

Series: Ephesians: Our Life In Christ (ONLINE WEEK 6)

Sermon: But God

Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

Illustration:

Need: Our gracious God reached into our spiritual death and made us alive in Christ!

I. The way we were (2:1-3)

- We were all dead spiritually because of sin.
- DOA - Dead on Arrival (Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12).
- The physical life we live is that of:
 - following the course of this world
 - following the lead of our enemy, the devil
 - carrying out the lusts of body and mind, our flesh

II. The work of God (2:4-9)

- “But God” did for us what we were incapable of doing for ourselves - He saved us!
- Motivated by His “Mercy, Love, and Grace” He:
 - “Made us alive” - gave us new life
 - “Raised us up” - resurrected us spiritually
 - “Seated us in Christ in heaven” - guaranteed our place with Christ
- God saved us for His glory and for our good.
- Salvation is by God’s grace alone (the basis) through faith alone (the means/response) in Christ alone (His death and resurrection).
- Salvation is God’s free gift to us and can only be received, NEVER earned (not of works)

III. Our path forward (2:10)

- We cannot boast in our salvation but God can! He gets the credit.
- We are His masterpiece, His work of art, His “workmanship.”
- God’s work in our life is about us walking in the good works that He prepared beforehand for us to accomplish.
- As we walk by faith and obedience, God will produce these “good works” or fruit in and through us.

IV. A time to evaluate

- Too many believers have gradually returned to their former way of following after the world, the flesh, or the devil.
- When we find ourselves here, our responsibility is to repent and return to God’s path forward.
- Too many believers share the gospel without basing it in God’s grace, apart from human effort, through faith alone in Jesus, the crucified and risen One.
- It is our great responsibility to share the accurate gospel of the free gift of salvation by grace through faith apart from works!