

Rise
Rise Up in Purpose
May 3, 2009

Ephesians 2:1-10

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— ³among 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.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever seen someone buy an item at a garage sale and you wondered why anyone would ever buy something like that? Have you ever purchased an item and others had no idea why you would spend money on *that*?
(Sometimes it's amazing what others find value in.)

How do we all start out? Why?
What changes? Why?

What does the word grace mean to you?
So what does it mean to be saved by grace?

Why do so many people think that their salvation depends on their own works?
What part do 'good works' play in salvation?

Why does God save you, then?
What does that salvation do in your life?
How does and should our life change upon accepting the grace of God?