



The Grand Theater in Ephesus
(ephesusbreeze.com)

Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10

Saved by Grace Introduction

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- In the next part, he prayed for the **wisdom and revelation** we need to appreciate those blessings.
- In this section, he will explain our salvation in greater detail.

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1. What we need to know about Christ – our Savior and Redeemer.
2. What we need to know about our salvation – how we are made right with God, the forgiveness of our sins, etc.
3. What we need to know about spiritual warfare – an important topic in a city most famous for occult practices.
4. What we need to know about the Church – this new society that God is building in the midst of the world.

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Dead in Sin 2:1-3

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- **2:1** You were dead in ... trespasses and sins
- Sin does not simply hinder us from fellowship with God.
- It does not merely strain our relationship.
- We are **dead** as far as the things of God are concerned.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- **Romans 6:23** (ESV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:2 the prince of the power of the air
- Paul is speaking here of Satan or the devil.
- He was the earliest sinner and is trying to get all of us to follow in his steps.
- He was the initial rebel against God and he is constantly looking for others to join the rebellion.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:2 the spirit that is now at work
- There is a constant spiritual battle raging for each and every human soul.
- Only the power of God can defeat our enemy to take us out of one camp and put us in the other.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

*You may be an ambassador to England
or France*

*You may like to gamble, you might like to
dance*

*You may be the heavyweight champion
of the world*

*You may be a socialite with a long string
of pearls*

*– Bob Dylan, Winner of the
Nobel Prize in Literature, 2016*



Dead in Sin 2:1-3

*But you're gonna have to serve
somebody, yes indeed*

*You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the
Lord*

*But you're gonna have to serve
somebody*

*– Bob Dylan, Winner of the
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Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:2 in the sons of disobedience
- This term indicates that those in rebellion against God are that way naturally.
- The devil's deception gets people to think that ignoring, even defying, God is the most natural thing in the world.
- Their beliefs and behavior seem perfectly natural to them.
- More on that in the next verse.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:3 Desires can be of both “the body and the mind.”
- In other words, we can sin without ever committing an outward action.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:3 There are two different kinds of thoughts.
- Some thoughts we just have.
- They appear almost out of nowhere.
- They can be our own, from others, from the Holy Spirit, or even from demons.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:3 Other thoughts are more intentional.
- We cultivate them.
- We think them and rethink them and dwell on them.
- These have the potential to be virtuous or sinful.
- Some of them are unhealthy, sinful “desires of the mind.”

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

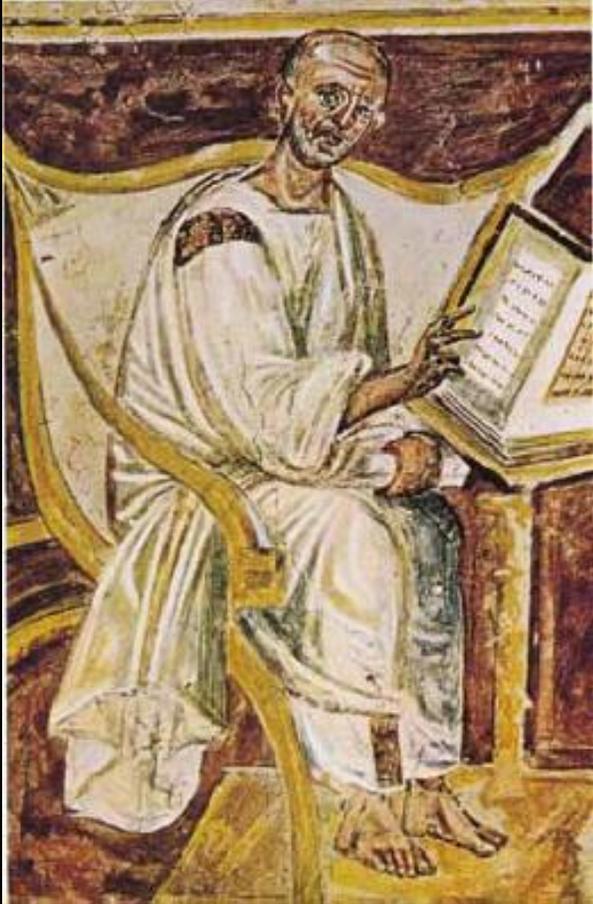
- 2:3 Fitting into this category are things like:
 - Bitterness and resentment
 - Impure passions or greed
 - Self-centered thoughts that feed our egos or justify our sin
 - False views of reality that we adhere to in order to avoid the consequences of their falsehood.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:3 by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind
- All of humanity is lumped into this category.
- This is because all have sinned.
- Romans 3:23 (ESV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3



2:3 We speak of “nature” in two ways ... the nature in which humanity was originally created – after God’s own image and without fault. The other way ... refers to the fallen sin nature, in which we are self-deceived and subject to the flesh as the penalty for our condemnation.

*– Augustine of Hippo (184 – 253 AD),
North African Church Father*

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- 2:3 by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind
- God's wrath is not the unpredictable anger of some cranky old man up in heaven.
- His wrath is rather a settled, consistent, total, completely justified opposition to every form of evil.

Dead in Sin 2:1-3

- Paul now sets up a sharp contrast between what we were “by nature” and what we have become “by grace.”

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

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- 2:4 But God, being ...
- The whole business of our salvation begins with God.
- It is entirely a product of his nature, not ours.
- His rich mercy, his great love – with which he loved us!
- And Paul has just explained what kind of people we were!

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:5 dead in our trespasses ... alive together with Christ
- Both parts of this sentence are equally true for the Christian.
- Our salvation is a miracle comparable to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- “By grace you have been saved.”

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:6 raised us up ... seated us with him ...
- This is pointing to the most quoted OT passage in the NT, **Psalm 110**, but now not only referring to Jesus but to us!
- **Psalm 110:1** The LORD says to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”
- **Psalm 110:5** The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:6 We who are **in Christ** are now spiritually seated with Christ in the heavenlies.
- We are protected members of his household and saved from the wrath of God.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:7 in the coming ages
- Since we are saved for all eternity, this is going to be evidence of God's grace forever and ever.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:8 We might say it like this:
- Grace is the reason why we are saved.
- Faith is the means by which we latch onto grace.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:8 Key concept: God's grace
- Unmerited favor, freely given to penitent sinners.
- God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:8 Key concept: Faith
- A basic disposition toward God that leads to works of obedience.
- It contains components of belief and trust.
- Since we possess no righteousness of our own, faith is our only option.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:8 And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
- Some say the “gift” points back to “faith.”
- This is not quite true, due to the details of Greek grammar.
- It’s really pointing back to the whole sentence, the whole idea of how the grace of God is obtained through faith.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

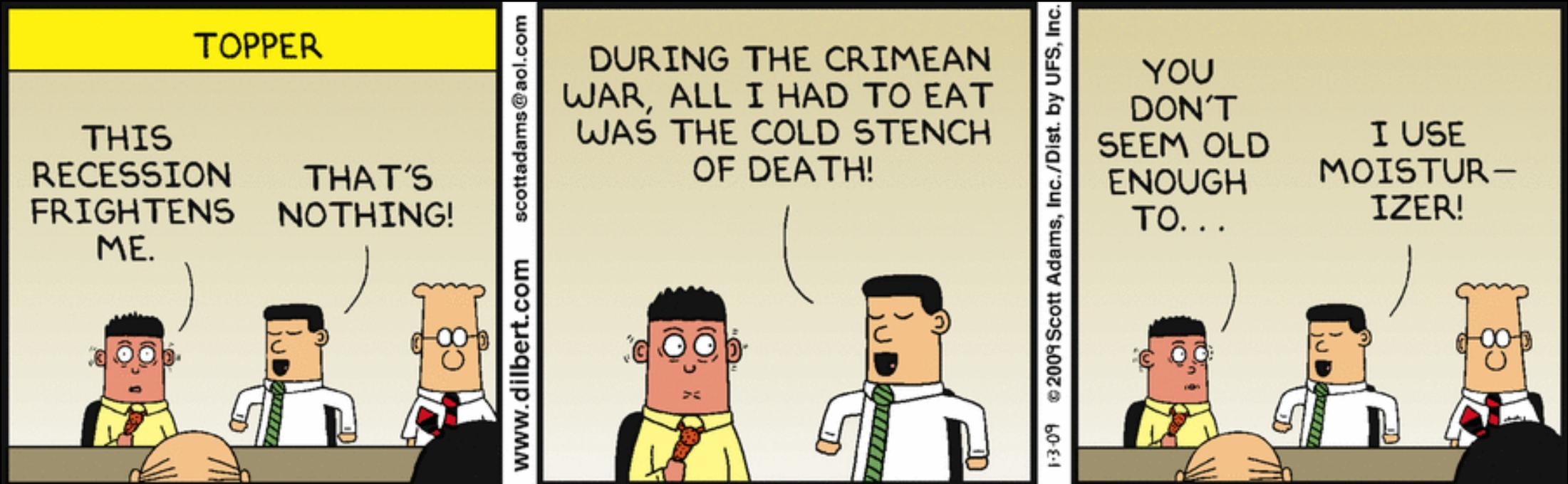
- 2:8 And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
- God made this up. We didn't.
- We could not have done it. He did.
- God is the one who makes our faith even possible.
- There are differing theological systems that describe how that works – but none that gives us any credit.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- The *Dilbert* comic strip by Scott Adams has a recurring character called *Topper*, who is always bragging.
- No matter what anyone says, he has something to beat it.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- Here is one of my personal faves – from January 2009.



Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Heaven would not be heaven if it were filled with people like that.
- The Bible leaves no room for one-upping each other with virtuous accomplishments.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- **2:10** Paul may have saved the best for last in this section.
- This verse calls us back to **Chapter 1**, where we learn that God chose us, predestined us, adopted us, etc.
- Now he declares us to be God's *poiema* – his **workmanship**, his **handiwork** (NIV), his **masterpiece** (NLT)

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- **2:10** It turns out he also prepared good works for us to do, now that we are raised-from-the-dead creatures in Christ.
- These works are prepared for us to walk in.
- He has given us a made-to-measure a path of good works.

Alive in Christ 2:4-10

- **2:10** That means God has considered all of our strengths and weaknesses.
- He has considered all of our faults.
- He is preparing ways for us to overcome or get around all of those bad parts of our own stories that we don't like.

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Conclusions

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- Our very nature as rebels put us under the wrath of God.
- This same God, whose wrath we deserved, has freely given us his grace.
- Grace is something we did not deserve and could not earn since we were already dead in our sins.
- We can now take our place – by faith – in the big story that God is writing – and fulfill the plans he has laid out for us.

A Closing Prayer

A Closing Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- We agree with your word, that without You we would be dead in our trespasses and sins, by nature children of wrath.
- But You have provided a remedy for us in our helpless state of sin – Jesus Christ who died for us and rose from the dead.
- We receive the gift of your grace that we might be saved from your righteous wrath.
- And we ask that You would make us your workmanship, your handiwork, your masterpiece.
- Lead down a path of good works, so that our lives might bring glory to You. Amen.