

## **Ephesians 2:1-10 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup>At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. <sup>2</sup>You used to act like most people in our world do. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. <sup>3</sup>At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

<sup>4-5</sup>However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. <sup>9</sup>It's not something you did that you can be proud of. <sup>10</sup>Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

## SERMON

**EXPLORE:** Sin is out of style. We don't like being told that we're wrong. And yet that's exactly where this passage starts. With our situation, in the muck and the mud of sin oppressed by the powers and principalities. But this passage doesn't leave us where we are. It also tells us how God has set it right and what we are called to do in response.

**EXPLAIN:** Section by Section:

*Our Fallen Condition*

*God's Response:*

Footnote on Grace: the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God powerfully at work in the world at large and our lives in particular.

*Our response: faith and doing "good things."*

Footnote on "Faith": The Greek word *pistis* traditionally translated as faith or belief, but those words don't mean what they used to mean. Translating *pistis* as allegiance entails faith/belief and trust. Belief and trust will not be left out if you translate *pistis* as allegiance. But if you omit allegiance, key aspects of *pistis* may be overlooked: reliability, steadiness, fidelity, trustworthiness, faithfulness, commitment, and pledged loyalty. (Bates, 2017)

**APPLY:** "God planned for these good things [works] to be the way that we live our lives."

For that to be our way of life, we have to accept God's grace, repent, and attempt to walk faithfully in Christ's footsteps. Not just once, but over and over again, every day, if not every waking hour. That's how we make doing "good things" our way of life. Amen.

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