

## **“But God...”**

Ephesians 2:1-10

### **INTRODUCTION**

Puritan author, Ralph Venning, once wrote this:

*“Sin is the worst of Evils, the evil of evils, and indeed, the only evil; nothing is as, nay, nothing is evil (properly) but sin, nor in comparison of it.”*

We often fail to realize how evil sin is. We fail to understand how insidious it is. How nefarious. How deceptive and dangerous sin is. How destructive. How offensive to God. How eternally damnable it is.

And this sin is not only the evil of evils, causing the creature to rebel foolishly and brazenly and daily before an infinitely holy God, but it is capable of eternally separating that soul from God in hell.

And this was our condition from the moment of conception. In Psalm 51:5 the psalmist said: *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

**But God...** (two of the most beautiful words in the whole Bible!)

### **You were DEAD in Your Sins... (vs. 1-3)**

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

You Followed the Ways of this World (2a)

*<sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world...*

You Followed the Ways of the Devil (2b)

*...world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

You Gratified Your Fleshly Desires and Thoughts (3a)

*<sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.*

You Were by Nature Objects of God’s Wrath (3b)

*Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

## **BUT GOD...Made Us Alive with Christ (vs. 4-5)**

*<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

Related passages: Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:6-14

## **BUT GOD...Raised Us Up and Seated Us with Christ (vs. 6)**

*<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...*

Related passages: 1 Corinthians 6:3; Hebrews 2:10-11; Revelation 3:21; Romans 8:17

## **BUT GOD...Made Us an Astonishing Spectacle of His Grace (vs. 7)**

*<sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

Hyper-ballo, meaning literally to “to throw way above or beyond”

Related passages: Ephesians 3:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10a

## **Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion**

1. What does it look like when a Christian is casual in their view of evilness and power in sin?
2. If you are willing, describe your current attitude toward sin? Perhaps the following terms will be helpful: apathetic, concerned but not doing much about it, trying to manage it, but not super serious about it, grieving over it, putting it to death regularly and daily, etc.
3. How does it impact you to know that God has so shared the victory of Christ with you that you are no longer dead in your sins, but alive in your spirit as a child of God?
4. How does it impact you to know that God has raised you up with Christ and seated you with Him, where He sits in authority over the world, the flesh, and the devil?