

OH WHAT A SAVIOR
Identity -VS- Wedenity
EPHESIANS 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Eph. 2:1 (NIV)

“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.” Eph. 2:2 (NIV)

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath” Eph. 2:3 (NIV)

Two words describe the place of spiritual death:

In your trespasses

Trespass is a failure to hold to the path

In your sins

Sin is a failure to hit the mark

If sin brings death why do we sin? These verses explain the three things that we followed to our death:

The World

The world

There are 2 names used for the devil here...

“the ruler of the kingdom of the air”

“the spirit at work in those who are disobedient”

The Sinful Nature

Notice the three ways our sinful nature “speaks” to us:

The World System

The Devil

Our Own Sinful Nature

“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,” – Eph 2:4 (NIV)

“made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.” Eph. 2:5 (NIV)

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” Eph 2:6 (NIV)

Because of our sin we were: objects of wrath

Before Christ we are spiritually dead. We don't need resuscitation... we need resurrection. You can't do CPR on a dead person!

Look at the depressing downward direction in these verses: Dead... Disobedient... Depraved... Doomed. It looks hopeless!

But God!

Two words to change your eternity!

What made the difference? What was the motivation in the heart of God? Love, Mercy and Grace!

Love: the willingness to sacrificially for you

Mercy: the withholding of deserved punishment

Grace: the giving of undeserved blessings.

Want to know “the real you” – As a believer – look at the experience of Jesus Christ and you see the real you. This isn't just history... it's your story.

Alive – A new Person

Raised – A new Power

Seated – A new Perspective

“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.” Eph. 2:7 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” Eph. 2:8-9 (NIV)

“And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.” Rom. 11:6 (NIV)

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Cor. 9:8 (NIV)

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” 1 Cor. 15:10 (NIV)

“As the body with the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” James 2:26 (NIV)

There is a definite purpose to this new life.
That God might show forth His Grace

Through all eternity we'll be exhibit A of the grace of God.

Question: What are the “coming ages”?

Notice carefully the place of works in these verses

1. From “not by works”

“Our good works do not put God in our debt, His love puts us in His.” William Barclay

“It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone.” John Calvin

Why didn't God offer salvation by works?

It is VITAL to understand the cause and effect relationship between grace and works... between faith and works.

God's grace and our faith are the cause.

Our works are the effect.

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph 2:10 (NIV)

2. to “workmanship”

We get our English word masterpiece from the Greek word poema

The way the believes “renew their minds” for doing good works is by recognizing “I AM GOD'S WORKMANSHIP”

3. to “doing good works”

Good works are always Preapproved by God.

Good works are always Pre-planned by God.