

God's Care Received

God's Caring Purpose: Transformation

Ephesians 2:1-10

Intro: Last week we talked about the context of God's care—relationships. Today we talk about the purpose of God's care—transformation. We read about resurrection power in Ephesians 1:20. That great power to raise the dead back to life is the power that God unleashes in our lives through his gift of salvation.

We were dead spiritually when Christ found us. He made us alive. He saved us by his grace. He raised us up and seated us "in the heavenly realms" (Eph. 2:6). God's care for us produces transformation.

No contrast is greater than death and life. Dying is dramatic because it is an irreversible, inevitable process with the greatest consequences. God intends to make us spiritually alive in the here and now. This death to life event requires the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

I. YOU WERE DEAD v1-3

A. In YOUR transgressions and sins

1. Not your parents' sins or your teachers' sins or your community sins—YOUR sins.
2. You are the transgressor.
 - a. Transgression—"a lapse or deviation from truth," "to deviate from the path, to wander"
 - b. sins—"to miss the mark"

B. You used to live

1. When you followed the ways of this world. Note the past tense here.
2. And the ruler of the kingdom of the air: the archon of the exousia or the aer—the denser, closer atmosphere. He explains who this ruler is in the next phrase:
3. The spirit now at work in those who are disobedient. This is a spiritual ruler. He works in those who manifest disobedience toward God. So this is the devil, Satan, the personal force of evil in the world.

C. All of us also lived among them at one time v3

1. Gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature
2. Following its desires and thoughts
3. By nature objects of wrath

II. YOU HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE v4-7

A. Because of his great love for US.

1. This is personal. Just like you were dead in YOUR sins and transgressions, so you are personally LOVED with a great love by the God who made you.
2. He is rich in mercy.

B. He made us alive with Christ

1. Despite our death by sin.
2. BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED. This is exactly what MERCY is all about. Our spiritual death was by our own hand, and it was irreversible. We had no more power to raise ourselves from this spiritual death than a corpse has the power to stand to its feet.

Grace and mercy are here combined to show the amazing character and purpose of our loving God.

C. God raised us up with Christ

D. God seated us in the heavenly realms in Christ

III. YOU ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP v8-10

A. It is by grace you have been saved

B. Through faith

C. It is the gift of God

D. Not of works, so that no one can boast.

E. We are God's "workmanship": poieima that which has been made

1. Created in Christ Jesus
2. To do good—agathos—works—ergon
3. Which God prepared in ADVANCE
4. For US
5. to DO