

SAVED FROM SIN

(Ephesians 2:1-3)

Ephesians 2:1-10 is one of the clearest, most profound and definitive summary of the gospel of our salvation. It teaches us four fundamental aspects of our salvation: (a) We are saved from sin (vv. 1-3); (b) We are saved in Christ (vv. 4-7); (c) We are saved by grace through faith (vv. 8-9); (d) We are saved for good works (v. 10). As we reflect on the first three verses, we will consider three essential truths about sin. Charles Spurgeon once said, *“Sovereign grace is dear to those who have grown deeply because they see what grievous sinners they are.”* Unless we realize the depth and magnitude of our sinfulness, we will never truly appreciate the glory and grace of God in saving us in Christ.

1. **Sin results in _____.**
Paul stresses the truth that every person is spiritually dead in trespasses and sin (Eph. 2:1). Man's condition, apart from Christ, is characterized by spiritual death. This means that in our fallen nature, we are separated from the life of God, unresponsive to the things of God and unable to save ourselves (Isa. 59:2; Eph. 1:12; 4:18; 1 Cor. 2:14). Our Lord Jesus Himself affirms the total inability of every sinner to come to God on his own and believe God in a saving way (John 6:44,65).

2. **Sin _____.**
Man's sinful condition is also marked by spiritual bondage or enslavement. Paul explains that every sinner, outside of Christ, is enslaved to the evil worldly system that is opposed to God (Eph. 2:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16). Obedience to Satan is another aspect of our enslavement to sin. In the language of Paul, we follow the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:2). Furthermore, our spiritual enslavement is characterized by our bondage to the passions and pleasures of our sinful flesh (Eph. 2:2-3; Mark 7:21-23; Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:21, 28; 8:7; 2 Cor. 3:14; Titus 1:15).

3. **Sin _____.**
Ultimately, sin condemns every person to be the object of God's holy wrath and righteous judgment (Eph. 2:3; Rom. 2:5-6; Rev. 6:15-17). The Word of God declares every sinner as spiritually dead, enslaved and destined for wrath. The wonder and glory of the gospel of Christ shines forth against this hopeless condition of every sinner through the proclamation of God's gracious intervention. Paul joyfully announces: *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved”* (Eph. 2:4-5).
