

Eph 2:1-10

- I. God has given us participation in the victory of Christ. (1-7)
- A. This is totally undeserved and unprecedented. (1-3)
1. Even though you were dead in trespasses and sins. (1)
-cf. Col. 2:13
 2. An elaboration on specifically what this entailed (2-3)
 - a Your life and lifestyle were characterized by sin (2-3b)
 - 1) You then walked in sins (2)
 - a) According to the standard of this world.
Literally “according to the age of this world”
Not age in the sense of time elapsed, but age in the sense of the time period in which this present world system is the norm cf. v. 7, 1:21
“This world is characteristically an evil world, in which the minds of the unbelievers are blinded by its god (II Cor. 4:4)” Richardson
“All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, being the moral, or immoral, atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale, again inevitably to exhale, - all this is included in the αἰῶν which is, ... the subtle informing spirit of the κόσμος, or world of men who are living alienated and apart from God.” Trench p. 204
 - b) According to the ruling power thereof.
 - (1) The ruler of the power of the air
refers to the devil
“authority” = the sphere in which power is exercised, cf. 1:21
“air” = the political domain of transcendent beings or powers
 - (2) The ruler of the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience.
sons of disobedience is all those who are characterized by disobedience, which is everyone without Christ
 - 2) Also we then lived in/among them (3a-b)
 - a) We all lived in/among them in the desires of our flesh (3a)
“lived” = to conduct oneself w/ focus on overt daily behavior, cf. Titus 3:3
“in/among them” refers to either trespasses v.1, or sons of disobedience v.2
“desires” = inordinate desire, craving for something forbidden, lust, cf. 4:22
 - b) We did this by doing the will of the flesh and thoughts (3b)
on “thoughts” cf. 4:18
 - b The results of this life and lifestyle (3c-d)
 - 1) We were, by nature, children of wrath (3c)
children of wrath= those who are characterized by being under wrath
-cf. 5:8 now we are “children of light”
 - 2) Just like everyone else, (3d)
All who are without Christ, are under wrath, cf. 5:6, Rom. 3:23
- B. But God gave us undeserved participation in the victory of Christ (4-7)
1. Because God is rich in mercy, through the great love with which He loved us (4)
“rich” cf. 1:7, 18, 2:7, 3:8, 16
 2. He gave us participation in Christ (5-7)
 - a What He has done for us (5-6)
 - 1) He has made us alive with Him (5)
 - a) He has made us alive with Christ (5a-b)
 - (1) Even though we were dead in trespasses (5a)
Resuming the argument begun in v. 1 by repeating the same phrase

(2) He made us alive with Christ (5b)

“made alive with” is the first in a series of compound forms most of which are related to the verbs of 1:20

It is the summary term that introduces the rest

When God raised up Jesus and seated Him above everything, we are included with Him in His triumph

All that Paul says Christ accomplished in ch. 1, Paul says that we benefit from in this passage

b) The reason: You have been saved by grace! (5c)

“saved” = rescued/preserved from eternal death

spiritual & eternal salvation – Paul uses this word only for restored relationship with God, he uses other words for ‘rescue from perils BDAG

2) He has raised us from the dead with Christ (6a)

“raised us with” is a compound form of “He raised him” in 1:20, cf. Col. 3:1

3) He has seated us with [Him] in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (6b)

“seated us with” is a compound form of “seated Him” in 1:20

“heavenly realm” cf. 1:3, 20, 3:10, 6:12

b The purpose for God doing this: so that He may display the surpassing riches of His grace in the coming ages by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus (7)

We are God’s cosmic trophy case in which He displays His gracious character for all eternity

“riches” –cf. 1:7, 3:8

“coming ages” contrast “the age of the world” in v. 2, cf. 1:21

II. The foundational reason for God doing all this: (8-10)

A. You are saved by grace! (8-9)

1. The simple fact: You have been saved by grace through faith (8a)

Repeating from v. 5

We are saved by grace – grace is the cause of salvation

We are saved through faith – faith is the instrument which grace uses to save us

The different grammar clearly distinguishes the roles of grace and faith in our salvation

2. The explanation of this fact (8b-9)

a This is God’s doing, not ours (8b-9a)

1) This is not from you (8b)

“this” refers to the totality of the salvation, including the grace and the faith

2) It is the gift of God (8c)

-cf. Rom 3:24 Salvation is given freely as a gift

3) It is not from works (9a)

-cf. Book of Galatians which is a polemic against works being a part of salvation

b The result: So that no one can boast [except God]. (9b)

God alone gets all the glory for our salvation

God will not allow the possibility of any human boasting in His presence about salvation – cf. 1 Cor. 1:29-31

He purposely designed salvation to exclude human credit

B. The reason: God created us for this (10)

1. We are God’s workmanship (10a)

2. Explanation of the implications: (10b-d)

a We were created in Christ Jesus for good works (10b)

b These were planned by God (10c-d)

1) God prepared them beforehand (10c)

-cf. Rom. 9:23 only God can prepare beforehand

2) The purpose being that we would walk in these good works (10d)

Compare with v. 2 – we used to “walk in sin” and how we walk in good works