

# Ephesians 2.1-10; Whitewater Community Church; 10.25.20

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## Ephesians 2.1-3: Bad News

**Problem 1:** I was born spiritually \_\_\_\_\_, because I inherited from my parents a corruption in my human nature. When Adam and Eve went against God's will, it caused a corruption in their nature, which was passed down through the generations. This corruption separates us from God, resulting in spiritual death.

**Problem 2:** Because of my corrupted human nature, many times I gave in to \_\_\_\_\_, which is any action, speech, or thought that goes against God's character or God's will.

**Problem 3:** I have followed the ways of the \_\_\_\_\_, our culture, which are corrupt too, because they are shaped by people who are corrupted in nature, spiritually dead, and mired in sin. So when I followed these ways, I was not walking with God.

**Problem 4:** When I walked in sin, I was following \_\_\_\_\_, instead of following Christ!

**Problem 5:** Like everyone else, I sinfully lived to satisfy my \_\_\_\_\_, being ruled by various desires and passions that were not godly.

**Problem 6:** Because of all these issues, I deserve God's \_\_\_\_\_. I deserve punishment, judgment, separation from God in this life and forever, which means I deserve condemnation to Hell.

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## Ephesians 2.4-7: Good News

**Solution 1:** God shows me \_\_\_\_\_, which means I do not get the punishment I deserve.

**Solution 2:** God \_\_\_\_\_ me with a love that is infinite, unconditional, sacrificial, and unwavering, even though I was spiritually dead, mired in sin against him, walking in the ways of the world, indulging the flesh, following Satan, and deserving of his wrath.

**Identity of Christ:** There is \_\_\_\_\_ God, but he has revealed himself as three individuals – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each unique in personality and activity, but so unified in essence, character, and will that they are one God; each is fully God, yet all three are one God. [It is ok that this is beyond our understanding!]

God the Son came to be born as baby \_\_\_\_\_, who thus was fully God and fully human. He lived a perfectly pure and sinless life, died on the cross for me, and rose from the grave on the third day.

**Solution 3:** God gives me \_\_\_\_\_, which means I receive what I do not deserve. This is unmerited favor: I cannot earn it, I do not deserve it, I will never be worthy of it. It is God's gift!

**Solution 4:** By grace I am saved and made spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, born again, saved from the penalty for sin, so I can have an intimate relationship with God now and can be with him in Heaven after physical death.

**Solution 5:** I am crucified with Christ regarding sin, and \_\_\_\_\_ to new spiritual life with Christ.

**Solution 6:** Because I am raised up with Christ, I am \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ, united with him, indwelt by the Holy Spirit he sent to me when I believed. So I am free from the power of sin and can walk in freedom.

**Purpose 1:** One reason God saved me was for his own \_\_\_\_\_, as he demonstrates the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward me in Christ Jesus.

It is wrong to think I \_\_\_\_\_ God instead of God choosing me. That would mean I somehow at least partially deserved or earned my salvation, but that is not what the text says. The glory is God's because he chose to love me, show me mercy, extend grace to me, even though I deserved his wrath.

It is a wonder that God chooses to save \_\_\_\_\_ of us, since we all share the guilt of the human race for failing to represent God and reflect his character, we all are corrupted, and we all choose to sin.

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## **Ephesians 2.8-10: More Good News**

**Solution 7:** I am saved by grace alone, through \_\_\_\_\_ alone, in Christ alone.

**Grace/Faith Relationship:** God's grace is a gift of \_\_\_\_\_ from the penalty for sin, from the power of sin, into new spiritual life, into relationship with him... this is salvation!

Because God saved me, I \_\_\_\_\_ in who Jesus is as both the divine Son of God and the promised human Messiah-savior known as Christ, and in what Jesus accomplished in his crucifixion and resurrection. That means I admit I need the grace and salvation God offers and believe this is accomplished through Jesus paying the penalty for my sins on the cross, taking all God's wrath for me.

When I believe, God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ to me the absolute righteousness of Christ. Because this is all by grace, not my own works, I cannot think I deserved it in some way; but I also know that I can never lose it.

**Purpose 2:** A second reason God saved me was so I would do the \_\_\_\_\_ he prepared for me to do, and thus I would be his image bearer, representing him here and reflecting his character.

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## **Implications**

Avoid self-\_\_\_\_\_; refrain from judging others; remember your need for grace!

Be \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation, confident in God's deliverance.

Focus on your \_\_\_\_\_ with God and live for him!