

5. Pick only ONE of the following three questions. Choose ONE.

a) READ John 11:38-44. How is Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead an illustration of God's saving grace at work?

b) READ Titus 3:3-8. What parallels can you discover with Ephesians 2:1-10? What similar themes or phrases are used?

c) READ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. On what basis does Paul exclude boasting among Christians? What should we boast about?

6. Salvation is God's work of grace from beginning to the end. How does God's grace enable us to do good works that reflect the character of Christ Jesus?

From Dead to Alive (and Back Again)

Ephesians 2:1-10

October 8, 2017

1. Dead to God; alive to self (1-3)

vs.1 "As for you . . . you were dead in your trespasses and sins"

What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

- No response—no **thanks** for God's goodness
- No heartbeat/pulse—no **love** for God's Word and ways
- No brainwaves—no **thought** of God's will

vs.2 A description of three silent but deadly influences

External factors **CONTEXT**

The aeon of the world—the way things **are**

The ruler of the **rebellion** (John 12:31; 16:11)

The spirit energizing the "*sons of disobedience*"

vs.3 Our **shared** experience outside of God's grace

Internal factors **CONDUCT**

Living for self with no thought of God (Gal. 5:16-21)

Acting out selfish desires and **thoughts** (Rom. 8:6-8)

Naturally deserving of condemnation

The hinge verse on which this passage turns:

But God

EPHESIANS 2:4

loved us!

who is rich in mercy, because of His great love

2. Alive to God; dead to self (5-10)

vs.5 God made us alive in Christ (Col. 2:13) ALREADY

“by grace you have been saved” (also vs. 8)

completed action with **continuous** results

vs.6 God guarantees our future in Christ NOT YET

raised up with Christ and seated with Him (Col. 3:1)

vs.7 God’s mind blowing, extravagantly **rich** grace

“kindness of Christ” to pardoned **rebels** (Titus 3:3-7)

vs.8 God’s **gift** is salvation by grace through faith

“not from yourselves” the source is **outside** us

vs.9 God saved us not by works (Romans 4:2 and 11:6)

*“So that no one can **boast**”* (1 Cor. 1:31)

vs.10 God created us in Christ Jesus *“to **do** good works”*

Not saved by our work, but saved **for** His work

Already set, marked out, prepared in advance

Alive to God; dead to self

Luke 9:23-24

²³ And He [Jesus] was saying to all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”

2 Corinthians 5:15

and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Life Group Homework

What helped you this past week to deal with the horrific news of the Las Vegas massacre? Friends. Prayer. Scripture. Other?

1. READ Ephesians 2:1-3. Do you think this passage is talking about you, or just “bad people?” What part applies to your life?
2. Put yourself in the shoes of a morally upright, law abiding citizen and good neighbor who contributes to the community and volunteers to help the less fortunate. How in the world is he or she “dead in trespasses and sins?”
3. The world was pretty messed up in Paul’s day—religious persecution, sexual immorality, social decay, political corruption, etc. Do you think it is the same, or worse today?
4. *Agree/disagree*
The worse off you are in sin, the more you need God’s grace.