in which we walked

↑ according to the path of this world

↑ according to the ruler of the air

↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

↑ among whom we all formerly once lived

↑ in the desires of the flesh

↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH

↑ even as the rest

18

The in “WHICH” refers back to the TRESPASSES AND SINS.

-- We were dead . . . but still WALKING . . . that is, living out our deadness.

-- [walking] = the conduct of one’s life throughout the NT letters

TR: This walking in sin is further described as being a walking that is according to . . .

WE . . . (1-3)**. . . WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS**

↑ in which we walked

↑ according to the path of this world

↑ according to the ruler of the air

↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

↑ among whom we all formerly once lived

↑ in the desires of the flesh

↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH

↑ even as the rest

. . . the path of this world, “world” referring to the fullness of the worldly system set against God.

-- The bad news gets worse . . . we walked according to Satan.

-- And even worse, we lived in the desires of the flesh, the old nature that controlled our bodies and minds.

TR: If being spiritual zombies, walking as dead people, wasn't bad enough, we also were . . .

WE . . . (1-3)

. . . WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS

↑ in which we walked

↑ according to the path of this world

↑ according to the ruler of the air

↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

↑ among whom we all formerly once lived

↑ in the desires of the flesh

↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH

↑ even as the rest

20

. . . children of wrath, that is under the judgment and displeasure of God.

TR: This was true of what people?

WE . . . (1-3)**. . . WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS**

↑ in which we walked

↑ according to the path of this world

↑ according to the ruler of the air

↑ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

↑ among whom we **all** formerly once lived

↑ in the desires of the flesh

↑ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH**even as the rest****All people.****-- The bad news is very bad. Devastatingly bad.****-- Not only do all people walking along the wrong path, following the wrong leader, and giving in to the wrong desires . . .****-- . . . all are dead. There is no spiritual life in them.****TR: The badness of this bad news is what makes the next section pop out at us as a great contrast . . . and if our understanding of the bad news is confused or we have grown calloused to it, the good news seems just OK.**

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 so that we might walk in them.

WE . . .
... WERE DEAD . . .
AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH

BUT GOD . . .
MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST
AND RAISED US UP . . .
AND SEATED US . . .

BUT GOD . . . READ SLIDE

TR: In stark contrast to our being dead and children of wrath . . .
God . . .

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)

↑ Being rich in mercy
 Because of His great love with which He loved us
 | Even though we were dead in transgressions

. . . MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 ↑ in the heavenly places/realms
 | in Christ Jesus

. . . because of His nature of being rich in mercy and having great love . . . God acted.

TR: In case we missed the great contrast in the words “BUT GOD”, Paul reminds us of what we just read . . .

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)

↑ Being rich in mercy

Because of His great love with which He loved us

Even though we were dead in transgressions

. . . MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

(By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRISTAND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

↑ in the heavenly places/realms

↑ in Christ Jesus

. . . that we were dead in our transgressions.

-- It was not because there was a spark of life in us, that we had some good intentions, or that we were merely innocent victims . .

.

TR: No, it was in spite of the fact that we were dead, dead, dead . . inside and out, dead . . .

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)

↑ Being rich in mercy
 Because of His great love with which He loved us
 Even though we were dead in transgressions

. . . MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

(By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

↑ in the heavenly places/realms
 ↑ in Christ Jesus

. . . God made us alive AND raised us up AND seated us with Christ.

-- These three could be a sequence of 3 or the last two could give us more details of how God made us alive.

-- In either case, the words are all three compounds that begin with the word "WITH" . . .

-- . . . it is WITH Christ that we have been made alive, raised up, and seated.

TR: If we take the time to read through chapter 1 again, we see these ideas already introduced . . .

Ephesians 1:19-20

and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

ESV

26

Paul is praying that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened so that they would know . . . **READ SLIDE**

-- God great might worked in raising Christ and then seating Him in victory in the heavenly realms.

-- The closeness of these verses from chapter 1 is what I think leads some to think that **MADE ALIVE** is the big idea and **RAISED** and **SEATED** are the details of that big idea.

-- Again, either way, this is all God's great and powerful work . . . not just in raising Christ but for a Christian, in raising us and seating us **WITH CHRIST**.

-- This is what theologians calls **UNION** with **CHRIST**.

-- Salvation isn't just a change of mind, a second chance, a seeking to earn God's favor . . . it is the immeasurably great working of God's powerful might in uniting us to Christ in His victory.

TR: So, why does God do this mighty work of great contrast?

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the path of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind
AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 † even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages
THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 † . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

AND WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 † this is not of ourselves
 † (It is) the gift of God,
 † not as a result of works
 † so that no one may boast.

AND WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 † having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
 † that God prepared beforehand
 † so that we might walk in them.

**WE . . .
 . . . WERE DEAD . . .
 AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH**

**BUT GOD . . .
 MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST
 AND RAISED US UP . . .
 AND SEATED US . . .**

**IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT
 SHOW . . .
 THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES
 OF HIS GRACE**

27

SO THAT . . . or IN ORDER THAT . . . READ SLIDE

TR: This manifestation of God's grace, the immeasurable riches of His grace, can't help but remind us of chapter 1 again . . .

Ephesians 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, **according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us,** in all wisdom and insight . . .

ESV

28

. . . where we learned of the riches of God's grace . . . riches that He lavished upon us.

TR: When will God show or demonstrate the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness?

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)

↑ In the coming ages

... THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

... in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

↑ **FOR WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE** through faith,
this is not of ourselves
(It is) the gift of God,
not as a result of works
so that no one may boast.

↑ **FOR WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,**
↑ having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
↑ that God prepared beforehand
so that we might walk in them.

29

In the ages to come.

-- Jewish thought usually broke the ages into the present and the coming age.

-- The plural here suggests that we talking about the eons of eternity, crashing on us like unending waves of the sea.

-- Cf. a story collector like Steve Lossing . . . forever gathering stories that again and again declare the immeasurable riches of God's grace.

TR: Why will God's mighty act of making us alive, raising us up, and seating us WITH CHRIST and IN CHRIST, show the riches of His grace?

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)

↑ In the coming ages

... THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

... in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

FOR WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
this is not of ourselves
(It is) the gift of God,
not as a result of works
so that no one may boast.

FOR WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
↑ having been created in Christ Jesus for good works
↑ that God prepared beforehand
so that we might walk in them.

30

FOR two huge reasons.

- We are saved by this grace, not works.
- And the good works we do after being saved, are of God as well.
- He created us **IN CHRIST JESUS** for good works . . .
- . . . and he prepared them beforehand.
- What does it take for a person to walk in good works? It takes the amazing grace of God, in working salvation through Christ and in creating the very good works we walk in.

TR: So the flow of thought is . . .

<p>WE . . . (1-3) WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS <small>† in which we walked ‡ according to the path of this world § according to the ruler of the air ¶ the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience ‡ among whom we all formerly once lived † in the desires of the flesh ‡ doing the things willed of the flesh and mind</small></p> <p>AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH <small>† even as the rest</small></p> <p>BUT GOD . . . (4-6) <small>† Being rich in mercy ‡ Because of His great love with which He loved us ‡ Even though we were dead in transgressions . . .</small></p> <p>MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST <small>† (By His grace we are saved)</small></p> <p>AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST</p> <p>AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST <small>† in the heavenly places/realm ‡ in Christ Jesus</small></p> <p>IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10) <small>† in the coming ages</small></p> <p>THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE <small>† . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus</small></p> <p>WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith, <small>† this is not of ourselves ‡ (it is) the gift of God, ‡ not as a result of works ‡ so that no one may boast.</small></p> <p>WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, <small>† having been created in Christ Jesus for good works ‡ that God prepared beforehand ‡ so that we might walk in them.</small></p>	<p>WE WERE DEAD . . . AND . . . CHILDREN OF WRATH</p> <p>BUT GOD . . . MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST AND RAISED US UP . . . AND SEATED US . . .</p> <p>IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE</p>
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. . . that God, consistent with His character, has worked mightily to make us alive with Christ, so that He gets the glory that His character deserves.

-- Sometimes we struggle with why God allowed sin and evil to infect the world. It seems that this is the best world to get us ready for the best world.

-- This world, with its putrid sin and consequential suffering, it the black velvet that a jewelry uses, against which the beautiful diamond of God's grace reveals its glory.

TR: With that review of the text, let me bring us back to the question we began with.

WE . . . (1-3)
WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS
 † in which we walked
 † according to the pattern of this world
 † according to the ruler of the air
 † the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience
 † among whom we all formerly once lived
 † in the desires of the flesh
 † doing the things willed of the flesh and mind

AND WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH
 Even as the rest

BUT GOD . . . (4-6)
 † Being rich in mercy
 † Because of His great love with which He loved us
 † Even though we were dead in transgressions

MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 (By His grace we are saved)

AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

AND SEATED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
 † in the heavenly places/realms
 † in Christ Jesus

IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT SHOW . . . (7-10)
 † in the coming ages

THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
 . . . in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE through faith,
 this is not of ourselves
 (It is) the gift of God,
 not as a result of works
 so that no one may boast.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP,
 having been prepared beforehand
 so that we might walk in them.

IN WHICH WE WALKED

SO THAT WE MIGHT WALK IN THEM.

“What do we need in order to . . . walk in good works?”
 -- The passage begins talking about walking, or conducting our lives in trespasses and sins . . .
 -- . . . and ends with walking, or conducting our lives, in good works.

TR: I said earlier that our answer to this question will reveal a lot about us . . .

**What do we need
in order to walk in
good works?**

- Confused (Deceived)**
- Calloused (Hardened)**
- Tender-hearted Clarity**

33

If the powerful truths from these verses don't make it into our hearts . . . we will show ourselves confused and perhaps deceived.

-- Or, we will show that our hearts have become calloused, even hardened.

-- But if we welcome the truths, we can have a tender-hearted clarity that will allow us to walk in good works.

-- You see, we have a choice in how we walk. First, we can walk as those who are zombies, dead in our trespasses and sins. We believe the lies of the devil who says follow the world, give in to your lusts.

-- But, secondly, we can even as believers walk like unbelievers.

-- Even if we say we've asked God to do His mighty work in us through our faith in Christ, by faith we are saved!

-- . . . we can still walk like zombies.

TR: Paul says so . . .

Ephesians 4:17-18

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.** ¹⁸They 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.**

ESV

34

-- In the application-rich second half of the letter, we read . . .
READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 19

Ephesians 4:19-21

They have **become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!**— **²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus . . .**

ESV

35

READ SLIDE

-- My job is helping you **LEARN CHRIST.**

-- That you would be transformed with **THE TRUTH IN JESUS.**

TR: Allow me to share some application diagnostic indicators that perhaps we are confused or calloused, even if we want to say, “I’ve got tender-hearted clarity!”

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

THE WAY WE LOOK AT
UNBELIEVERS



36

Let's think about the way we look at unbelievers.

TR: We turn away from the truth of this passage when we . . .

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
UNBELIEVERS**



It's hard to receive that all are
spiritually dead without Jesus.



37

. . . find it hard to receive . . . READ SLIDE

-- People don't need a second chance, a fresh start, an infusion of self-esteem, a better education, or a government subsidy.

-- They need, all of us need, the mighty working of God's power in salvation.

TR: We may be confused or calloused of heart if we . . .

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
UNBELIEVERS**



It's hard to receive that all are
spiritually dead without Jesus.



It's easy to judge non-Christians
for not living like believers.



38

... find it easy ...**READ SLIDE**

-- We don't expect the bodies in a graveyard to hold a dance ...
because they are dead.

**TR: We betray that we have not been Built^UP by these verses
when we say ...**

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
UNBELIEVERS**



It's hard to receive that all are
spiritually dead without Jesus.



It's easy to judge non-Christians
for not living like believers.



We say, "But, they were a good
person . . ."

39

READ SLIDE

- Or we say of our own children . . . but they are good kids.
- Think of our question again, "What does it take to walk in good works" . . . it takes the mighty saving work of God in Christ.
- People walking in trespasses and sins cannot really do "good works."

TR: It is so easy to read these 10 verses and say, "I've got clarity," but then betray that we really don't. That we may be living in the futility of dead thinking.

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:



**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
OURSELVES**

40

Consider how we look at ourselves.

TR: In the conflicts we have with others, is it hard . . .

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
OURSELVES**



It's hard for us to imagine that
we are in the wrong.



41

READ SLIDE

-- When I remember that I was dead, that I walked according to this world, according to Satan, giving in to the flesh with the cravings of my body and mind . . .

-- . . . there is a humility that admits, "I could be wrong."

TR: And when others have wronged us, if we . . .

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
OURSELVES**



It's hard for us to imagine that we are in the wrong.



It's hard for us to be generous in extending grace.



42

READ SLIDE . . .

-- . . . perhaps we have forgotten how generous God has been with us in extending His grace.

-- When the “immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness” is truly understood, when we have allowed the Spirit to open the eyes of our hearts to it . . .

-- . . . then offering grace to others seems like a small thing.

-- Remember the parable that Jesus told about the man forgiven a debt of untold millions who won't extend the same grace to someone who owed him what comparatively would have been a pittance.

TR: Not only has this text taught us truth about the nature of sin, the state of our depravity, the lavish generosity of God's kindness and mercy, and the powerfully life-changing union we can have with Christ through faith . . .

Signs we are
confused or
calloused:

**THE WAY WE LOOK AT
OURSELVES**



It's hard for us to imagine that we are in the wrong.



It's hard for us to be generous in extending grace.



It's hard for us to give of ourselves in mercy & kindness.

43

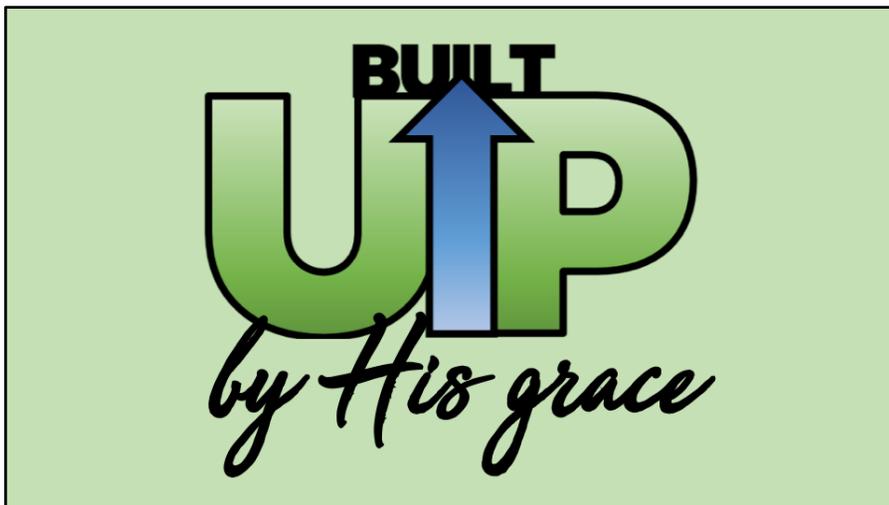
. . . it also teaches us to worship God by being like Him.

-- When truly giving of ourselves to others is so hard, perhaps we have allowed callouses to form on our hearts.

-- Perhaps the "BUT GOD" doesn't really blow your socks off anymore.

-- My heart especially aches for those who have grown up in the church . . . how easy to think that you are a "good person" even though you've never by received by faith the transforming work of God through Christ . . . uniting you to Him in His death, resurrection, ascension, and being seated. How easy to let the Devil confuse you or your flesh convince you that a few callouses toward the bad news isn't that big of a deal.

TR: Our three-year vision hinges upon us all being . . .



44

READ SLIDE