

"Broken for Us" | A Lent Series | Ephesians 2:1-10 - Pt. 6

"But God" | April 5th, 2026

Review:

This Easter, we explored Ephesians 2:1-10, examining the profound truth contained in two simple words: "But God." The sermon walked us through the spiritual reality of our condition apart from Christ, the gracious intervention of God through the resurrection, and the purposeful life we now have in Him.

Rather than simply recounting the Easter story, we explored what Easter accomplished for us - the movement from spiritual death to abundant life through God's grace. This passage reminds us that the resurrection isn't just a historical event we celebrate once a year, but the very foundation of our new identity and purpose in Christ.

Key Takeaways:

1. **We were spiritually dead** - completely unable to save ourselves or do anything of spiritual value
2. **God's intervention is purely grace** - we are saved by grace through faith, not by our own works
3. **We are saved for a purpose** - God has prepared good works beforehand for us to walk in
4. **The resurrection proves our hope** - Jesus' resurrection guarantees our spiritual life and eternal future

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose One to Try This Week)

- **Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9** and share it with someone who needs to hear about God's grace
- **Journal about your "But God" moment** - when did God intervene in your spiritual deadness?
- Identify one "good work" God has prepared for you and take one concrete step toward walking in it
- **Share your testimony** with someone this week, emphasizing God's grace rather than your efforts
- **Pray daily** thanking God for specific ways He has shown mercy and grace in your life

Understanding the Text:

1. Re-read **Ephesians 2:4-5**. What emotions or thoughts come to mind when you hear "But God, being rich in mercy..."?

2. *Think Through It:* Verse 8-9 makes it clear we are saved by grace through faith, not by works. Why is it important to understand that even our faith is a gift from God?

3. Study other "But God" moments in Scripture:

- Genesis 50:20 (Joseph's story)
- Acts 2:24 (Peter's sermon at Pentecost)
- Romans 5:8 (God's love demonstrated)

Questions for Reflection:

1. Reflecting on your pre-Christian life, what specific ways can you see God's mercy intervening when you were dead in trespasses and sin?

2. Pastor Tony shared his own journey into ministry as an example of God's prepared works. Can you identify "good works" God seems to have prepared specifically for you?

3. Can you remember a time when you thought you could earn God's favor through good behavior? What changed your perspective?

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:8-9

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

Prayer Time:

- His rich mercy and great love
- The gift of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection
- The good works He has prepared for each person in your group
- The assurance that nothing can separate us from His love

Father, thank You for the miracle of resurrection—both Christ's and ours. Help me to never forget that we were once dead, but You made us alive. May we walk daily in the good works You've prepared, living as people transformed by grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.