

INTERPRETATION

Paul says that God saved us by grace when we were dead. Mark the words 'works' and "own effort."

- How much did we contribute to our salvation?

Look at verses 19 to 21. How do they reiterate the change of status from unsaved to saved?

To summarise, give a brief description comparing our spiritual situation before and after being united with Christ in faith. Note the turning point in verse 4, "But God..."

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

How should the fact that we are "no longer strangers and aliens," and are indeed "fellow citizens with the saints..." effect our daily Christian walk?

There has been a great change in every person who is united to Christ. We were dead in our sins and objects of God's wrath, now we are alive together with Christ. Not only that, but we look forward to the promise that in the coming ages God will show even more of his grace and kindness to us. It is a wonderful privilege to be united with Christ!

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A Short Study of EPHESIANS 2:1-10, 19-21

In this study from the second chapter of Ephesians we learn about a most amazing change in the situation of those who are united with Christ. Paul compares the spiritual state of being 'in Christ' with that of being apart from him.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10, 19-21

- 1 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins*
- 2 *in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*
- 3 *among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
- 4 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,*
- 5 *even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*
- 6 *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*
- 7 *so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
- 8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*
- 9 *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- 10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
- 19 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*
- 20 *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*
- 21 *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

OBSERVATION

Mark every occurrence of the words 'dead' and 'alive.'

- In what way does Paul describe us as being previously dead?

Mark the words referring to 'walking,' 'following' and 'living.'

- How does Paul describe this death?
- How does this kind of behaviour effect our relationship with God?

Mark the words "But God." These are some of the greatest words in Scripture.

- How does Paul describe God?
- What is God's attitude to us?
- What did God do for us when we were 'dead'?

Mark the words 'Christ,' "Christ Jesus" and the pronoun 'him' when it refers to Christ.

- What did God do for us when we were first united to Christ?
- What is God going to do for us "in the coming ages"?

Mark the words 'grace,' 'saved,' and 'gift.'

- How were we saved?