

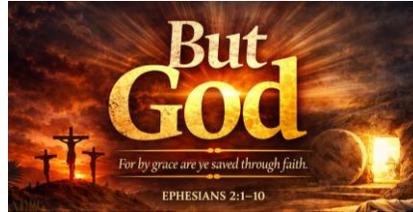
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 2:1-10 – A merciful God and sinners dead in their sins!

Today's Message:

"But God"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of three great realities Paul wanted the believers to understand clearly. Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers to have *the eyes of their understanding enlightened*. Today, we arrive at a passage that is fitting for Palm Sunday. There are few passages in Scripture that show man lower, God higher, and grace greater than this one. The text will open in a graveyard – spiritually. It starts with what we were by nature, and it ends with what we are by God's grace. God does not rehabilitate sinners; He recreates them into new creatures with glorious purpose. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 2:1-10

A. WHAT WE WERE – We were dead in our trespasses and sins!

1. The sinner is _____ by worldly pressure, spiritual bondage, and internal corruption.

W1828:

Quickened

Made alive

Dead

Spiritually lifeless;
deprived or
destitute of life.

- **Ephesians 2:1** – *And you hath he QUICKENED , **who were dead in trespasses and sins**;*
- **Ephesians 2:2** – *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**;*
- **Ephesians 2:3** – *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 children of wrath, EVEN AS OTHERS.***

"Dead in trespasses and sins" – condemned already; **guilty** of crimes against God!

*"According to the course of **this world**"* – ENEMY 1 – **1 John 2:15-17** – love **not** the world

*"According to **the prince... the air**"* – ENEMY 2 – **1 Peter 5:8** – your **adversary** the devil

*"In the lusts of **our flesh**"* – ENEMY 3 – **Romans 7:18** – in **my flesh** dwelleth no good thing

*"Children... **BY NATURE**... children of wrath"* – **John 8:44** – Ye are of your **father** the devil

Three Enemies

The World

The Devil

The Flesh

Father by Nature

Whether you like it or not, the Bible clearly teaches **that your father by birth is the devil**. You **must** be **born again** to enter God's family! **John 3:3**

Comparing Scriptures

- **Genesis 3:6** – *[Eve] ... good for food... pleasant to the eyes... desired to make one wise...*
- **Luke 4:1-13** – *[Jesus] ... made bread... power... the glory... cast thyself down from hence...*
- **1 John 2:15-17** – *[You] ... the lust of **the flesh**... lust of **the eyes**... the **pride of life**...*
- **Galatians 5:19** – *Now **the works of the flesh** are MANIFEST, which are these...*

"... who were dead in trespasses and sins..."

Dead men do not seek God, respond to light, or revive themselves!

Three enemies ruled your old life – the world, the devil, and the flesh.

Sin is not bad behavior that needs to be modified – it is spiritual death and crimes against God.

B. BUT GOD – the doctrine of divine interruption (phrase is found 43 times in KJV)

W1828: "Mercy"
 Not getting what you deserve.
 God withholds what justice demands.

2. "But God" repeatedly appears when human inability, danger, sin, weakness, or evil reaches its _____ – then God intervenes.

- Ephesians 2:4 – **But God**, *who is rich in mercy*, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Searching the Scriptures

Question: As a child of God, are you rich in mercy?

Important Note
 Salvation never begins with man reaching upward.
 It begins with God reaching downward!

- When man is _____.
- ✓ Ephesians 2:4 – we were dead in sins, under God’s wrath, unable; **but God** stepped in!
- ✓ Romans 5:8 – we were yet sinners in sin... **but God** *commendeth His love toward us!*
- ✓ Matthew 19:26 – we reach an impossibility... **but with God** *all things are possible!*

Important Note
 God overturns human evil; reverses human intention.

- When _____ seems to win.
- ✓ Gen 50:20 – Joseph’s brothers thought evil against him; **but God** *meant it unto good!*
- ✓ Acts 7:9 – Stephen preached how men abandoned Joseph... **but God** *was with him!*
- ✓ Acts 13:30 – evil men crucified Jesus Christ... **but God** *raised him from the dead!*

Important Note
 God becomes what human weakness lacks.

- When human _____ fails.
- ✓ Psalm 73:26 – *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart!*
- ✓ 1 Cor 10:13 – *There hath no temptation taken you... but God is faithful!*
- ✓ 1 Cor 3:6, 7 – *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase!*

Important Note
 God reveals what human wisdom cannot.

- When truth is _____.
- ✓ 1 Cor 1:27 – **But God** *hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise!*
- ✓ 1 Cor 2:10 – **But God** *hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit!*

Key Truth

- On the **LEFT** of "But God" – danger, failure, sin, confusion, weakness, and evil!
- On the **RIGHT** of "But God" – mercy, grace, truth, power, purpose, and victory!

C. WHAT GOD DID – God, in his mercy and grace, intervened to offer us Hope!

3. God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us... chose to _____ us!

Position "in Christ"
 Quickened together
 Raised together
 Seated together

- Ephesians 2:5 – *Even WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR SINS, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

Believers are **seated** in heaven now!

No Human Effort
 Grace is the source
 Faith is the means
 Works are excluded

- Ephesians 2:6 – *And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in HEAVENLY PLACES in Christ Jesus:*
- Ephesians 2:7 – *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his GRACE in his kindness TOWARD US through Christ Jesus.*

The church is God’s eternal exhibit of grace!

W1828
"Workmanship"
 God’s masterpiece.
 Christ transforms your life with purpose to bring Him glory!

- Ephesians 2:8 – *For BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED through faith; and that NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is the gift of God:*
- Ephesians 2:9 – **Not of works**, *LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.*
- Ephesians 2:10 – *For we are his workmanship, CREATED in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ORDAINED that we should walk in them.*

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus..."
 It **starts** with dead sinners... and **ends** with beautiful design – a creation of God!
 It **starts** with wrath... and **ends** with purpose – fully capable of bringing God glory!
 It **starts** with what we were by nature... and **ends** with what we are by God’s grace!