

Miracle of Grace

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A Study in Ephesians 2:1-10

The message From *Dark to Different* told what God called us *out of* and *away from*;

Faith, Fruit, and Finish Line emphasized what our life should now *produce*; and

Your Identity in Christ said we are chosen, redeemed, forgiven, and adopted into God's family.

We now ask: *How did we get to where we are?* And, *How do we go from spiritually dead to spiritually alive?*

Believers, someone said, have two birthdays—when they were physically **born**, and when they were spiritually **reborn**. The first gives them *physical* life; the second gives them *eternal* life.

I. Originally Lost

NKJV Ephesians 2:1, “*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

2 “*in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*”

Everyone is born separated from God and now we are told What God has rescued us *from*; What He rescued us *by*; and What He rescued us *for*.

If someone wasn't living any longer, they would *not* be able to rescue themselves from anything.

Three influences on people are—the *world*; the *devil*; and the *flesh*. It is Satan who has people disobey God's plan and follow the world.

Today's culture pushes us *away* from God and *toward* the world—having us *celebrate* what God condemns. It calls the *dark, light; and evil, good*—but without Christ we drift with the current—*downstream*!

Ephesians 2:3 “*among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*”

Satan works in many ways to deceive—he has most in the world think that *pride* is a *good*—so they don't need the Bible to tell them otherwise. But without God in this world there is *no hope*.

Our biggest problem isn't *outside* us, but *inside* our heart. Sin is what we are *inclined* to *do*—as we were *born* with that tendency. With God's help we can overcome the world's influence.

II. But God loves us

Ephesians 2:4 “*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.*”

Everything changes when we realize we *were* dead—**But God** makes us alive;

We *deserved* judgment—**But God** saves us from destruction;

We *were* helpless of ourselves—**But God** gives the gift of His Spirit so we do not give in to temptation.

God doesn't do all this for us because we deserve it, but because *He loves us* as He loves His only Son, and because of His character—“*God is love*” 1 John 4:8, 16.

Three reasons tell us *why* we *won't* receive what we deserve,

A. His Mercy “*being rich in mercy!*” God does not give us the punishment we deserve as “*children of wrath.*”

B. His Love and “*because of His great love*”—a love that *left* Heaven; *endured* the cross; and *shows* His love to us every day.

C. His Grace “*by grace you have been saved*” and grace gives us what we *cannot* earn.

Mercy withholds judgment—**Grace** gives *salvation*. God made us *alive* and *seated* us with Christ.

Grace means unearned favor; undeserved kindness—it is God's gift to us from His great heart of love for us.

Eternity in Heaven will be a never-ending testimony of God's “**Amazing Grace!**”

Ephesians 2:5 “*even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

6 *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*”

God performs three actions—*made* us alive in Him; *raised* us up with Him; *has* us sit together with Jesus. Being *seated* means being *accepted*.

WEY Romans 6:4 “*Just as Christ was raised from among the dead by the Father’s glorious power, we also should live an entirely new life.*”

Anyone who is not living cannot do anything—so that leaves salvation entirely up to God.

The *awesome* power that brought Jesus back to life, is the *same* power able to bring us to new spiritual life—John 10:10 “*I have come that they may have life.*”

It’s not about being just a *better version* of ourselves, but being a *totally new creature* in Christ.

“*In heavenly places*” is not just *after* we pass from this life, but means the true believer already belongs to God’s kingdom while living *this* life on earth. Our citizenship is actually in Heaven Philippians 3:20.

We *live* on earth, but our *identity* is in Heaven. We may still be *on earth*, but our *hope* and our *future* are in Heaven.

Ephesians 2:7 “*That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*”

We can escape the lake of fire because God in His mercy and grace forgives our sins when we repent of them and live this new life.

Let us think of eternity as *God’s endless exhibition of grace*. Angels will forever see what God’s grace accomplished.

God’s grace really isn’t majestic mountains or endless galaxies of planets and stars—it is *redeemed sinners* made over and living a *new life* forever.

III. God’s Great Gift

Ephesians 2:8 “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”

Vs 1-3 We *were* from the start “*dead in sin*,” vs 5-7 but *now* our present and future life we are—*made alive*—we have a *new life* in Christ.

Since we are *Raised with Christ*, we share in His victory over sin, death, and the grave.

Since we are *seated with Christ*, we have a secure position, and our identity is with Him in Heaven.

Since we are being shown God’s grace in this life and later forever in the next, our life now should be a continuing display of God’s love, mercy, and grace as we interact with others.

From *dead to alive*; from the *grace to a throne*; from *condemnation to forever forgiveness*—that is an easy-to-understand definition of God’s *amazing grace*.

Ephesians 2:10 “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*”

IV. Closing Thought

Imagine walking through an art museum—every painting has a small, engraved plate beneath it, naming the artist.

Now think of entering Heaven—but instead of *paintings*, there are hundreds of millions of redeemed *people* residing there.

No one has a plate reading: *Good Enough; You Earned It*; or *You Worked Hard For It*.

Every believer stands as an *eternal testimony* to the mercy, love, kindness, patience, and grace of Almighty God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Heaven itself will be God’s *gallery of grace*—displaying forever and ever and through the endless ages of eternity—what only God could accomplish.

Beneath every life is the description in bold print: “***Saved by Grace.***”



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