

Dear Crossroads Family,

This Sunday in Bible study and worship we will consider one of the most important passages in Scripture about the salvation God the Father provides through Jesus Christ: Ephesians 2:1-10. Many of us are very familiar with verses 8-9:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

These two verses do more to undercut the false belief of many that salvation from eternal death and separation from God is somehow achieved by doing good things or participating in religious rituals. Salvation "is the gift of God." How much clearer can God's word be than communicating emphatically that salvation is "not by works."

We will see in Sunday's message that this entire passage (verses 1-10) adds support to the truth that God offers salvation as a free gift and not as a reward for good things done or religious rites performed. (Sermon notes are provided below.)

I hope you are already planning to join your faith family for worship this Sunday. A clear understanding of the Bible's teaching about salvation is a crucial step toward maturity as a Christian. Let's make that step together this Sunday morning in Bible study and worship.

See you Sunday!

Love,
Bro. Doug

_____
Created by God Alone
Ephesians 2:1-10

The Bible says that each of us has experienced _____ of the soul and inability to _____ _____ spiritually. We needed God's resurrection power for one fundamental reason—we were "dead in our trespasses and sins." Paul, the Jew, claims that both _____ and ____ are dead in their trespasses and sins and desperately in need of the _____ power of God

which He demonstrated by raising Jesus from the dead.

Being "physically dead" and "dead in our trespasses and sins" are not the same. The Bible says that we have a devastating spiritual problem. We are destined for God's _____—eternal _____ from God—because we are by nature and by our actions sinners. Furthermore, we are spiritually _____; totally incapacitated and unable to restore ourselves to right relationship to God.

Though our sin made us _____ of God's wrath and totally helpless to save ourselves from it, God's _____ changed everything. Verses 5-6 say He _____ us in Christ, resurrected us, and _____ us. So, our dead spiritual condition has been _____ and our relationship to God has been _____.

Besides His love for us, God saved us so "that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus." Believers are like restored _____ of ____ by God. God doesn't only save sinners to enable them to escape judgment; He places them on _____ _____ for His glory. Throughout the unending ages, angels, cosmic powers, and future generations will look at formerly spiritually dead, rebellious humans being now alive and glorified in Christ Jesus and say: "Look at these examples of the incomparable riches of God's _____. Look at the extraordinary _____ and _____ of the Creator who took His created people, marred by sin, and restored them to things of _____ and grace in Christ." He did it. Not you and not me, because we were _____ _____ ____.

_____

A Few Announcements:

Don't Forget to Bring Your Operation Christmas Child Boxes this Sunday, November 15!!!

There will **not** be Sunday Night Service this Sunday.

A Call for Nominations for people interested in serving on a Church Committee or Work Team for 2027. A nomination page is included in the bulletin with information about each committee and work team. Please return the nomination page to the church office by November 18. Call the church office for more information.

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