

## *Ephesians: Saved by Grace*

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

### ***“Life” before Jesus (v. 1-3)***

- Our lives before Christ are defined by death
  - Which comes from our sinful disobedience to God
- It is the “natural” state of the world
  - Sin has distorted our minds (see Rom. 1:21-22, 28)
    - “The flesh”: We live as if God doesn’t exist
  - And thus follow the “prince of the power of the air”
    - In the ancient world, the atmosphere was the realm of spirits
    - This prince is the devil, the father of lies

### ***God’s Grace (v. 4-7)***

- *But God* acted on our behalf because of His:
  - Mercy: kindness towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
  - Love (agape): Unconditional benevolence
- If we are in Christ, we experience the benefits that Christ has earned
  - We are made alive with Jesus
  - We are raised up and seated in glory with Him
    - Past tense used to show the certainty of present standing and future events
    - “Already, but not yet” language
- And all this so that He might show us His grace
  - Unmerited favor
  - The heart of real love

### ***Salvation (v. 8-10)***

- Through Christ, we have been saved:
  - From our sins
  - From the lie that we can have life apart from God
- Grace is the basis of our salvation
  - Which comes through faith in Christ
- Salvation is not based on our works
- Nor our own *ability* to believe in God (v. 8b-9)
  - “*This*”: Faith
    - Thus, our ability to believe God is even a gift from Him
    - So, we cannot boast even in our faith
- Salvation has a purpose
  - So that we will be God’s workmanship
    - ποιήματα (*poiēmata*): God has created us for this purpose
- The purpose is to do good works
  - Which God already has planned for us

***So What?***

- Apart from God, we are all the walking dead
- We are not saved by the good we do, but we are saved to do good

***Meditation Verse:*** Ephesians 2:8-10