

From Death to Life: The Amazing Grace of God

Ephesians 2:1-10

A. Introduction

1. When we look at a passage, & try to understand it, we need to know the context.
2. Paul is writing a letter to the Ephesian church.
3. He is encouraging them to understand their position in Christ.
4. The passage highlights both the problem and the solution they face in life.
5. The problem is spiritual death, while the solution is grace through Christ.
6. Many years ago, Pauline & I heard a live testimony of Johnny Lee Clary.

B. The Reality of Our Condition Without Christ (vv. 1-3)

1. *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins"*
2. What is spiritual death? Simply put, it is separation from God because of sin.
3. Paul describes it as "being alienated from the life of God" in Ephesians 4:18.
4. It can also be referred to as walking in darkness. (v2)
5. If we live apart from Christ, we are all open to any type leading.
6. We are easily influenced by the world, the flesh, and the devil.
7. If we don't stand for God we fall for anything!
8. We live according to our sinful nature, seeking fulfillment in worldly things.
9. We live as "Children of wrath" – the natural consequence of sin is judgment.

C. The Past of Every Christian Is Usually Not Very Pretty (vv. 1-3)

1. We were all dead in trespasses and sins.
2. We all walked according to the course of this sinful world. (1 John 2:16.)
3. We were living to get; to gaze & to gloat (the pride of life)
4. Our minds were captivated by lust & greed, deserving God's wrath (John 3:36)

D. The Richness of God's Mercy and Love - The Present of Every Christian

1. But...God (v. 4): The turning point in the passage, where God's grace intervenes.
2. Despite our hopeless condition, God acts out of mercy and love.
3. *"Because of His great love for us... made us alive with Christ."*
4. God's mercy isn't a response to our need, it flows from His great love for us,
5. God is rich in everything to do with salvation, which God's initiative, not ours.
6. His love enters our lives and changes them.
7. We were dead, but He has made us alive, as a result of His grace.
8. Through Christ's resurrection, we are made alive & raised up with Him.
9. This is a new identity & position in Christ, made possible by His death for us.
10. God's ultimate purpose is to show the incomparable riches of His grace.
11. Grace is not just for our personal benefit, but to display God's glory.

E. The Gift of Grace (vv. 8-9)

1. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*
2. Salvation is not something earned or deserved, it's not a reward for our efforts.
3. This verse dismantles any idea of self-righteousness.
4. Rely on Christ's finished work rather than their own efforts.

F. God's Work in You

1. You have not always been a Christian.
2. Even so, you have been the beneficiary of God's blessings. (Philippians 1:6)
 - a. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.
 - b. We are all surrounded by God's handiwork and wonders.
3. Believers have had a special work of God in them.
 - a. A work of God's Spirit that brought conviction of sin.
 - b. A work of God that enabled them to understand the gospel.
 - c. A work of God that brought them to faith in Christ.
4. Has there been a new beginning in your life?
5. The new birth is absolutely necessary to enter heaven (John 3:1-5).
6. God's work in you is a good work.
7. Some people are afraid to let God work in them.
8. But God works for our good, in Salvation, Discipleship, Personal revival
9. God's continuing work in us through three things:
10. The Bible (Heb. 4:12); His Spirit (John 14). Circumstances (Rom. 8:28).
12. He "will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" & so He is not finished yet.
13. The goal of God's work is to make you more like Jesus (Rom. 8:28-29)
14. What does God need to do in you to accomplish His purpose?

G. The New Life We Have in Christ (v. 10)

1. We are God's masterpiece, living out our new identity in Christ.
2. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."*
3. Salvation is not the end of the journey but the beginning of a new purpose.
4. We were created for good works that God has prepared for us to do.
5. Being saved by grace leads to a transformed life.
6. To walk in good works, not to earn salvation, but as a response to God's grace.

H. The Future of Every Christian (v. 7)

1. The great thing for us, the best is yet to come. Keep hold of your fork!
2. The grace of God was not used up in salvation. This was just the beginning.
3. Remember where you came from. Also, remember where you are going!
4. Recognize God's work in you, and respond to His call every day..
5. Don't have a great day. Make it a great day!
6. What are you doing for this wonderful saviour right now?