



Remembering The Reformation 2025

Sola Gratia

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I. Intro

A. Text: **Eph. 2:1-10**

¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:1-10)

B. Church Timeline

C. 5 Solas

1. Sola Scriptura
2. Sola Gratia
3. Sola Fide
4. Sola Christus
5. Soli Deo Gloria

D. Sola Gratia: *conviction that salvation is a free gift from God, not something man can earn through good works or human effort.*

Mankind is saved entirely by God's grace — His undeserved favor — through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Grace is Amazing
2. Biblical (Greek) Definitions of Grace
 - a. O.T. Grace (chanan #2603): to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, to have pity on another, to show favor toward another.

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- b. N.T. Grace (charis #5485): *unmerited favor, a lavish gift, that which produces joy and delight,...*
 - 3. Scriptural References Associate Grace With Power
 - a. Luke 2:40: ⁴⁰ *And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.*
 - b. John 1:14: ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 - c. Acts 4:33: ³³ *And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*

II. Body

A. You Were Dead (**Eph. 2:1-3**)

¹ *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (**Eph. 2:1-3**)*

- 1. You Were Dead (**v. 1**)
 - a. You Were Controlled by Satan, the Prince of the Power of the Air (**v. 2**)
 - b. Slave to your own selfish desires: Your flesh and mind (**v. 3a**)
 - c. You Were Naturally Children of Wrath (**v. 3b**)
- 2. You Were Dead (Repeat)
 - a. Unable to please God.
 - b. Deader than Lazarus in a tomb.

B. But God... by His Grace (**Eph. 2:4-6**)

⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us (**Eph. 2:4**)*

- a. Rich in Mercy
- b. Great in Love

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (**Eph. 2:5-6**)

2. Even Though You Were Dead.
 - a. Made Us Alive Together With Christ (**v. 5**)
 - b. Raised us up Together With Christ (**v. 6a**)
 - c. Made us sit together (Heavenly Places) In Christ (**v. 6b**)
- C. **Grace is UnBudgeted Power (Eph. 2:6-7)**

⁶ [God] raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (**Eph. 2:6-7**)

1. Grace is the only thing powerful enough to quicken us.
 - a. Raise us up together. (**v. 6**)
 - b. Snatch us from the grave and make us to sit together in heavenly places.
 - c. Grace not only describes power, but unbudgeted power.
2. It may take a while to catch on. (**v. 7**)
 - a. In the ages (worlds) to come, God will continue to display the exceeding riches of His grace
 - b. It challenges our finite minds.
3. Grace is God's giving that which is so high and lofty that only He deserves... that which only He produces.
 - a. But He gives it to pathetic, sinful, fallen man.
 - b. God chooses to be gracious. Because that's who He is.

⁶ And the Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation (**Ex. 34:6-7**)

- c. God chooses who to be gracious to whomever He decides. Because that's how He is.

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- i. **Ex. 33:19:** *I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*
 - 4. No way that you'll find a reason why God would grant this favor to any mere man (outside of His own character and motives).
 - a. It's the gospel narrative repeated throughout the Bible.

⁶ *"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you... (Deut. 7:6-8a)*

D. **Grace (by nature) is an Unmerited Gift (Eph. 2:8-9)**

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)*

- 1. Grace is God's violent, bloody response to our violent bloody rebellion against Him.
 - a. Personified in Jesus Christ on a mangled cross.
- 2. **Misconception:** We came into right standing with God because we apologized... Because we felt sorry for our wrongs.
 - a. Feeling sorry can never make what is wrong, right.
 - b. It took the radical grace of God.
- 3. Grace (by nature) is that which God alone provides, from His own resources (None of us).
 - a. **Ex.:** Adam & Eve.
 - b. It took God's stooping down in power to execute justice for Adam's treason (required blood).
- 4. God's giving life to man (on any level) displays the grace of God (stooping).
 - a. Adam was created from dust.
 - b. Jesus formed in the belly of Mary
 - c. New birth: *If any man be in Christ... (2 Cor. 5:17)*

III. Conclusion: Grace Produces... (v.10)

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

- A. We Are Simply the Result of God's Work in Our lives.
 - 1. We are the end product of His molding, breaking, shaping, etc.
 - a. We are the object of His power and passion.
 - 2. We are His handiwork, but not to sit idly on some wall or mantle.
- B. God poured all of His unbridled, unmerited, unbudgeted grace on us to form us into a work that works (Good works).
 - 1. We, then, are not only saved by grace... But we were designed to live by grace.
 - a. God's grace is available to work in us, through us.
 - 2. God's grace, His power, is available to stoop down & give favor toward us (in the person of his son, Jesus).