

His Workmanship

Ephesians 2:1-10

We like to hear our name mentioned when a subject is brought up that we know something about & needs wisdom or clarity...so and so says...Bill says. Our most favorite subject is **us**. Take a group photo—who do you look for first? So Paul talks about you & me vs 1-3. Contrast to greatness of God's grace.

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Spiritual deadness—Adam & Eve *in the day you eat you shall surely die*...spiritual immediately, physical eventually. Passed to us '*thru one man sin....*' No relationship, no fellowship w/ God although created in image of God. *Sin* marred us (*harmartia*) *miss the mark* (arrows thru hoop). Don't want to miss but bad shot. Not want to sin but weak. *Trespass* is willful, know you're not supposed to but do anyway. Both have same affect--alienation from God. *All sinned and fall short....*

Formerly walked—what we did before saved—*meandered*-w/o purpose, bouncing from one thing to another w/o real direction, wandering. *A life w/o Christ lacks purpose & direction*. At conference w/ groups of people, if I want to get to the car to leave *I have purpose to go to the car*. My wife stops & talks, stops some more & talks & some more, she eventually gets to the car after I get out of the car go find her—*she meanders*.

Course of world – direction, flow, fads & fashion (*what's hot what's not*), whim of world-*Woke*, whichever way wind blows world goes. **But** a life serving God, in friendship & fellowship w/ Him has purpose & meaning.

Notice whose orchestrating the *course of the world*, Satan himself.

Corruption in government--Perversion in media/movies,

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Seduction to evil on internet, Acceptance of abortion, Spread of immorality & pornography--Satan a **liar** & father of lies he's a **murderer** from beginning **Cain/Abel** & is leading people to hell. We once followed him & his schemes

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Our lifestyle before Christ, what we were living for...lust, desires of flesh-lower-level living--body appetites--animal instincts—*of flesh & mind habitual Children of wrath* doing everything that offends God & demands His punishment. In a place of hopelessness, abandonment--in clutches of the evil one----A contrast so we appreciate what God has done. The darker the sky the more brilliant the fireworks. **Precious Gem** on black velvet-reveal beauty

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

In contrast to our grim & bleak past...God...*loved us w/ a everlasting love (beyond vanishing point)*...*therefore have I drawn you Jer 31:3*. He loves us no matter what--our response brings the benefit or not from His love. **Jonah**.

2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. Need to know God's benefit better than what holding onto—**Duke-whip cream**

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Once dead now alive w/ Christ--given as a gift of grace. **Lazarus**. **Ps 32** *Oh how happy is one who doesn't hide their transgression but confesses and is forgiven—when I kept silent my body wasted away—God's hand heavy upon me...but now God has given me joy & songs of deliverance.* **Nico** must be born again. A new life in family of God cry **Abba Father Gal 4:6**.

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6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Not just saved from sin but alive to God and seated w/ Him. Same resurrection power that brought Jesus up from the grave & ascended to heaven is same power seating us in heaven w/ Christ.

Why? God is love—His nature—it is beyond finding out **3:18,19** GHe gives us a glorious future that for eternal eons of time He will reveal the superabundant riches of His grace, kindness and love. **Child w/ drawing**

First Israel trip w/ Chuck didn't want it to end...count the days, hours. It'll take all eternity because God is unlimited in love beyond finding out..

Ps 103:11 As high as heavens are above the earth so great is His love toward those who fear Him....

Ever been bailed out of jail? I have twice—crime not my fault or my intent.

GTA and muffler. God has bailed us out of a life of sin & death. We sinful & can't bail ourselves out—***Haggai 2:13 if unclean/defiled touches clean will it make unclean...Yes***

Yet we crave credit, glory---***stroll into heaven shine light on me.*** Sin of Satan, what brought him down ***'I wills' ascend, rise, sit make myself like***
God Is 14 God has put salvation so far outside our reach, all we can say is ***wretched man that I am who can set me from this body of sin and death.... For by grace you have been saved....R.Y.R*** who can be saved? Camel eye needle-Only God

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

Workmanship ***poiema*** poem – a thing thru which an artist expresses themselves--of grace & beauty.

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In salvation we enter the place of God's finished work--no bragging...***Ab believed God it counted to him as righteousness.*** We are God's work of art--He expresses Himself thru our life & we respond. **Jn14** ***seen Me seen Father*** – Jesus ***'Who the Father is & what He is like is seen in Me'***. Now Jesus wants to reveal Himself to the world thru the life of the believer—the good works compassion, benevolence, His kindness, His love. So He conforms us to His image. **2Cor 3:18** ***But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit..***

Not only putting what is good in Him in me but grinding off the bad parts of my old like that are unlike Him. He's the **potter** I'm the clay. **Jer 18:3,4** ***Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. 4 But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.***

So God is preparing a work for us & at the same time preparing us for that work. His preparation is from eternity past & we simply enter into that glorious plan.