

All changed!
Ephesians 2: 1-10



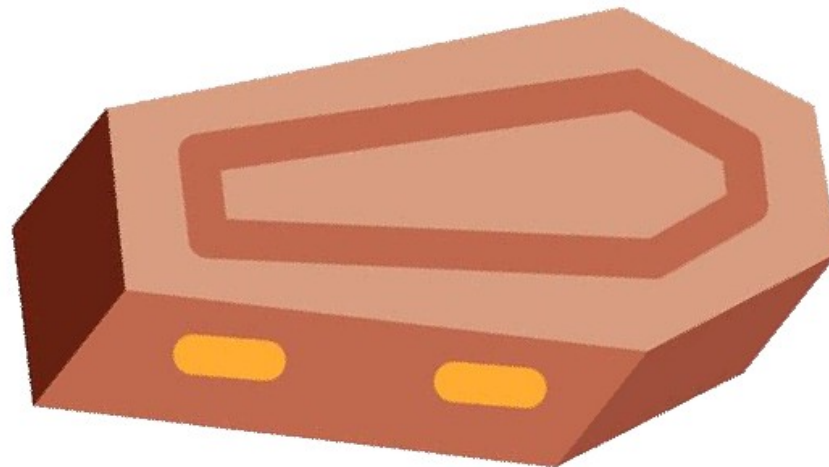
In the original Greek, this passage is a single sentence! It's all connected.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

As for you,
you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Our spiritual state of death before we became Christians.
The cause of death – born as descendants of Adam.
Transgressions (over the mark) and sins (short of the mark)
Both were lethal.



in which you used to live
when you followed the ways of this world

Living a dead life

Our former condition (but it USED to be!)

Marked by fallen lifestyle

The present 'world' excludes and defies God

These are their 'ways' – the normal operating mode.



and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,
the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

We followed the world's tracks – and were
controlled/under the influence of Satan

The spirit who rules in his kingdom (in our atmosphere)
He is active now (via his agents and the sinful mindset)
in the disobedient to God's laws and will.



All of us also lived among them at one time,

Even believers have no grounds for feeling superior –
we were all the same and for some time (long or short)
in the same dreadful and dangerous state



gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature
and following its desires and thoughts.

The dominant features of our sinful past life:-

Self gratification

Wanting the things the sinful nature wanted

Operating in our desires and thoughts

Out of (God's) control (but slaves to Satan's)



Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Our natural state was identical to all sinful men
Fully deserving God's righteous anger and judgement

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

He would have been perfectly just to have destroyed us
there and then. And that is the present danger that each
unsaved man and woman are in.



But because of his great love for us,

God's glorious mercy driven by His great love made a profound difference to our prospects

When the scripture says 'BUT GOD ...' we can expect a tremendous change and contrast.



God, who is rich in mercy,

One of God's great attributes

Great resources of mercy

Kindness to the guilty and undeserving



God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--

He made us live

Spiritual life within us – born again

In union with the life of the Messiah

We are joined to the life-giver and raised from our spiritual death while we were in that totally helpless state.

All because he chose to show us mercy.



it is by grace you have been saved.

The greatest truth in a few words
God's unmerited favour to deliver us from death and the
consequences of our sinful rebellion

Saved!!!!!!

It has happened for the believer even though there is more to
come of its out-workings - sanctification and glorification



And God raised us up with Christ

Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so we too have been brought to spiritual life through our union with him. That took place in principal at His resurrection and was applied to you when you believed in him.



And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

What happened to Christ becomes our state too. Our spiritual life is located with Jesus in heaven. We exist in two realms! -down here and in heaven, but we belong in heaven.



in order that in the coming ages
he might show the incomparable riches of his grace,

This gives us the reason as to why God did it.

The display of his glory

There is nothing that can be compared to his amazing grace.

How did such undeserving people get to this?

The Eternal wow factor



his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Grace that blesses us and shows that Jesus Christ is the one through whom we receive it – he gets the glory too.



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-

The 'simple' key that gives us access to all these blessings of salvation is faith. Faith demonstrates that it is grace that brought it about since nothing else is required.



-and this not from yourselves,

Even faith is a work of God's grace in us since it is not part of our fallen nature to trust God.

We have to repent and believe. God cannot do that for us but ... his grace enables us to respond.

We are utterly dependent on God for our salvation.



it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

God's gift of salvation by faith excludes any contribution that we might imagine we can bring – no efforts on our part can achieve salvation. Therefore we have no grounds for self congratulation or thinking ourselves better than others.

This is one of the reasons that God has ordered things in this way - he alone gets the glory.

It is available for all, independent of position or status.



For we are God's workmanship,

This word has been sometimes rendered as 'masterpiece', 'poem'. We demonstrate the perfection of God's work in his saving and restoring broken people – part of his new creation.

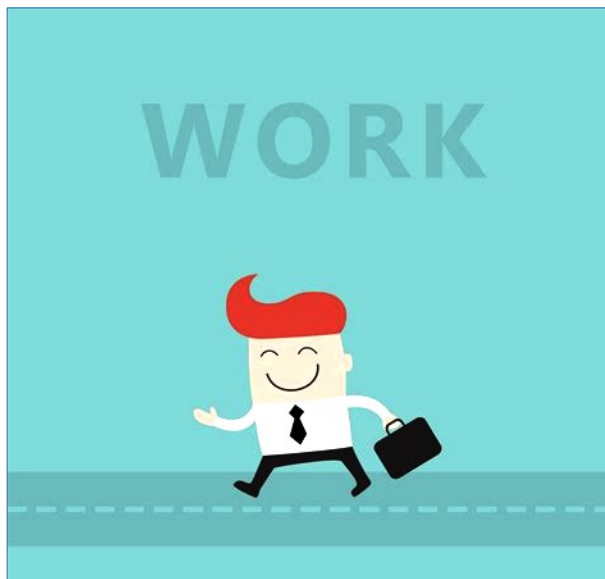


created in Christ Jesus to do good works,

We have been formed in union with the Lord Jesus Christ
(according to God's promises)

With the purpose of living so as to produce the fruit of
changed lives – good works

We are not saved BY works But we are saved FOR works.
We can now live to please God and be a blessing as he
enables us by the Holy Spirit



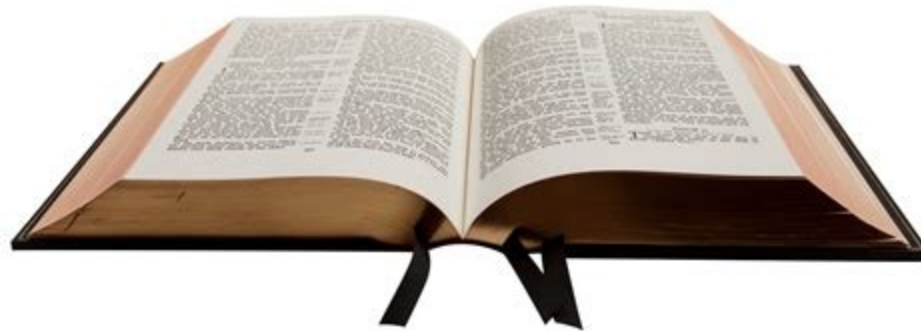
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

These good works are part of God's agenda for our lives – we are to follow his plans and guidance to discover what he wants us to do. By means of prayer, scripture, providence, and the Spirit's leading He already had a plan for our lives His good and perfect will.



Ephesians 3:10

*For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.*



Your salvation is a glorious thing that has its origin in God's love. This love is expressed as mercy that flows to and into us through the Lord Jesus Christ. It results in a transformed person, alive to God, capable of bringing blessing to God and to others. So that God gets all the glory due to his Holy Name.

