

# Ephesians

## Lesson 4

Saved By Grace Through Faith  
Eph. 2:1-10

# Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians

1. Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints Eph. 1:15-16
2. For what things did he pray? Eph. 1:17-20
3. God exalted Jesus above all Eph. 1:19-23

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## Introduction

- Understanding our hopelessly lost sinful condition, we ought to long for and be thankful God has poured forth His grace to save us through Jesus
- When we decide to turn from our sins, it is critical we understand how our faith must obey trusting in God's gracious power to save us

3

## Introduction

- Many deny that baptism is a part of saving faith that leads to our forgiveness of sins
- Does being baptized contradict the grace of God?
- All of this confusion arises because of wrong thinking about what is involved in God and man's parts in salvation and how they are related together

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## Saved By Grace Through Faith

1. Dead in your trespasses and sins Eph. 2:1-3
2. By grace you have been saved Eph. 2:4-7
3. For by grace you have been saved through faith Eph. 2:8-10

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## Dead In Your Trespasses And Sins

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,  
Eph 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

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## Dead In Your Trespasses And Sins

Eph 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

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## How Do We Become Dead In Our Sins?

- To be dead in sin means that we are separated from God
- We become separated from God when we choose to sin against Him, violate His law
- No one is born guilty of sin
- Although after Adam's sin, physical death comes to all, spiritual death comes to us in the same way as to Adam when we choose to sin

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## Physical Death Occurs When The Spirit Is Separated From The Body

Jas 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

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## Spiritual Death Occurs When We Are Separated From God By Our Sins

Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

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## We Become Separated From God When We Choose To Sin Against Him

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Jas 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

11

## No One Is Born Guilty of Sin

Eze 18:19 "Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity?' When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live.

12

## No One Is Born Guilty of Sin

Eze 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

13

## If We Remain Dead In Our Sins We Will Experience Eternal Death

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

14

## Even While Dead We Can Choose To Turn To God and Obey

Luk 15:17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

Luk 15:18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

Luk 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."

15

## Even While Dead We Can Choose To Turn To God and Obey

Luk 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

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## By Grace You Have Been Saved

- Now, Paul focuses on what God by His grace, has done to save us from our sins
- Because He is perfectly loving, God showed mercy ("outward manifestation of pity" Vine) that led Him to show grace (unmerited favor) to save us, make us alive even while dead

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## By Grace You Have Been Saved

- Mixing up God's part in salvation with man's part leads to error
- Although God's part in salvation is greater than man's by far, man's part, is essential if we are going to be saved
- Although God requires us to do something to receive His gracious salvation, we completely depend on Him to reveal what we must do and to do what He has promised

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## By Grace You Have Been Saved

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

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## God's Love For Humanity Is The Beginning of Salvation

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1Jn 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

20

## God's Love For Humanity Is The Beginning of Salvation

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.

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## The Merciful God Desires All To Be Saved

1Ti 2:3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1Ti 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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## By His Mercy and Grace God Made Us Alive with Christ

- What is emphasized is God's power graciously expressed toward us resulting in our being unified with Christ, spiritually made alive through the blood of Jesus
- When we have been made alive is not explained here
- But, from other verses, we clearly see that when our faith leads us to repent and be baptized, God makes us alive with Christ

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## By His Mercy and Grace God Made Us Alive with Christ

- Contrary to what many teach today, the part in salvation God commands we do does not take away from His grace, unmerited favor
- He alone, by His power, without our deserving it, forgives and unites us with Christ

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## By Grace God Makes Us Alive With Christ At Baptism

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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## By Grace God Makes Us Alive With Christ At Baptism

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

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## By Grace God Makes Us Alive With Christ At Baptism

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## By Grace God Makes Us Alive With Christ At Baptism

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

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## By Grace God Makes Us Alive With Christ At Baptism

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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## Raised Us Up And Seated Us With Christ

Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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## Raised Us Up And Seated Us With Christ

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

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## Saved By Grace Through Faith

1. Dead in your trespasses and sins Eph. 2:1-3
2. By grace you have been saved Eph. 2:4-7
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## For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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## For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

- Salvation is a gift from God given to us by His grace, unmerited favor
- By revealing and providing all needed for our salvation, God alone makes it possible for us to receive salvation
- We cannot receive it by meritorious works, trying to earn it by our actions
- It can only be received by faith, belief and trust in God working when we obey His Word

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## For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

- When we trust God to act as He has said and we obey His commands to meet the conditions for forgiveness He has set, we do not contradict His grace
- Obedient faith is not meritorious work because both the command and the result when we obey come from God's grace
- It is in God alone that we must trust as we obey His Word

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## For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

- Many today mislabel baptism as a meritorious work
- The Scriptures reveal baptism is a work of faith where we trust in God's power to forgive us of our sins
- God's grace has always called on man to obey God's conditions for pardon or whatever other result God had promised to do

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## Meritorious Works Cannot Save Us

Rom 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

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## Meritorious Works Cannot Save Us

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

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## Meritorious Works Cannot Save Us

Rom 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

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## Meritorious Works Cannot Save Us

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

Tit 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

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## We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

- When our faith leads us to repent of our sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized (immersed in water), we receive (not earn) from God, by His grace, forgiveness of our sins by the blood of Jesus
- Those who say baptism is a meritorious work and salvation is received when we say the Sinner's prayer are teaching error

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

49

## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

51

## Baptism Is A Work of Faith

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

Tit 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

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## We Are God's Workmanship In Christ

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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## We Are God's Workmanship In Christ

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

54

## We Are God's Workmanship In Christ

2Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

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## Created For God's Good Works

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

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## Created For God's Good Works

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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## Created For God's Good Works

Tit 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

Tit 3:8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

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## Created For God's Good Works

Tit 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. <sup>59</sup>

## Why Not Obey The Gospel of His Grace Today?

Act 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

1Pe 4:17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

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