

**Text:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Meaning:** Paul talked about the powerful grace of God

**Big Idea:** God's grace is powerful to save

**Objective:** I want the hearers to know and proclaim God's grace

**Theme:** BUT GOD

## THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF GRACE

### READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

#### The unadulterated gospel

We are saved by GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE!

#### BUT GOD....

**First – WERE IT NOT FOR GOD WE'D BE DESPERATELY LOST!**

**Second – BUT GOD CAN DO IT!**

There is a clear BEFORE AND AFTER when it comes to salvation.  
Language describing salvation in the Bible:

DARKNESS TO LIGHT  
ENEMY TO FAMILY  
HOSTILITY TO HOSPITALITY  
DEATH TO LIFE!

SAVATION IS NOT A RENOVATION, A REFORMATION, OR EVEN A RESUSCITATION – IT'S A RESURRECTION!

Workmanship – POEMA in Greek, where we get our word POEM  
Used to speak of CREATION and REDEMPTION.

God's two great EPIC POEMS – CREATION AND REDEMPTION!

### 1. MAN'S HOPELESS STATE

**Paul says man is HOPELESS, HELPLESS, AND IN FACT LIFELESS! DEAD – Nekros in the Greek.** It speaks of a body with no spirit, a physical body that no longer has a soul. Just a shell, no spiritual life at all. In other words his spiritual faculties are not functioning. Death typically speaks of both ALIENATION and SEPARATION. So, mankind is ALIENATED from God and SEPARATED from Him by our sin.

**DEAD in TRESPASSES AND SINS** – very simply means we are dead both in **NATURE AND IN ACTION**

**DOCTRINE OF TOTAL DEPRAVITY** – Man is completely and totally depraved and unable to save himself or to exhibit any spiritual life whatsoever.

#### Romans 3:10-12

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

**DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN** – Mankind is born with a sin nature

#### Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

We are NOT SINNERS BECAUSE WE SIN  
We SIN BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS

Therefore, **IN ORDER TO BE SAVED WE MUST BE RESURRECTED!**

#### OUR HOPELESS ACTIONS

Because we are DEAD we can't help but SIN

#### YOU – GENTILE BELIEVERS

**AION** – word speaks of the modern age, so the ways and wisdom of this modern culture.

Interestingly enough, AION was also the Greek God of time, specifically eternity. AION was directly connected to the Zodiac, and astrology, and is the foundation for fortune telling and your horoscope. Astrology proposes that you can get direction for life from the alignment of the constellations.

Beloved – the question is not DO THE STARS ALIGN?! THE QUESTION IS DOES MY LIFE ALIGN WITH THE WILL OF GOD?!

**I'M NOT AN ARIES, A PISCES, A LEO, OR A SCORPIO – I'M A CHILD OF GOD!** The only eternal one who can set the course of my life in the right direction – is JESUS CHRIST!

#### **NFL CHARACTER PLAYBOOK**

The NFL ran an ad campaign during the super bowl promoting their new CHARACTER PLAYBOOK, and how now they would provide these character playbooks in schools and communities across the nation. ALL WHILE HOSTING THEIR BIG GAME IN SIN CITY AND PROMOTING GAMBLING ON THE GAME IN DOZENS OF COMMERCIALS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT!  
Hey NFL – We've got a character playbook – it's called the BIBLE – WE DON'T NEED YOUR VERSION!

#### **Prince of the Power of the Air**

**Spirit Now at work in sons of disobedience – THE DEVIL!**

**MATTHEW 9:34** – Satan is the PRINCE OF DEMONS

**JOHN 12:31** – Satan is the PRINCE OF THIS WORLD

WHAT THEY THOUGHT WERE HARMLESS THINGS – WERE DEMONIC Demonism, Satanism, witchcraft, magic arts

**ACTS 19** – Some who practiced magic arts burnt their books

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN – TODAY WE STILL PROMOTE THESE SAME DEMONIC THINGS.

**TAYLOR SWIFT** – dabbling in witchcraft

**AMAZON PRIME** – putting out a cartoon portraying Satan as a misunderstood hero.

**LIL NAS X, SOME OTHER HIP HOP ARTISTS**

Mocking Jesus and role playing demonic seances at their concerts

BELOVED – THESE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL ARE NOT NEW – these are the same old tired deceitful games he's been playing for centuries, BUT SADLY THERE ARE LOTS OF SPIRITUALLY GULLIBLE PEOPLE, INCLUDING PROFESSED BELIEVERS, WHO FALL FOR IT.

**Ephesians 6** – our battle is not with flesh and blood but with powers, principalities, spiritual forces of wickedness – put on the whole armor of God. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

**3 on ramps to the demonic possession and oppression in your life: OCCULT, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY**

MOVES FROM THE DEVIL TO SEXUAL IMMORALITY – isn't it interesting how those two go together.

**PASSIONS OF OUR FLESH** – Passions in the Greek is the Word we often translate LUST

**DESIRES OF THE BODY AND THE MIND** – Carrying out desire gives the idea of WHATEVER YOU DESIRE JUST DO IT. IF YOU THINK IT OR DREAM IT, JUST DO IT.

MAN – lust after other men – do it

WOMAN – lust after other women – do it

MAN – want to live as a woman – do it

Complete and Total Depravity of man on display  
Romans 1 – they not only practice such debased things – but even give hearty approval for others to do the same. Churches even now are giving hearty approval to this depraved stuff.

WHY? BECAUSE MANKIND, WE ARE **CHILDREN OF WRATH** APART FROM CHRIST – DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS!

## 2. **GOD'S AMAZING GRACE**

**Verse 8** – one of the most famous verses about the saving grace of God – WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH – IT IS NOT OUR DOING – IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD!

### **4 of the 5 SOLAS of the REFORMATION**

Sola Gratia  
Sola Fide  
Solus Christus  
Soli Deo Gloria

### **GRACE – God's Riches at Christ's Expense**

God's unmerited favor  
His blessing on the unworthy  
His kindness toward the undeserving  
His love for the unlovely  
His riches freely given to those in poverty

GRACE – the complete opposite of merit

### **MOTIVATION FOR GRACE**

#### **Rich in MERCY**

Mercy and grace go together  
GRACE – GOD GIVING US WHAT WE DON'T DESERVE  
MERCY – GOD WITHHOLDING WHAT WE DO DESERVE  
It's because of God's mercy, because he withholds what we deserve that makes grace possible. When we sin God chooses to stay His

hand of judgment to give us opportunity to respond in humble submission

### **Great LOVE**

The steadfast love of God never ends toward His children. We may be children of wrath apart from Christ – BUT WE ARE OBJECTS OF HIS LOVE!

### **Made us ALIVE**

Jesus said, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live!"

Just as Jesus called LAZARUS from the dead, so he quickens us so that we might be saved! He calls us by name and opens our eyes by the conviction of the Holy Spirit and gives us the ability to respond by faith!

**Together** – Jews and Gentiles together in this one loving family – God's plan of redemption from the beginning of time. All races, nationalities, income levels, all together in one loving family

**RAISED AND SEATED** – same language to speak of what God did for Christ through the resurrection in chapter 1

**Seated** – speaks of the high position we now have in Christ. We sit enthroned above all the low stuff of life. We are children of God and our identity is not in the brokenness of life. So when Satan tries to tempt, accuse, or attack, I can remind me that He has no power over me any longer.

Jesus is LORD OVER MY FINANCES, MY HEALTH, MY MARRIAGE, MY CHILDREN – AND THE DEVIL HAS NO SAY OVER ANY OF THOSE THINGS! MY ETERNAL DESTINY IS IN THE HANDS OF GOD!

Why did He save us and seat us with Christ?

**SHOW IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE**

SHOW – PUT ON DISPLAY

Child of God – you are God’s workmanship! His work of art! And He wants to put you on display so that all will see His glory!

God didn’t save you to sit in the shadows and blend in  
He didn’t save us to just go along with the crowd

HE SAVED US TO PUT US ON AN EASEL OUT FOR EVERYONE TO SEE  
HIS GLORIOUS GRACE!

YOU ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP! HIS MASTERPIECE! HIS WORK OF ART!

COME TO JESUS AND HE WILL TAKE YOUR BROKEN PIECES AND  
MAKE A MASTERPIECE