

# In Christ God Has Set Us Free From Dead Living

---

September 17, 2023

**Apart from Christ, we are \_\_\_\_\_ dead. (1-3)**

**God in His love and mercy \_\_\_\_\_ us from the dead. (4-6)**

**God's work \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace. (7-10)**

## ***Ephesians 2:1-10***

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our

trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

---

**Open:** How might your life be different if God suddenly stopped showing grace to you?

**Read:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Discuss:**

1. According to this passage, what were the associated characteristics of being “dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked” (v. 1)? Why is “dead” an appropriate word to describe this, even though it clearly refers to living people?
2. From verses 4-7, what motivated God to save us? How do these motives make you feel as you consider our condition without Christ? How would you describe the God-centered nature of these motives? How do we benefit from God’s God-centered pursuits?
3. What does Paul mean when he says we have been “made alive,” “raised” and “seated” with Christ (vv. 5-6)? How might you respond to someone who says, “All that sounds nice, but what does that have to do with my everyday life?”
4. What do we learn about God’s grace from verses 8-10? Why do you think Paul thought it was so essential to stress in these verses that we are not to take credit for our salvation? Should “faith” itself be considered a work. Why or why not?
5. What “good works” (v. 10) has God prepared for believers to walk in? What holds you back, if anything, from walking in “good works”?

**Apply:** What can you do this week to live out your identity as a child of God made alive in Christ?

**Pray:** Thank God for some of the many ways he has been gracious to you. Ask Him to celebrate the new life you have in Christ, that you may joyfully walk in the “good works” He has prepared for you.