

I. Intro

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

¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in 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, ³among 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. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For 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. 5 Solas

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

C. Grace Alone Saves

1. Grace Is Bigger Than You Thought
2. Biblical 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.*
 - b. N.T. Grace (charis #54850): *unmerited favor, that which produces joy and delight, God's inexhaustible resources that supplies our desperate need.*
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 (v. 1-3)

¹*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in 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, ³among 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)

B. But God...

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

- 1. Is The Complete Opposite Of Us
 - a. Rich in Mercy
 - b. Great in Love

2. Doesn't Get Intimidated By Death.

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

- 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. The only thing powerful enough to raise us from the dead is the Grace of God

- 1. It's difficult to comprehend it, but you've got good company and a good amount of time to catch on.

⁶[God] raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that 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)

- a. In the ages (worlds) to come, God will continue to display the exceeding riches of His grace
 - i. Evident in His kindness toward us.
- 2. Grace is God giving that which is so high and lofty that only He deserves it... only He produces it. But He gives it to pathetic, sinful, fallen man.
 - a. God chooses to be gracious... Because that's who He is.

⁶And the Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping 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)

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

3. 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.
 - i. *“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. 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; but because the LORD loves you... (Deut. 7:6-8)*

D. Grace (by nature) is an unearned, unmerited, unbudgeted gift (v. 8)

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

1. It's God's violent, bloody response to our violent bloody rebellion against Him.
 - a. Personified in Jesus Christ
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.
3. Grace (by nature) is that which God alone provides, from His own resources. None of us.
4. Grace (by nature) makes New Creations: *If any man be in Christ... (2 Cor. 5:17)*
 - a. Adam created from dust
 - i. What part did Adam have in his creation?
 - b. Jesus formed in the belly of Mary
 - i. What part did Mary have in placing the 2nd Adam into her womb?
5. **Reminder:** We were all dead!
 - a. Everyone born of a woman (except Jesus) is born into sin and therefore, death.

- i. We were born dead.
- b. Dead like Lazarus
- c. Grace is not just God's attitude toward us. It's His power to conquer death!

III. Grace Did It All: We Are His Handiwork (**v.10**)

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)

- A. We Are Simply the Result of God's Doing in Our lives.
 - 1. We are the end product of His performing, molding, breaking, shaping, etc.
 - a. We are the object of His power and passion.
- B. God poured all of His unbridled, unmerited, unbudgeted grace on us with a purpose: Good works.
 - 1. Result is that we are not only saved by grace, but God's grace continues to work in us, through us.
 - 2. God's grace, His power, stoops down to give favor toward us (in the person of his son Jesus).
 - a. Simply receiving is the what defines those that He calls his own.