

**Dear Church** (Part 4)  
**What a Gift!** [Eph. 2:1-10]  
Pastor Bill Bowers  
May 21, 2017

1. What was life like? v1-3

*D. Martin Lloyd Jones says that "But God" is the gospel in two words!*

- 1 enslaved to the ways of the world v2
- 2 enslaved to demonic influences v2
- 3 enslaved to your passionate desires. v3

2. WHAT DID GOD DO? v5-6

- *gave us life* v5
- *raised us up* v6
- *Seated us* v6

3. Why would Go do that? v4

4. How can it be? v8-9

**GRACE:** GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR, UNCONDITIONALLY DEMONSTRATED , TO THE UNDESERVED.

**WARNING:** DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING THAT THOSE WHO ARE DEAD WITHOUT CHRIST ARE FULFILLED.

**REMINDER:** AT THE CORE OF EVERLASTING RELIEF IS AN UNDERSTANDING AND EMBRACING OF GRACE!

MASTERPIECE=POIEMA=POEM

5. So what! v10

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**HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions**

- In verses (Eph. 2:1-3) we are reminded of “what we once were.” Paul uses language like “obeying the devil” (NLT), “refusing to obey God,” and “following the ways of the world” (NIV). Would this be how you would describe your former self? Please explain your answers.
- Would you have described yourself as being “enslaved” to the world, demonic influences, and/or passionate desires? How would you have described yourself? Describe yourself today.
- When you think about what “God has done for us” (Eph. 2:5-6), giving us life, raising us from the spiritually dead, and seating/uniting us with the person and rule of Christ... How does this make you feel? How does this “work of God” in you make itself known in your daily life? Reflect on your life alone, your life with family, your life in the workplace, etc. Can you describe how God’s work is specifically realized in each of these areas? Please be detailed.
- It is said, “Grace is unmerited favor, unconditionally demonstrated, to the underserved...” Why would God dispense this grace to humanity? Why did he offer you this grace? How does this grace feel to you? Is this grace something that you tangibly experience? How is the grace of God affecting you—is it changing you? Please explain your responses.
- Ephesians 2:10 informs us that we are God’s “handiwork,” or more accurately, his “masterpiece” (Greek *poiema*). Would you describe yourself as a masterpiece? Why or why not? The verse goes on to explain that God has created us (anew) in Christ Jesus; what do you think this means to you? Do you consider yourself “new” and how would you describe your “newness?”
- How is this reading and slow study of Ephesians different from other experiences you may have had reading the Letter to the Ephesians? Is there anything in particular that is standing out as special or “eye-opening” to you from what you’ve studied thus far? What is it? How is it affecting you?