

## Sermon Notes on Ephesians chapter 2:1-10.

18/07/2021

### God's love bringing us new life in Christ

**Introduction.** This is like a summary of what God has done through Christ in bringing new life to those who do not deserve His love, but whom He enables to exercise His free gift of faith.

**1. v 1-3 describe the human condition before God** (the reader's past); **'dead in your transgressions and sins' and deserving of God's wrath.**

**2. v 4-7 assert God's loving initiative in bringing salvation;** **'God..., made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions' (unable to do anything to save ourselves). This is how God reveals His love and mercy by making spiritual dead alive. Through His undeserved mercy and grace those who trust in Christ are saved. **'made alive', 'raised'** and **'seated'** refer to three key events for Jesus –**his resurrection, ascension and session** (entry into his kingly reign - see the Creeds). Believers' union with Christ means they share in his resurrection, ascension and session. Through Christ believers receive both the benefits of his work (forgiveness and new life) and the reality of being present with God through His Spirit. Christ's work is complete and effective, since the one who sits on the throne is the Lamb who was slain on the cross (Rev. 22:1-3).

**Response.** Consider/discuss what being "deserving of wrath" means (vv. 1-3)? What is God's motive for making spiritually dead people alive (vv.1, 4-6)?

**3. v. 8-10 further emphasise the fact that salvation comes through God's grace alone. The response of faith (or trust) is itself a gift from God,** so there are no grounds for boasting. Those who exercise this gift of faith in Christ are now spiritually alive. Believers are God's handiwork brought alive in Christ for the purpose of living a new life. This new life for believers is to be lived in obedience to God, to bring honour and glory to God through the good works He has planned for us to do.

**Response.** How has God taken the initiative in what has He done for humankind? (1-10). How are we now experiencing God's grace at work in our lives? How is this new life to be lived? (10). Reaffirm the commitments that were made (or you made) at your baptism/confirmation.

**If you have not made this commitment to follow Christ, today is an opportunity to exercise God's free gift of faith which He offers you.**

Consider some practical ways that we as a church can grow in our unity and grow in our obedience to Christ? How will these actions bring honour and glory to God, and show that He truly dwells with us?

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