

Claim God's Pardon

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:1-10

In This Series...

1. We'll encourage God's children to think differently about who they are in Christ.
2. We'll understand many of our benefits in Christ.
3. We'll celebrate all that's ours through Christ.

Sin: The Unsaved Person Is...

1. Dead

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

– incapable of responding spiritually

2. Disobedient. Influenced by...

a) the world b) the enemy c) the flesh

3. Depraved

– actions are sinful because appetites are sinful
– incapable of meeting high standards of holiness

4. Doomed

"Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath." - Ephesians 2:3

BUT BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US

SALVATION: God is at work...

1. For us:

• Brings us to life

"God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions..." - Ephesians 2:4,5

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

• Gives us position in Him

"Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him." - John 12:1,2

• Gives grace to us

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast." - Ephesians 2:8

2. In us:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. Through us:

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." - James 3:17

"When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." - John 11:43,44

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

What Do We Learn

1. Our world is full of dead people.
2. God loves people in an intensely intimate way.
3. God desires relationship, not rule-keeping.
4. God gave – and gives – new life to us.
5. We've been brought to life to do good works.
6. Our transformation from death to life brings glory to God.

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 – incapable of responding spiritually
2. _____. Influenced by...
 a) the _____ b) the _____ c) the _____
3. _____
 – actions are sinful because _____ are sinful
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 • Gives us _____ in Him
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2. _____:
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3. _____:
"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." – James 3:17
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