

LOVE SO AMAZING  
GRACE SO AMAZING

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Eph. 2:1-10

Eph. 2:1 And you *hath* **he** quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But **God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved;**)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come **he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace** in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

As we begin the New Year, we begin a new theme – *GRACE SO AMAZING*. Our theme last year, *LOVE SO AMAZING*, captured our hearts, and deepened our appreciation for the love that the Lord Jesus has bestowed toward us. May this year be one of spiritual growth, creating within us a greater appreciation of how amazing God’s grace is toward each of us.

Our passage encapsulates many major doctrinal necessities: holiness, sin, love, mercy, grace, faith, and peace. Look for these topics while we consider this passage on *Grace So Amazing*.

In a simple review of chapters one and two, Paul proceeded to conclude his revelation of the Christian's individual calling in Christ (1:3—2:10). He began this section of the epistle by explaining **the purpose of our calling** (i.e., **the glory of God**, 1:3-14). He then expounded the means whereby **we appreciate our calling** (i.e., **knowledge given by the Holy Spirit through God's revelation**, 1:15-23). Finally, he enunciated **the motive for our calling** (i.e., **the amazing, unmerited grace of God**, 2:1-10).

Everything begins with God. For the believer, He “...**hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:**” (1:3.) The believer is in a relationship with the eternal Creator, blessed with “...spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:” A spiritual relationship with God transcends the earthly trappings of temporality. Eternal destiny is secure for the believer, positionally reserved throughout all of eternity in Christ.

Everything is “**to the praise of the glory of his grace...**” (1:6.)

Eph. 1:6 **To the praise of the glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, **according to the riches of his grace;**

- ❖ Our relationship with God begins with the redemption of sins, through His blood – 1:7 – which is “...according to **the riches of his grace;**”
- ❖ As we observe chapter two, we will see how *Grace is So Amazing*.

## I. THE PAST EXPOSED, 2:1-3

### A. Sinners Were Spiritually Dead, 2:1

Eph. 2:1 And you *hath* **he** quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

❖ The first issue addressed is holiness and sin.

❖ All men are sinners and are spiritually dead.

Rom. 3:9 What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that **they are all under sin**; ...

23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**:

❖ Spiritual deadness is why mankind must be born again – “quickenened” – or saved.

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God is quick**, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

❖ God is holy and mankind must be changed to meet God's standard of acceptance:

1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Eph. 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ...**  
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

❖ Spiritual death is so powerful that mankind requires a GREAT SAVIOR – “you hath **he** quickened.”

B. Sinners Were Spiritually Deluded, 2:2a

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...”

❖ Believers were just like everyone else, and had to be transformed by the amazing grace of God.

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, **it is hid to them that are lost:**

4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

C. Sinners Were Spiritually Disobedient, 2:2b –  
“...the spirit that now worketh in the children  
of disobedience:”

Mt. 22:36 Master, which *is* **the great  
commandment** in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord  
thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,  
and with all thy mind.**

❖ Mankind loves themselves, first, and simply is  
disobedient to spiritual truth.

Deut. 30:20 That thou mayest **love the LORD thy God, and** that thou mayest **obey his voice**, and that thou mayest **cleave unto him**: for **he is thy life**, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing **ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren**, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently*:

- ❖ The most noticeable difference between believers and nonbelievers is obedience/faithfulness.

Jn. 14:15 **If ye love me**, keep my commandments.

D. Sinners Were Spiritually Defiled, 2:3a “Among whom also **we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind...**”

- ❖ Believers are humbled in admitting the sinfulness of the past.

1 Cor. 2:14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:** for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Mt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and **broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:**

E. Sinners Were Spiritually Doomed, 2:3b “...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- ❖ Being changed by the power of Christ is a testimony that believers have a GREAT SAVIOR and a GREAT SALVATION.

## Summary

### ❖ Believers Have A Great Savior

Psa. 95:3 For **the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for **his great love** wherewith he loved us,

1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that **we have a great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **great shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

## ❖ Believers Have A Great Salvation

Heb. 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect **so great salvation**; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

Psa. 21:5 **His glory is great in thy salvation**: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.

## ❖ Believers Have A Great Substantiation

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and **things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

## Conclusion

❖ Sinners are saved by “*Grace So Amazing*” and consequently, live by His grace.

1 Cor. 15:10 But **by the grace of God I am what I am:** and **his grace** which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but **the grace of God which was with me.**