

Title: Thanks Be to God Who Made Us Alive in Christ**Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10 (4-7)****Background Scripture: John 3:16, Roman 5:8, 1 John 4:4-9****Bible Teacher: Deacon Keven Wright**

I. Background

There are some things in life that we can improve, repair, or fix. We can fix a broken chair, repair a damaged car, or restore an old house. But there is one condition that no human being can fix on their own—spiritual death.

In Ephesians 2:1–10, the Apostle Paul reminds us of where we were and, more importantly, what God has done for us. Paul says that we were **“dead in trespasses and sins.”** We were separated from God and unable to save ourselves. Our condition was not merely that we were struggling, weak, or in need of improvement. We were spiritually dead.

But then Paul gives us two powerful words: **“But God.”**

Those words change everything.

Because of His great love and mercy, God did not leave us in the condition He found us. Paul declares that God **“made us alive together with Christ.”** Through Jesus Christ, God brought life where there was death, hope where there was hopelessness, and salvation where there was no way for us to save ourselves.

This is why we can say, **“Thanks be to God who made us alive in Christ!”**

Our salvation is not something we earn through our good work. It is a gift of God's grace, received through faith. Paul makes it clear that we are **“His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”** God did not simply rescue us from our past; He gave us a new life and a new purpose.

II. THE LESSON:

Paul begins by reminding the believers of their former condition. The word “dead” describes our spiritual condition apart from Christ. Paul is not saying that people had no physical life. He is explaining that sin had separated humanity from the life of God.

Before Christ, we were unable to make ourselves spiritually alive. A dead person cannot bring himself back to life. In the same way, we could not save ourselves. We needed God to intervene.

Paul describes it like this, “we were once members of the walking dead of this world.” The world has influenced our thinking, values, desires, and behavior. Before Christ, our direction was determined by the world rather than the Word of God.

Paul further describes people as walking according to our flesh and of the mind.” Meaning that sins affect both our actions and our thinking. Our greatest problem was not simply what we did, but it was our heart and mind that needed a transformation.

1. **v.4. “But God, who is Rich in Mercy.”** These two words “**But God**” represent the difference between our past and our present.

We could not save ourselves – But God Could

We were spiritually dead – But God gave us life

We were separated from Him – But God brought us near

We were without hope – But God demonstrated his love towards us

Mercy means God does not give us the punishment we deserve. Humanity deserved judgement because of sin, but God responded with compassion. God is not merely merciful, his is “rich in mercy.” His mercy is abundant, unlimited, and available to all who trust him. His mercy is not based on our goodness, but it flows from his character.

God’s motivation for saving us was love. God did not love us because we were perfect. He loved us while we were spiritually dead. God love was not merely an emotion. He acted on our behalf through Jesus Christ.

2. **v. 5. “For his great love wherewith, he loved us.”** God’s Love is the motivation behind salvation. He loved us even while we were sinners. Paul emphasizes the greatness of God’s Love:

- **Unconditional Love** – God loves us where we are, but he does not intend to leave us where we are.
- **Sacrificial Love** – is love that willingly gives of itself for the good of another, even with the person receiving that love has done nothing to deserve it.
- **Eternal Love** - love with no expiration date.

“Even when we were dead in transgressions, we were made alive with Christ.”

(5) Before Christ, we were spiritually dead and separated from God. Through Jesus, believers received new spiritual life. This new life includes:

- Forgiveness of sins
- A new relationship with God
- Spiritual renewal
- Eternal Life

The most important fact here, God acted “even when” we were dead in sin. Salvation is entirely an act of Grace. Salvation is not self-improvement; **it is a spiritual resurrection.**

The word “quicken” means made **alive**. This is the heart of our lesson. God did not simply make us better people; he gave us new life. When it comes to Christ, God brings spiritual life where there was spiritual death. Jesus becomes the source of our new life.

Our new life is connected to Jesus. Christianity is not simply about following religious rules. It is about having a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Grace means God gives us something that we could never earn. Our salvation is God’s great gift. We cannot purchase it. We cannot work enough for it. We cannot earn it through human achievement. **Salvation is by grace and through faith in Jesus Christ.**

3. v. 6: “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” Believers are spiritually united with Christ. Just as Jesus rose from the dead and was exalted, believers now share in his victory and authority. “Heavenly places” refers to our spiritually position in Christ.

- We belong to God’s Kingdom
- We have access to God
- We live with eternal hope
- We are no longer slaves to sin

4. **v. 7. “In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace” (7) God saves believers to display his grace forever. Our salvation is a testimony of God’s kindness and power.**

Every transformed life becomes evidence of:

- God’s grace
- God’s Love
- God’s Faithfulness

Because God made us alive in Christ,

- We should live with gratitude
- We should walk in obedience
- We should reject our old sinful lifestyle
- We should extend mercy and grace to others
- We should boldly share the Gospel

Our salvation is not earned by work but received through grace and faith. **It is gift that should be shared and not kept to ourselves.**

III. Conclusion

Ephesians 2 reminds believers that salvation is completely the work of God. We were dead in sin, but God stepped in with mercy, love, and grace. Through Jesus Christ, we have been made alive, raised up, and given eternal hope.

The phrase “But God” changes everything.

- When sin said death, God said life.
- When the world offered hopelessness, God offered grace.
- When we could not save ourselves, Christ made us alive.

Therefore, we can confidently declare:

“Thanks be to God who made us alive in Christ.”