



Ephesians 2:1-10

# OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST

*Men and women outside of Christ were the objects of divine wrath, **but God** had mercy on them. We were dead, **but God** has made us alive with Christ. We were in bondage to evil powers, **but God** has seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms. A completely new situation has arisen because He has taken every necessary step to reverse our condition in sin. What prompted God to act so freely and mercifully on our behalf? ...His mercy, His great love, His rich grace, and His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.* —Peter T. O'Brien

In Ephesians 2:1-10, the apostle Paul covers the whole doctrine of salvation in ten verses. This passage explains our problem, God's initiative, and our transformation in Christ.

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH US? (2:1-3)

# GOD



## WHAT DID GOD DO? (2:4-7)

- God's Character
- God's Actions
- God's Purpose

*Man needs a new heart, not just a new start; a new life, not just turning over a new leaf; a resurrection, not just reformation. Signing a pledge card will not suffice. No one can live a life for God until he first receives life from God.* —Edward G. Dobson

**Course of this world.** *All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, ...being the moral, or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale.* —Richard C. Trench

*The things that dominate Satan are the things that dominate us.* —S. Lewis Johnson

**Disobedience.** Greek, *apeitheia*, "being unpersuadable" (Vine).

*Men love their vices and hate them at the same time.* —Seneca (4 BC-AD 65)

Grace is God's solution to man's sin. Mercy is God's solution to man's misery. Grace covers the sin, while mercy removes the pain. Grace gives us what we don't deserve while mercy withholds what we do deserve.

## HOW ARE WE SAVED? (2:8-9)

*For you have been saved  
by grace  
through faith  
and that not of yourselves  
It is the gift of God  
not of works  
lest anyone should boast.*

1. Salvation is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Salvation is by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Salvation is received through \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Salvation is not of my own \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Salvation is a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
6. Salvation is not of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Salvation excludes all \_\_\_\_\_ in myself.

## WHO ARE WE NOW? (2:10)

*For we are His workmanship  
created in Christ Jesus  
for good works  
which God prepared beforehand  
that we should walk in them.*

- I am God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have been \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.
- I have been saved so that I can now live the life that I was created and designed to live, fulfilling God's purpose for me by doing the \_\_\_\_\_ which God prepared for me before the beginning of time that I should walk in them.

*We must learn to live on the heavenly side and look at things from above. To contemplate all things as God sees them, as Christ beholds them, overcomes sin, defies Satan, dissolves perplexities, lifts us above trials, separates us from the world and conquers fear of death.*

—A. B. Simpson

*Because God is gracious, therefore sinful men are forgiven, converted, purified and saved. It is not because of anything in them, or that ever can be in them, that they are saved; but because of the boundless love, goodness, pity, compassion, mercy and grace of God.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

*Christianity teaches salvation by grace through faith, every other religion teaches salvation through works and merit.*

—Max Lucado

*Faith is like the hand of the beggar that takes the gift while adding nothing to it.*

—Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)

*The poem depends entirely upon the poet for its creation. It is the unveiling of the deepest and most intimate secrecies of his heart. His own image is projected over every page, and it is the poignant personal element in poetry that makes it so beautiful, and gives it its enduring charm.*

*Men, then, are God's poems.*

—James Hastings (1852-1922)

*God is saying, "You are My poetry. You're special to Me. I'm not giving up on you." ...He is making you something not only useful but beautiful...something that is poetic.*

—Jon Courson