

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

THEN: Ephesians: 2:1-3

God created a man good and placed him on earth to populate the it. He disobeyed God and through his disobedience sin entered into man. After Adam sinned, he started populating the earth and every man has been born with his sin nature. The end result of sin is death, therefore; man in his sinful nature is separated from God and is dead to the things of God. In verse one of Ephesians chapter two, Paul reminded the believers that they were once dead in their trespasses

and sins, but God had quickened them. Notice it was not something that they did on their own initiative that brought the change in them. Their new life came about because God intervened due to His mercy and love. That reminder is for all of us. It also tells us not to look down, condemn or to think less of those of the world who are not serving Christ. We should consider ourselves, be thankful and praise God for His mercy and love that brought the change in us and we should pray for sinners that grace and mercy will be extended to them also. We were no different from them in our conversations and deeds, were just like them serving and pleasing the desires of our flesh. We were subject to the wrath of God due to our actions. Man by nature is a slave to satan, he is led by him and kept in captivity by him. He is called the ruler of this world. Our actions deserve God's wrath, and we would end up in eternal damnation without the intervention of God's mercy and love. The chapter started by saying, He quickened us. In other words, He changed us in a moment. It was not a long-drawn-out process. It was done in an instant, He did what had to be done. He reached out to us, extended mercy, grace, salvation, and love. Our part is to accept Him and His gifts by faith, a faith that we did not have on our own, but He also gives us the faith that we have. There is nothing for which we can boast. Our response is to accept Him, worship and obey Him.

NOW: Ephesians 2-4-10; In the midst of our race to self-distraction, God shows us His rich mercy and His great love by gently reaching out to rescue us from death and sin, and gives us eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. He saves us by grace through faith and places our lives in Jesus Christ. When this happens, we are no longer held captive by satan and under the bondage of sin, but we are set free to worship our creator. There is nothing about our freedom for which we can take credit. We did not and could not work for it by doing good works. It is given

to us by grace through faith. We become a new creature to do good works. Our nature is no longer that of pleasing self but that of pleasing God and serving others through good deeds. As redeemed or regenerated individuals our lives are hidden in Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places. This thought should cause us to be thankful in praising God for His rich mercy and great love towards us that change our destination from hell and damnation to heaven and eternity with Him. It should inspire us to reach out to those who are of the world, heading to eternal separation from God and share His love with them. Telling them that He is no respecter of person, He loves them and is willing and able to do the same for them if they will accept His gift by faith.

Our new man is created in Christ for good works. One of our good works is to reach out to others in service and sharing His love for all. Our works will not save us, but we are created for that purpose. We are His workmanship; therefore, we have nothing about which to boast. We did not make ourselves or accomplish anything on our own. All we are or will be is through Him, our creator. All praises belong to Him, He deserves all praises. We are saved by grace through faith due to the riches of His mercy and His great love.