

From Death to Life Ephesians 2:1-10

"But God..." These are two of the best words in the entire Bible. We were in a state of separation from God and rebellion against God, destined for an eternity apart from God, "But God...." God intervened! God rescued us from death and created life within us freely by His grace. Now we live in newness of life, empowered to fulfill God's original design for us.

1. We were dead in sin

- Define death – Genesis 2:16-17
 - Ex – Prodigal Son. My son was dead and is now alive; estrangement
- Paul's description of mankind apart from Christ.
 1. According to the "age of this world"; 1 Cor 2:14
 2. According to the prince of the power of the air = Satan. 2 Cor 4:4
 3. Dead in behavior; "lusts of flesh"
 4. Dead in reasoning; "desires of flesh AND of mind"
 5. Dead "by nature" – Romans 5
 6. Death was our destiny; "children of wrath"

2. We are alive in Christ – Ephesians 2:4-9

- "But God" = two of the best words in the entire Bible!
- **What** is "salvation"? Rescue, deliverance.
 - Common biblical word, so common we don't think deeply. Rescue, deliverance
 - Rescued, saved, delivered from what? Wrath of God, punishment of our sins
 - Death = narrow place; a pit; a deep well with no rope; cords; grave
 - Heb. = broad place.
 - Salvation from...
 - Negative = from sin's penalty, wrath
 - Positive = life
 - Eph 2:5-6. 3 descriptive words, each rare, one Paul made up, with prefix "with"
 - Everything that God did for Christ, He has also done for you
 - He made you alive together with Christ, Raised up with, seated with
 - Timothy Keller, "Jesus sat in our seat – the seat of wrath – so that we could sit in His seat – the seat of honor at the Father's right hand"
 - 2:5, 8. "you are saved" or "you have been saved"
 - Perfect passive ptcp. Past tense with continuing results
- **How** has God saved us? Ephesians 2:8-9
 - By grace as a gift
 - Grace = undeserved favor, blessing
 - Dorea = free gift
 - Not out of self, not by works –
 - Not a reward – do enough and you will prove you are worthy
 - Not a bargain – God's done His part, now you do yours; work together
 - Not a zero money down loan – free up front, but keep working to keep it; don't make a payment and you lose it
 - Romans 4:5

- Through faith. Hebrews 11:1
 - Faith is not certainty but conviction
 - Passive: I become convinced – Spirit, evidence, reason, testimony
 - Faith includes information, knowledge.
 - Active – I trust in Jesus
 - Command: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved
 - Faith is both work of God and responsibility of man
 - Big or small, strong or weak at moment of salvation
 - Not faith that saves me BUT GOD
- Ephesians 2:9. You can't boast; only God can boast. Romans 10:2-3
- **Why** did God save us? Ephesians 2:4, 7
 - Mercy, great love, riches of His grace, kindness.
 - Pity with a purpose
 - Ephesians 2:10. For good works
 - Workmanship. Probably where we get the word “poem” from

Application

1. Believe
2. Be prepared
 - Fall goal: initiate spiritual conversations with at least 2 people who are far from Jesus
3. Pray
4. Celebrate. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10