

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 2:3b-5
Dead Sinners Made Alive

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From Wrath to Salvation

Ephesians 2:3b-5 (NASB)
And were by nature **children of wrath**, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**)

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Under God's Wrath

Ephesians 2:3b (NASB)
and were **by nature** children of wrath, even as the rest

- "Children of" is a Hebraic expression meaning "characterized by"
- Nature is fallen and cannot save us
- We must reject liberalism and its false claims about perfecting human nature
- Sin is endemic and not caused by social conditioning

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God Is Loving and Merciful

Ephesians 2:4 (NASB)

But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love** with which He loved us

- “But God” contrasts the horrible situation with God’s mercy and motivation of love
- “Rich” and “great” are an alliteration in Greek and thus emphatic
- We receive mercy—we do not deserve it and cannot earn it

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Made Alive With Christ

Ephesians 2:5a (LEB)

and we being dead in trespasses, he **made us alive** together with Christ

- “Being” is *ontas* exactly as in Eph. 2:1
- God did this “even” when we were dead sinners who were living for self
- This begins three “with Christ” statements—made alive, raised, seated (verses 5, 6)

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Salvation Is by Grace Alone

Ephesians 2:5b (LEB)

(by grace you are saved)

- “Saved” is from a perfect passive participle with God the agent of salvation
- “Saved” means “rescued from serious peril” which is God’s wrath against sin
- This issue will be revisited in verses 8, 9
- Grace alone is one of the 5 “solas” of the Reformation

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Implications and Applications

- Salvation is grounded in God's attributes which are revealed in the Bible
- The first advent of Christ reveals God's saving love

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God's Self-Revelation

Exodus 34:6, 7a (NASB)

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth**; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished,

- **God has spoken** (see John 1:17; Heb. 1:1-3)

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God's Saving Love

Titus 3:4 (NASB)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior **appeared**,

- "Appeared" is "*epephane_*" ground for the English term "epiphany" (see Luke 1:79)
- "Loving kindness" is from *philanthropia* which means "lover of mankind"
- **What God did in sending the Savior is public truth and reveals His saving love**

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True Salvation

Titus 3:5-6 (NASB)

He saved us, **not** on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, **but** according to His mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

- The triune God is at work in salvation
- **NOT works** ↔ **But according to His mercy**
- **Regeneration is a work of the Holy Spirit**

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Justified and Eternal Hope

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

so that **being justified by His grace** we would be made heirs according to the **hope of eternal life.**

- Justified means having right standing before God
- "Heirs" is *kle_ronomos* and implies being God's "lot" (see Galatians 3:29)
- "Hope" here is grounded in the certainty of God's promises that reach into eternity

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