

Sermon Supplement

Ephesians 2:1-10 – *But God ...*

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Though Jews and Gentiles were in the grip of spiritual death, God made them alive together as a new creation, empowering them to reign with Christ and to do good works in order to demonstrate His grace to the world. Believers have passed from death to life because of the work of God in Christ on their behalf.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Walk** – our way of life.
2. **Death** – spiritual death: the world, the devil, and the sin nature; requires a miracle
3. **Five Solas of the Reformation** – Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, God's Glory Alone
4. **Work** – from God's love, not for God's love; produces life; blesses others; results in thankfulness to God
5. **Union and Unity** – *koinonia*, we are linked together

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

1. From Death (vv. 1-3)
 - a. The narrative of grace – starts with the good news, then moves to the bad news
 - b. Dead people walking
 - c. Follow the narrative of grace ... it begins with death.
2. To Life (vv. 4-10)
 - a. But God ... !
 - b. The narrative continues ...
 - i. God's Character (v. 4)
 - ii. While we were dead/sinners (vv. 5-6)
 - a) He made us alive.
 - b) He resurrected us.
 - c) He seated us.
 - iii. For a grand purpose! (v. 7)
 - c. The narrative is reinforced. (vv. 8-9)
 - d. The narrative goes all the way. (v. 10)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Through God's work in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been brought from death to life, not on the basis of any work or merit of our own, but because of God's love and mercy, with the result that our lives should display good works to the world – all for God's glory.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

1. What image comes to mind when you hear you have been made alive together with Christ?
2. Do you feel your walk with Jesus is alive or dead? How so?
3. What is your current experience of God's great love?
4. Where do you need to extend the same kindness to yourself that God has already extended?
Share with your group.

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

1. Ask that God would take this narrative and put it in your hearts.
2. Confess the fears you've allowed to dominate your heart and mind.
3. Ask God to replace those fears with this grand narrative of God's grace and hope we have in Christ and the power of the Spirit.
4. Pray that both union and abundance would be at work in your life and in our church.