

July 19, 2026

Sermon: “A Testimony of God’s Amazing Grace”

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23

Introduction

A. “Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.”

B. John Newton wrote these words around 1773. These words were his testimony.

C. John Newton was the son of a ship captain. He first went to sea with his father at eleven years of age. In 1743 he was pressed into the Royal Navy. At one point he tried to desert but he was caught and severely beaten in front of the crew.

D. He thought about killing the captain and then committing suicide, but he never followed through on these thoughts. He transferred to a slave ship bound for West Africa, but he didn’t get along with the crew.

E. They left Newton in West Africa with a slave dealer, who in turn gave him to his wife as a slave. For years he was abused and lived a poverty-stricken life, feeding on the crumbs from her table.

F. He was rescued in 1748 by a sea captain who had been sent by his father to find him. On the return trip to England, they encountered a violent storm that nearly sank the ship.

G. John Newton cried out to God for mercy and he was rescued from drowning. He began to read the Bible but he continued in the slave trade until he had a severe stroke in 1754.

H. In 1764 Newton was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church. He preached faithfully and fought to abolish slavery in the British Empire. He died on December 21, 1807.

I. Everyone’s testimony is a little different, but at the same time everyone’s testimony has something in common. The common element is God’s amazing grace.

J. These ten verses in Ephesians 2 are the biography of every believer. Every Christian can identify with these verses of Scripture.

K. They describe our past, present, and future. These verses describe what we were in guilt, are in grace, and shall be in glory.

L. Big Idea: While dead in our transgressions and sins, God makes us alive in Christ by His grace for His glory.

I. What Was Your Life Like before God Saved You? (2:1-3)

A. Without Christ you were spiritually dead. (2:1)

B. Without Christ you were thoroughly depraved. (2:2-3)

1. You walked in the domain of the world. (2:2a)

2. You served under the direction of Satan. (2:2b)

3. You lived by the desires of the flesh. (2:3a)

C. Without Christ you were surely doomed. (2:3b)

II. What Did God Do When He Saved You? (2:4-7)

A. God manifested His love and mercy to you. (2:4)

B. God made you alive with Christ. (2:5)

C. God raised you up with Christ and seated you with Christ in the heavenly places in Christ. (2:6)

D. God lavished upon you the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness in Christ. (2:7)

III. How Did God Save You? (2:8-9)

A. “By grace”

B. “Through faith”

C. “This not of yourselves”

D. “It is the gift of God”

E. “Not of works, so that no one may boast”

IV. What Is Your Life Like Now That God Has Saved You? (2:10)

A. What difference is Christ making in your life?

B. How has He changed you?

C. Are you living your life to glorify Him?

Conclusion

A. Big Idea: While dead in our transgressions and sins, God makes us alive in Christ by His grace for His glory.

B. What's your story?

C. The Gospel Definition