




EPHESIANS 2:1-10

The State of man & The Heart of God

I. Introduction

-  Paul opens his letter with praise to a sovereign, triune God
-  Paul goes on to pray that God's people would really, truly, deeply know their sovereign, triune God.
-  In today's text, Paul teaches on...
 1. The state of man
 2. The heart of God

II. Verses 1-3: The State of Man

- ♣ Ephesians 2:1-3--*1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

1. Verse 1: Dead

- Is there a biblical text that explains what it means to be spiritually dead?

2. Verses 2-3: Description of Spiritually Dead

Worldly

Satanic

- Does it seem shocking to you that you once followed Satan? What did Satan do? He knew God yet he refused to worship God and he rebelled against God. What did we do?
- ♣ Romans 1:21-22--*21--For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools...*
- ♣ John 8:44--*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires*

Carnal

Children of Wrath

- ♣ Romans 8:6-8--*For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God*

Hostile to God

Helpless before God

III. Verses 4-10: The Heart of God

- ♣ Ephesians 2:4-6--*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of*

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God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them

1. Verse 4: But God

2. Verse 4: Rich in mercy

- The fact that God is rich in mercy is essential. A person must understand this to know and love God. If they understand all else that scripture teaches yet miss this they will wrestle with questions like, “if God is so good and powerful why did he allow man to fall into sin?”
- For those who know God’s merciful heart, they have no issue with that question. With gratitude they simply respond, “so that I would know and receive his mercy!” Discovering and receiving the mercy of God for all eternity is well worth temporarily enduring the depravity that beckoned it.

3. Verse 4: Great in love

- This passage points out just how great God’s love is. It extends FAR beyond merit. I love bacon because it tastes good. I hate mayonnaise because it is disgusting. God’s love is way, WAY! bigger and better than that. God loved us already while we still tasted like mayonnaise. Not because we would one day taste like bacon, but just because his love is so big that it can love something that is utterly unlovable and pour great blessing upon it anyway.

4. Verses 5-6: Made us alive with Christ

Spiritually Dead	Made Alive with Christ
Unable to make the slightest move toward God	Brought fully to God. God did not invite us to live, He made us alive.
Horrible in the sight of God	Daily being made more and more like Christ with the promise that God will complete this work
Hostile toward God. An enemy of God	Not just an ally. Seated with Christ himself! We are awarded the utmost of intimacy and privilege.
Child of wrath awaiting hell	Adopted and beloved children of God

5. Verse 7: The motive of God

- this verse answers the question; why has God lavished such mercy and love upon us? “So that they will marvel for all eternity over the incredible kindness and love of God. It will take all eternity to fathom God’s love, and those who are saved will never plumb the depths of it!”
- It may seem arrogant for God to have as his motive “showing his greatness.” It would be arrogant if a man were to save another simply just to “show his greatness.” The difference is that God’s intent is not to narcissistically please himself by showing off. It is to delight and awe us as he

¹ ESV Study Bible Commentary, p.2264

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reveals to us the fullness of himself. This is why it is good for God to be primarily about his own glory. Because his own glory is for us to rejoice in.

6. Verses 8-9: Salvation by grace through faith

- Grace is actually what saves us
- Faith is the means through which grace saves us
- Faith is not of ourselves
- Why is getting all all this important? Because misunderstanding this gives us something to boast about.

7. Verse 10: Good Works

- Salvation is not the end of the story! God has plans for you. He has non-christian souls in this world that he will save through your mouth! He has infantile christians that will reach maturity through your discipleship! He has children that he will raise into mighty christian men and women through your parenting! He has hungry mouths that will be fed through your generosity! He has hurting hearts that will be healed through your prayer and compassionate care. This work that he has for you is not for your burdening either. It is for you joy and delight. That you may continue to see the mighty acts of God all the days of your life by actually participating in them.
- This is the application verse. Paul is hoping that you are so blown away by the glory of God in salvation that you are clamoring to discover how you might serve God.