

Fact Sheet for **“How Great a Salvation”**  
**Ephesians 2:1-10**

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A couple of weeks ago I spoke about the proper settings for evangelism and discipleship. We have proper settings for both today.

We have an evangelistic opportunity today at the WOE Fair. There will be several people who are attending the race who are not Christians. This is the proper venue for evangelism and I will be giving an evangelistic devotional. But also keep your mind open for evangelistic opportunities you may have while there.

The book of Ephesians on the other hand is not evangelistic. Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Ephesus to teach and encourage them about their great salvation in Christ. And the imperatives that largely come in the last three chapters of this book have to do with their lifestyle as Christians.

In the first 10 verses of chapter 2 Paul writes to the Ephesians about this great salvation.

The fourth sentence in this whole book is found in verses 1-7 of this chapter. These long sentences that Paul wrote are sometimes difficult to sort through and understand, but there are four words that go a long way in helping you sort out this seven verse sentence. Paul literally begins verse 1 with the words “And you”. He began verse 4 with the words, “but God”.

So, let’s begin with the “And you” section. Verses 1-3 speak of their, *and our*, pre-Christian situation.

ESV 2:1 ¶ **And you were dead in the trespasses and sins**

We were spiritually dead, not just ill. Spiritually dead!

“Trespasses” literally means “false steps”.

“Sins” means acts of missing the mark.

We were all stuck in the muck! We were spiritually dead in our 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—**

We followed the sinful ways of the world, the lifestyles of other unbelievers.

Even though we likely didn’t understand it then, the ways of the world are in reality inspired by Satan, the prince of the power of the air. Satan is that spirit who is now at work in those who aren’t Christians. But be careful in your thinking here. Satan is not omnipresent as the Holy Spirit is.

**<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.**

We all were there. We were by nature children of wrath like every other unbeliever. Pause for a moment and think about our situation before we became Christians. Lost! Blind! In fact, if you are just looking at verses 1-3 there is no reason at all for hope for any of us. We’re all lost!

Now here is the “but God” section. There are three things Paul wrote that God did for us.

**<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—**

1<sup>st</sup> – When we were spiritually dead he made us alive together with Christ.  
Being rich in mercy  
Because of His great love  
Even when we were still dead in our trespasses!!!  
By God's grace we have been saved!

**6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

2<sup>nd</sup> – When we were spiritually dead he raised us up with Christ

3<sup>rd</sup> – When we were spiritually dead he seated us in the heavenly places in Christ.

And there is much more to come...

**7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

I can only imagine all that this will entail.

The next three verses (two sentences) sum up Paul's thoughts. Verses 8-9 are favorite verses to memorize.

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

There's a lot to appreciate in these two verses.

Let's start with a little Greek grammar. Unlike English, every Greek noun and pronoun has gender; masculine, feminine, or neuter. And gender changes the actual spelling of these words. Now there is a rule. A pronoun, like the word "this", must have the same gender as the noun it refers to.

Now look again at these two verses.

"Grace" is a feminine noun.

"Faith" is also a feminine noun.

But "this" is neuter. It does not refer to grace or faith. What other noun is neuter? "Gift"! This gift is not of your own doing, it is of God.

What Paul is referencing is verses 4-7...

1<sup>st</sup> – When we were spiritually dead God made us alive together with Christ.

2<sup>nd</sup> – When we were spiritually dead God raised us up with Christ

3<sup>rd</sup> – When we were spiritually dead God seated us in the heavenly places in Christ.

**10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

It may be right to say, "I'm sure glad I placed my faith in Christ." But, given these ten verses, it may be better to say, "I'm sure glad God saved me."

Think about these verses from other perspectives also.

How will these verses help you in your own dedication to God?

How will these verses help you in your own evangelistic efforts?