

## **From Death To Life By Grace (Ephesians 2:1–10)**

This passage presents one of the clearest summaries of the gospel in all of Paul's writings. It moves from man's hopeless condition in sin, to God's powerful intervention through grace, and finally to the transformed life that results from salvation. It is both doctrinal and deeply practical, showing not only how we are saved, but why we are saved. Paul lays out a progression that every Christian must understand: what we were, what God has done, and what we are now called to be.

### **Introduction:**

1. The passage explains the full scope of salvation from beginning to end. It does not begin with man seeking God, but with man lost and dead in sin, emphasizing that salvation is entirely dependent upon divine initiative (Ephesians 2:1–2).
2. The passage highlights the contrast between man's condition and God's character. Paul deliberately places "But God" at the center of the passage to show that the turning point in salvation is not human effort, but divine mercy (Ephesians 2:4).
3. The passage establishes both the means and the purpose of salvation. It explains not only how salvation is received by grace through faith, but also that believers are created for a life of good works (Ephesians 2:8–10).

### **1. Our Past Condition — Dead In Sin (Ephesians 2:1–3):**

- a. Man's condition is described as spiritual death, not weakness. Paul states that we were "dead in trespasses and sins," indicating total separation from God and inability to restore ourselves. This shows that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort, since a dead man cannot act or respond without divine intervention (Ephesians 2:1).
- b. Man's walk was governed by external and internal influences. Paul explains that we walked "according to the course of this world" and under "the prince of the power of the air," showing that both worldly systems and spiritual forces shaped our conduct. This reveals that sin is not random, but part of a broader pattern of rebellion against God (Ephesians 2:2).
- c. Man's conduct showed a pattern of yielding to sinful desires and placed him under judgment. Paul says "we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind," emphasizing what people chose to practice rather than what they were born as. The phrase "children of wrath" describes those who live in disobedience and therefore stand under God's judgment, not an unavoidable condition from birth. This shows that judgment is just, because it is based on lived rebellion rather than imposed guilt (Ephesians 2:3).

### **2. God's Present Work — Made Alive In Christ (Ephesians 2:4–7):**

- a. God's action is rooted in His character of mercy and love. Paul begins with "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," showing that salvation originates in God's nature, not in human worthiness. This emphasizes that grace is unearned and undeserved (Ephesians 2:4).
- b. God's work is described as giving life where there was death. Paul says that God "hath quickened us together with Christ," indicating that believers share in the life of Christ. This is not merely moral improvement, but a complete transformation from death to life (Ephesians 2:5).
- c. God's purpose extends beyond the present into eternity. Paul explains that believers are raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places, showing a new position in Christ. He further states that this demonstrates "the exceeding riches of his grace" in ages to come, revealing that salvation ultimately glorifies God (Ephesians 2:6–7).

### **3. Our New Purpose — Created For Good Works (Ephesians 2:8–10):**

- a. Salvation is entirely by grace through faith. Paul clearly states that it is "not of yourselves: it is the gift of God," removing all grounds for boasting. Faith is the means by which grace is received, not a work that earns salvation (Ephesians 2:8).

- b. Salvation excludes human merit as a basis. Paul reinforces that it is “not of works, lest any man should boast,” ensuring that all glory belongs to God. This guards against pride and emphasizes dependence upon God’s provision (**Ephesians 2:9**).
- c. Salvation results in a transformed life of good works. Paul declares that we are “created in Christ Jesus unto good works,” showing that good works are the result, not the cause, of salvation. He further explains that these works were “before ordained,” indicating that God has prepared a path of obedience for every believer (**Ephesians 2:10**).

#### **Conclusion:**

1. This passage clearly shows that salvation is entirely the work of God from beginning to end. Man is described as dead, unable to save himself, while God is shown as rich in mercy and active in bringing life. This removes all grounds for pride and directs all glory to God (**Ephesians 2:1–5**).
2. The transformation described in this passage is both radical and complete. Believers are not merely improved versions of their former selves, but are made alive, raised, and given a new position in Christ. This emphasizes the depth of change that salvation brings (**Ephesians 2:6–7**).
3. The purpose of salvation is not only to rescue from sin, but to produce a life of obedience. Those who are saved by grace are also created for good works, demonstrating that genuine faith results in a changed life that reflects God’s will (**Ephesians 2:8–10**).

#### **Applications:**

1. Examine whether you have truly experienced this transformation. It is possible to be religious without being made alive in Christ, so each person must consider whether they have passed from death unto life (**Ephesians 2:1; John 5:24**).
2. Give all glory to God for your salvation. Since salvation is by grace and not by works, there is no room for pride, only gratitude and humility before God (**Ephesians 2:8–9**).
3. Commit to walking in the good works God has prepared. Salvation is not the end, but the beginning of a new life, and believers must actively pursue obedience in their daily conduct (**Ephesians 2:10**).

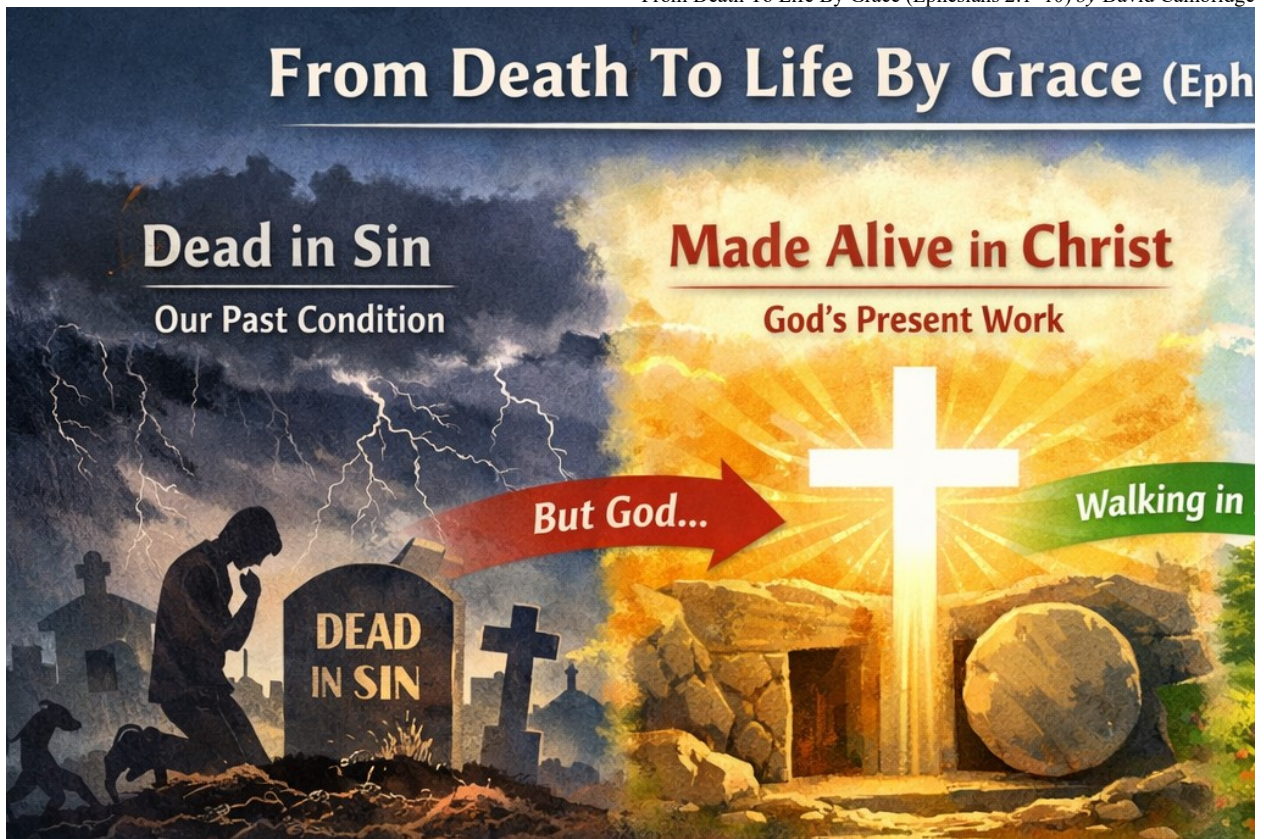
#### **Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be “dead in trespasses and sins” (**Ephesians 2:1**)?
2. What influences shaped our former way of life (**Ephesians 2:2**)?
3. What is the significance of the phrase “But God” (**Ephesians 2:4**)?
4. Why is salvation described as a gift (**Ephesians 2:8**)?
5. What is the purpose of being created in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 2:10**)?

#### **Summary:**

This passage presents a complete picture of salvation, beginning with man’s lost condition and ending with a transformed life of purpose. Paul emphasizes that apart from God, man is spiritually dead and unable to save himself. However, God, motivated by mercy and love, intervenes to bring life through Christ, demonstrating the greatness of His grace.

The result of this salvation is not merely a change in status, but a change in nature and direction. Those who are saved are called to live differently, walking in the good works that God has prepared. This passage therefore calls for both humility in recognizing God’s grace and commitment in living out the new life given in Christ.





**Questions & Answers:**

1. What does it mean to be “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1)?

Answer: Being “dead in trespasses and sins” means being spiritually separated from God and unable to restore oneself, indicating a condition of complete helplessness apart from divine intervention (Ephesians 2:1).

2. What influences shaped our former way of life (Ephesians 2:2)?

Answer: Our former way of life was shaped by the course of this world and the influence of the prince of the power of the air, showing both worldly and spiritual forces at work (Ephesians 2:2).

3. What is the significance of the phrase “But God” (Ephesians 2:4)?

Answer: The phrase “But God” marks the turning point in the passage, showing that salvation begins with God’s mercy and love rather than human effort (Ephesians 2:4).

4. Why is salvation described as a gift (Ephesians 2:8)?

Answer: Salvation is described as a gift to emphasize that it is given by God’s grace and cannot be earned by human works, ensuring that all glory belongs to God (Ephesians 2:8).

5. What is the purpose of being created in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10)?

Answer: Being created in Christ Jesus means being made new for the purpose of doing good works, which God has prepared in advance for believers to walk in (Ephesians 2:10).