

Ephesians 2:1-10 Salvation by Grace

Chapters 2 and 3 explain how God makes sinners saints and then places them into the church, Christ's body. In 2:1-10 – Paul tells how God can take sinners, who deserve God's wrath, and transform them into trophies of His grace. Verses 1-7 are one long sentence of which God is the subject with three main verbs:

- 1 – Made alive with... (verse 5)
- 2 – Raised up with... (verse 6)
- 3 – Seated with... (verse 6)

Paul is emphasizing that God has made believers alive, raised them up, and seated them with Christ.

The Problem – Verses 1-3 - Unbelievers are dead in trespasses and sins.

This is seen in three areas:

- 1 – The world – “*You formerly walked according to the course of this world...*”
- 2 – Satan – “*According to the prince of the power of the air...*”
- 3 – The flesh – “*We to all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh...*”
“*We were by nature children of wrath...*”

This is not “*corpse theology!*” We call this doctrine *Total Depravity* but it does not mean *Total Inability!* We are spiritually separated from God.

Ephesians 2:1 speaks of the unbelievers *Position*. He is spiritually separated from God. However his spirit is still alive, he is not a *spiritual corpse*.

Total Depravity ≠ Total Inability. The spirit of an unbeliever is alive and active, even though separated from God.

God's Provision – Verses 4-6

But God –

- Bring rich in mercy
- Because of His great Love with which He loved us
- Even when we were dead in our transgressions
- Made us alive together with Christ
- Raised us up together with Him
- Seated us together with Him

Each of these verbs begins with *syn*, the Greek prefix that means “*together.*”

(*For by grace you have been saved*) Paul adds a thought to prime us for the coming explanation of how we are made alive with Christ.

God's Purpose – Verses 7-10

In order that – (Greek = *hina*, denoting purpose or result).

-*In the ages to come* – *Ages* is plural referring to the Millennium and beyond.

-*He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

God wants us to be “Trophies of His Grace!” Why?

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; What is not of ourselves? Faith?

Grace? Salvation? Calvinism teaches that *faith* is the gift of God. In other words you cannot believe unless God gives you the faith to believe.

That not of yourselves – Greek has what is known as grammatical gender. Nouns must agree in gender with other aspects of the language such as adjectives, articles, pronouns, or verbs.

Grace and *faith* are feminine nouns. *That* is a neuter pronoun and therefore cannot refer to either *grace* or *faith*.

For a detailed discussion of why faith cannot be the gift see Gregory Sapaugh's article at <http://faithalone.org/journal/1994i/J12-94c.htm>

It is the gift of God – Salvation is absolutely free! A form of this word is used in Romans 2:24 and Revelation 22:17.

Not as a result of works, that no one should boast – Because a gift is by definition freely given, works can never play a part in its reception.

For we are His workmanship – Our boasting will be because of what God has done! The word for workmanship is *poiema* from which we get our English word poem. We are God's poem! The only other time this word is used in the NT is in Romans 1:20 in reference to the creation of the universe.

Created in Christ Jesus for good works – Everything about who we are, our exalted position in Christ, is by God's design so that we should live out our lives for Him. Our condition should reflect our position.

That we should walk in them – This is the only reasonable response!

Not that we *will* but that we *should*. God does not force us to serve Him.

At the judgment seat of Christ the poem of our lives will be read. If we walk with God our poem will be a reflection of His grace in our lives. Our weaknesses, mistakes, and failures will all be used for His glory!