

But God....

Eph. 2:1-10 [Psalm 73]

By Bob Young

Ephesians 2:1-10

Note the contrast: vv. 1-3 describe the past; beginning in v. 4, “but God...”

Before we study the significance of God’s saving action as described in Ephesians 2, let us briefly note that this is not the first time God has acted in human history.

Illustrations of “but God”

Joseph

- Gen. 39:1-2; 20-21
- Gen. 48:20-21
- Gen. 50:20-21

Israel

- Ps. 73:26
- 3:1-3

We could add to the list with Jesus Christ (but God acted; Ac 13:29-30, 1 Cor. 15:20), the New Testament church, specific individuals

Ephesians 2:1-3

The Ephesians Christians were formerly sinners

What is here applies to all who fit the description, then and now

- Dead in sins transgressing
- Living in sin, following ways of the world
- Ruled by the one who dominates the kingdom of the air
- Following that which led to disobedience
- “all of us”—gratifying sensual lists, desires, thoughts

Certainly not a pretty picture

Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us and is rich in mercy

God made us alive with Christ, rescuing us from deadness/death

Saving us by grace

Exalting us, raising us up, seating us with dignity and honor

Demonstrating the incomparable riches of his grace, expressing in kindness through Jesus

The salvation by grace is through faith

“Through faith” does not make it something earned or a cause for boasting; it is still a gift which God initiated

God is at work, we are his creation, masterpiece; he enables our good works, he had this in mind in advance

Conclusion

We have been brought near by the blood of Christ, Eph. 2:13

When we were undeserving, God acted on our behalf, Rom. 5:8; this is his reaching toward us

We do not continue in the sins of Eph 2:1-3 because of this grace, we totally separate ourselves from sin in obedience, by participating in the gospel (dying, being buried, being raised), Rom. 6:1-7