

SAVED – DAY 1. READ EPHESIANS 2: 1-10

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.^[a] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

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A few years ago, a plane took off in Washington DC in the snow and rain. Heavy ice formed on the wings, and despite all the pilots' attempts, the plane crashed into the nearby Potomac River. Because the crash occurred in the center of the capital, the same rescue helicopters flew to the site, as well as the television crew. Immediately, national television broadcast footage of several survivors of the sinking debris in the icy water. One woman swam to the surface, but was paralyzed by the icy waters, so she could not reach the shore. The helicopter dropped the rescue rope. The woman grabbed onto it and was lifted from the ground until her hands released the rope. And again the rope was lowered by a helicopter flying over it. And again she fell into the dark waters, it seemed forever.

Unexpectedly, TV cameras showed water splashes near the shore. The man, watching the unfolding drama from the side, not thinking about his own safety, dived and swam towards the woman. He swam in time to keep her from disappearing underwater. He fought bravely with the cold water and swam with it to safety. When asked later why he took such a risk, the man said, "I could not stand and watch her die. I needed to do something. "

This woman was lost and found. She was dying, but someone saved her. Our spiritual situation was similar. We were lost until Jesus "jumped into the water" to save us at the cost of his own life. We perished until we asked Jesus to set us free. Some of us knew we were lost because our life was a complete mess. Has it happened to you? Others thought they were fine and were blind and did not see the need for God until He showed us this.

How did you know you were lost and your need for God?

Read Ephesians 2: 1-3 again. Based on these verses:

Why were you lost?

How could you see this "lost"?

Read verses 4-7. What has God done for you?

Why?

Read verses 8-9. What have you done to help yourself?

How do you understand the word "grace"? (verse 8).

The topic of loss / salvation is just one dimension of what it means to be a child of God. Are you confident that Jesus saved you and brought you into the Kingdom? The idea of grace is the most wonderful

a gift from God - and it never ends.

[Memory Verse THIS WEEK: JOHN 3:16](#)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.