

Ephesians 2:1-10 – Grace alone – Faith alone – Christ alone

A. Introduction

- We have received every spiritual blessing through Christ (1:3). God's ultimate purpose is to transform the whole cosmos (1:9-10).
- This must take great power – the transforming power seen in the Resurrection and Ascension and Enthronement of Christ (1:19-23).
- This power affects us personally (2:1-10) and corporately (2:11-22).

B. Amazing Depths – Life without Christ (2:1-3)

Paul paints a very grim picture of all humans without Christ:

- ❖ **We were Dead (2:1).** We were severed from the life of God:
 - When Adam sinned he **began** to die physically (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:19; 5:3-5). All of us are dying physically
 - He **did** die spiritually. He had walked in close fellowship with God – the essence of life. He now hid from God (Genesis 3:6-11,23). We are cut off from the life of God like a cut flower. And are spiritually dead.
 - This is caused by transgression (deliberately breaking God's law) and sin (falling short of God's glory - Isaiah 59:2).
- ❖ **We were enslaved (2:2-3).** We were helpless captives imprisoned by:
 - **The World** (2:2) – it moulded us and kept us oblivious (Romans 12:2).
 - **The Devil** (2:2) – he kept us bound sin and separated from God.
 - **The Flesh** (2:3) – we have a sinful heart and cannot stop sinning.
- ❖ **We were condemned (2:3).** We were all under God's wrath:
 - This is His settled, personal, righteous and consistent hatred and hostility to all that defies His will, spoils His creation and destroys our wee-being.
 - It was our greatest danger (Romans 1:18-20).

C. Amazing Heights – Life in Christ (2:4-7)

God broke into our lives and transformed our situation:

- **He made us alive** (2:5) – He gave us the gift of spiritual life – a newness of life imparted by the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23).
- **He saved us** (2:5) – we were saved from the wrath of God by the blood of Jesus (1:7). We have been brought into every spiritual blessing (1:3).
- **He raised us up and seated us with Christ (2:6).** This is a place of:
 - ⇒ **Victory** – God has set us free and given us victory of our enemies.
 - ⇒ **Destiny** – we will reign with Christ for ever (Revelation 22:5).
 - ⇒ **Security** – we are eternally safe and through the eternal ages we will demonstrate God's amazing grace (2:7; 1:6, 12, 14).

D. Amazing Grace – Life through Christ (2:8-10)

- ❖ **The work of God for us (2:8-9).** We are saved by:
 - **Grace alone** – The only thing we bring to the table is the sin we have to be saved from. It is grace from beginning to end (2:4, 5, 7, 8-9).
 - **Faith alone** – faith is not a “work” that earns salvation, but a trust in the work of another and the receiving of a free gift.
 - **Christ alone** – all of these blessings come to us through Christ who is named five times here (2:4, 6, 7, 10). God blesses His Son and as we trust Christ we are joined to Him and share these blessings.
- ❖ **The work of God in us** (2:10). We are saved by God and for God.
 - God is transforming us – we are His “poem” – a “walking work of art”.
 - This is seen in “good works”. We used to walk in the ways of the world (2:2); now we walk in good works (2:10). Paul will spell this out in the second half of Ephesians (4:1 – “Walk worthy of your calling”).