



6/17/25

Today's passage is so great for helping us understand the incredible goodness of God. We see His plan carried out for us when we didn't even realize how much we needed Him. I can't even comprehend that kind of love. I hope and pray you and I will not miss the wonderful hope we have in Him today and every day.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 2:1-10

I was talking with a friend who has lived most of her life with as close to blindness as you can get without being totally blind. She recently had surgery on both her eyes, and she can see better than she's ever seen before. She is walking around on cloud nine. She remembers where she was without sight, and that makes her appreciate so much more where she is now. That's what God wants me to experience when I remember where I came from before completely surrendering my life to Jesus. He doesn't want me to live in shame over my former spiritual blindness just as it would be crazy for my friend to live in shame over her past blindness. He wants me to remember my past so that I can live in gratitude for my future. That affects the way I live in the present.

Vs. 1-3 ~ This is who I WAS. I wasn't just blind. I WAS dead. I was born into death because I had inherited the DNA of sin, just as every human since Adam and Eve has. Because of my spiritual deadness, I was following the path of this world, which is led by the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience." That prince is Satan. He is actively at work to delude the dead so that they don't know they're dead, so that he can destroy their souls. The sons of disobedience are all who refuse Jesus. That's who I WAS.

As a FOLLOWER of the world and Satan, I was living in the passions of my flesh. Let me not miss this! Living for SELF is living for the devil and the world. Living for them allows the walking dead to carry out the desires of the body. But its end is not freedom. Its end is wrath.

That's who I WAS, just like every single person born into this world. We are ALL without hope.

This is really important for me to understand. The world teaches we're good at heart. It's not true. We are selfish at heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says our hearts are deceitful above ALL things and desperately sick! If we believe what the world is preaching, we will not see how massive Jesus' sacrifice for us is, and we will think He owes us. The only thing He owes us is condemnation. But He gives us MERCY and GRACE at His own cost.

Vs. 4-7 ~ BUT GOD... We WERE dead... "BUT GOD, being rich in mercy, because of the great love which He loved us..." God loved us so much that He sent His Son to pay what we could not pay. Some people will say, "If God loved us so much, why would He put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden? Why wouldn't He just make it impossible for us to sin?" Would that really be love? If forcing someone into relationship is the only way to be with them, is that love? It's certainly not mutual. If I force my kids to give me gifts and hugs when they don't have a choice, what kind of love would that be from me or them?

God loved us so much that He knew we would reject Him, and so He sent His Son to die for us even while we were the ones who put Him on the cross. I could say, "Well, I wasn't there. I can't be blamed." But the fact that I sin against Him even once by living for my own passions, and don't bow to Him as Lord makes me complicit.

But even WHEN I was dead in my sins, God Himself, because of His love and mercy, gave me life in Christ! I have been saved by His grace, His favor poured out on me when I did absolutely nothing to deserve it. His mercy poured out on me opened up a whole new life for me.

This is where knowing that God is not bound by time is really important. Isaiah 46:10 says He "declares the end FROM THE BEGINNING." The end of my time on this earth is already declared by Him. I have been "raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Because I am IN CHRIST, given new life, no longer dead, I have a place with Him in heaven.

It reminds me of the song, "Who I Am." It says, "In my Father's house, there's a place for me. I'm a child of God. Yes, I am." I didn't grow up with my dad. When I visited him, I slept in a borrowed bed. But God has a bed waiting for me, a seat at His table. Why? "So that in the coming ages (when I'm home with Him) He can show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us IN CHRIST JESUS." If while on this earth He has lavished His grace and mercy on me and given me new life, how much MORE do I get to look forward to when I'm seated with Him in heaven??? O Lord, please open my eyes to see the incredible promise I have in You! Help me not to settle for the temporary promises of this world. This world is passing away, but You are forever.

Vs. 8-10 ~ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is NOT your own doing; it is the gift of God." By God's grace... His charity and favor poured out on me, the undeserving... I have been saved. The only thing I bring to the table is faith. And even my faith is a gift from

God (Hebrews 12:2). Faith is not just saying words that I believe. True faith is putting all my confidence in the Lord, being absolutely convinced that He is who He says He is even though I can't see Him and being committed to drawing near to Him and seeking Him. O Lord, let my faith be genuinely in You... all in... completely humbled before You.

I have no other choice but to be humble before God when I understand that my salvation is absolutely, completely because of His grace and mercy... and not one speck of it is because of any work I could do. The only works I do that have any value are works done in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit working in me. All of my salvation AND my sanctification AND my future inheritance are a gift from God.

I was created to be His workmanship. That word does not give its original meaning justice. The Greek word is "poiéma." We are His poem. As His poem, we are created IN CHRIST JESUS, given this new life to walk in good works that God planned and prepared for us to do. He gives us everything we need to carry out our purpose in Him. He doesn't leave us alone in it. He supplies us and leads us and then rewards us for carrying out His plan. Romans 6:20-21 speaks of what our works were when we were dead in our sins... "For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death."

I WAS dead, and the fruit of my labor was worthless. BUT GOD made me alive, gave me hope for eternity, and prepared me to fulfill a new purpose that has eternal value. O Lord, please help me not to take that for granted. Help me to remember who I WAS, so that I can celebrate who I AM IN CHRIST. All glory to You.