

Saved by Grace

△ Eph 2:1-10

Intro

At the end of this talk/sermon you have a choice to make

A choice that all of us have to make

Every day of our lives

Every hour of the day

or Every minute of every hour

Do we choose Death or do we choose Life?

In this part of Ephesus, Paul reminds the readers/listeners

reminder that this has probably been a letter to multiple congregations

The key is exhortation but also a reminder of what it is they believe in

Description of death

△ Eph 2:1-3

Paul starts with where they came from

They were **dead**

We could call this spiritually dead, but physically alive

But for Paul it may have meant that they would not live beyond their natural

they would not live beyond their natural deaths

And that they would not live in a relationship with Christ

Why were they dead?

because they followed the assumed ruler of this world

the ruler of the power of the air

the spirit that is at work in those who disobedient

△ v2

This is the Devil, Satan, the Enemy

Even though they did not know it they had a relationship with God

they were disobedient to God

and therefore lived in trespasses and sins

trespasses - active wrong doing

sins - passive wrong-doings

They were ruled by desires of the body and mind

passions of the flesh and senses

children of wrath

subject to God's wrath?

Or living according to our own false sense of wrath?

accusing and abusing people that are not like us or do not do the things we want them to do?

And often they knew that, their own consciences are calling us to live better lives

But they were trapped into this behaviour

Like everyone else

Those who do not follow Christ!

Is this not an apt description of the world we live in?

even today, not only in Paul's time?

Description of Life?

Interestingly, Paul does not contrast this with a description of a life with Christ

I.e. how we are now behaving

Not sinning, trespassing, etc

But about a new relationship

Not a life dominated by a relationship with the evil one

even if they did not recognise it that this was the case

But a relationship with God

How: God made us alive together with Christ

△ v4

God takes the initiative

By sending Christ Jesus

We know the story:

Jesus, the Son of God living among us

not living the life as described above

but in perfect harmony with God

and therefore without sin, trespasses and giving in to desires of body and mind

He then sacrificed his life for us

as the sacrificial lamb

spotless, blameless

he satisfied God's wrath and our own sense of justice

We know we cannot be forgiven without proper compensation

Even though we cannot give that compensation ourselves

He has done it for us

But he was raised from the death and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father

And God has therefore also made us alive

Resurrected us from our old lives

So that even now, we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places

△ v6

Why?: Out of the great love he loved them

△ v4

God's love saved them

They did not have to do anything,

Neither could they do anything

"By grace you have been saved"

△ v5

Grace: Grace often refers to the unmerited favor of God towards humanity. In Christianity, it signifies the

humanity. In Christianity, it signifies the free and unearned love and mercy that God extends to people.

△ Chat-GPT

It is God's gift and mercy

What?

Life everlasting & complete

So that in the ages to come

△ v7

We are with Jesus in the heavenlies

The immeasurable riches of this grace and kindness

a complete relationship with Jesus

The gift of faith

△ v8

Paul reminds of God's grace

But we have been saved by faith

Our faith?

Yes, but is it really ours?

No, faith itself is a gift of God

Not because of what we have done

not the result of works

So that we cannot be proud of what we have achieved

As it has all been God's doing

The end of our creation

Our creation is only complete, when we receive his gift of grace and faith

It is only complete in relationship to
God in Christ

And this he has prepared for all of us

Choice?

Did I not warn you that we had to
make a choice?

But you may say? What choice?
God has done it all

Yes, he has done it all

And he gift us the gift of grace and
faith

But do we accept it?

Because with that comes a sense
of surrender

of our will, of our idea of destination, of
what we think our purpose is

Is this what we want for our lives?

Or is the draw to the darkside: the
desires of body and mind,
temptations, trespasses and sin

That life is always before us

Satan is still always with us

But God is too, and he is stronger

Do you accept this gift of faith?

Faith that God is the right one for
you?

That he completes us who we are?

Life everlasting?

Do you accept?

For the first time?

Or for the nth time?

It does not matter

Come to him, and receive Jesus
Christ as your Lord and Saviour

And leave the life of darkness
behind and step into the light of life

Live everlasting!

Amen