

Ephesians 2: “But for the Grace of God...”

Key Thought: The words, “But God” (verse 4) signify God has instituted a complete change in direction. Man is dead, sold out to a world system and its ruler, and it affects everyone. The outcome is sure judgment. But God decided to change things because of His great love and mercy. This change is Grace, the unmerited favor of God. In Christ He completely changes our status from death to life, places us in heaven with Christ, to do good things He had planned. This is all for His glory alone, so we can't say we had anything to do with our salvation, and it works out according to His plan, not ours. Anything less and He receives less than all the glory.

The outcome is real peace, unity among all people, because all people are In Christ. Man is again in complete communion with the Triune God. We are joined together like bricks in Jesus' church, by the Spirit, where God dwells.

Ephesians 2: 1-3: The Natural State of Mankind Without Christ

- Dead because of sin.
- Sold out to the world (can we know any better?)
- Under the control of Satan (is he going to let us know?)
- Universal. Everyone is in this state until they come to Jesus.
- Judgment is our destiny: Objects of God's Wrath.

Ephesians 2: 4-10: But God...

- Because of God's great love and mercy we are made alive in Christ.
- Even though dead and in sin: This is grace!
- Raised us up to the heavens with Christ (a done deal, past tense).
- Why? So that His graceful, loving, and merciful character may be fully displayed.
 - We will be on display for eternity.
 - God alone gets the glory. That means no one but God did the work, no one can boast and claim any part of the credit, even ourselves.
 - We demonstrate His workmanship (what do you think we will look like and be like in eternity?)
 - We will do the good works He has planned, so that He receives all the glory.

Ephesians 2: 11-22: Therefore...Made One in Christ

- Former state:
 - Gentile.
 - Separated from God.
 - Excluded from citizenship, foreigners
 - Not part of the covenant.
 - No hope.
- Far from God.
- By the blood of Jesus: brought near, at peace with God and man, having access to God by one Spirit.
- Now:
 - Fellow citizens.
 - Member of God's own household.
 - Rooted on a new set of teachings and promises.
- Very close to God, in fact He now dwells within us as the Trinity
 - Part of a living temple, In Christ, joined together by the Spirit, where God dwells.