

“SAVED” out of Ephesians 2:1-10 by Pastor Brett Baggett

INTRODUCTION

Q. What’s your favorite Rescue story?

Harry Potter; Star Wars; Die Hard; Argo; Saving Private Ryan; 300; Toy Story 2; The Princess Bride; ?

Q. What about when your sports team is wayyyyy down and someone light’s it up and they come back and win? *You see, sports guys that don’t like good movies, I got you too...*

- Our culture loves a good rescue story.
- We love these stories because we all, deep inside, long to be rescued; we long to be saved. The Good News is that Jesus is the true Savior; Jesus is the true Rescuer.
- Invite you to turn to **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

IS SALVATION BY WORKS OR GRACE?

Option #1 WORKS = Your works save you.

1. **In Buddhism**, ceasing desires saves you.
2. **In Confucianism**, education, self-reflection, self-cultivation, and living a moral life saves you.
3. **In Hinduism**, detaching from your separated ego and making an effort to live in unity with the divine saves you.
4. **In Islam**, living a holy life of good deeds saves you.
5. **In Orthodox Judaism**, repentance, prayer, and working hard to obey the law saves you.
6. **In New Ageism**, gaining a new perspective through which you now see that you’re connected to all things as a divine oneness saves you.
7. **In Daoism**, aligning yourself with the Dao to have peace and harmony saves you.
8. **In many people’s minds**, simply being a good person saves you.
9. **And at funerals, many people seem to think that merely dying saves you.**

Option #2 GRACE = Jesus’ works save you.

1. **In Christianity**, Jesus’ life saves you- He lived righteous and sinless, so that we would be...
2. **In Christianity**, Jesus’ death saves you- He stood in our place, became sin, died for sin.
3. **In Christianity**, Jesus resurrection saves you- He arose, triumphant over the grave.

EPHESIANS 2:5 “...By grace you have been saved...”

EPHESIANS 2:8 “...By grace you have been saved through faith.” ***OBJECT SAVES YOU**

Q. Are you saved? **Q.** Have you given yourself to Jesus, are you dependent on His works for you, or are you still trying to live out of your own works?

Q.1 SAVED FROM WHAT? (6 things)

EPHESIANS 2:1-3 And you were (1) dead in the (2) trespasses and sins (3) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, (4) following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (5) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, (6) and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

1. SPIRITUAL DEADNESS (vv. 1a)

- **APPLY:** Imagine you came upon a horrific car wreck and someone died. **Q.** What do they need?
- **EXPLAIN:** Though we were physically alive, we were spiritually dead.
Think of what else Paul could have said: Weak, Wounded, Incomplete, Sick, Bad? **He said DEAD.*
- **WORKS** = Moral Reformation. **GRACE** = Mortal Resurrection. **Q.** Do you see the difference?
Jesus didn't come to start a moral reformation; Jesus came to provide a mortal resurrection!

2. TRESPASSES AND SINS (vv. 1)

- **SIN** = Thoughts, Words, Deeds, and Motives. - **Commission** = bad things. **Omission** = not doing good things.
- **APPLY:** **Q.** Have you ever trespassed onto someone's land?
- **EXPLAIN:** God has Laws, boundary markers, rules because He loves us.
He has created us to live a certain way / When we rebel, trespass, there are consequences. Severe!

3. WORLDLY LIVING (vv. 2a)

- **EXPLAIN:** The Bible speaks of the "World" in 7 different ways. Here = Living/Walking in rebellion to God.
- **APPLY:** Imagine a rushing river- everyone floating down the stream, going wherever the flow takes them.
Our eyes were closed to **Sin** and true **Injustice**. **Q.** Idolatry? **Q.** Sexual sin? **Q.** Abortion? **Q.** Self-Control?
"Morality is not determined by majority, it's determined by Jesus."

4. SATAN AND DEMONS (vv. 2b)

- **APPLY:** **Q.** If you're not saved by Jesus and thus not following Jesus, who do you think you're following?
- **EXPLAIN:** Satan and demons are at work in the world, and hate you. *Also, ***POSSESSION*
- **Q.** Who is the enemy of God? **A.** Satan. **Romans 5:10** "[Non-Christians are] enemies of God."
"There are two ways of conquering your enemies: 1) Destroying. 2) Making them your friends."

5. SINFUL NATURE (vv. 3a)

PSALM 51:5 "I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

1 Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

- **EXPLAIN:** Before we're saved by Jesus, we don't think the thoughts of God, do the works of God, honor God.
- Q.** Have you noticed how baffled the world is when unspeakable evil happens? **Sinful Passions/Desires.*
- Q.** Have you noticed that you don't have to teach a kid to be bad? **We need a new nature! In Christ.*

6. THE WRATH OF GOD (vv. 3b)

- **EXPLAIN:** The Bible speaks of the wrath of God toward sinners, 20+ words, more than 600x's
- **EXPLAIN THE CROSS:** In the Garden "Let this cup pass from me"
- **APPLY THE CROSS OF JESUS:** **Q.** Imagine you got a letter from a collection agency that said, "All your debt has been paid, past, present, and future."

Q.2 SAVED BY WHAT?

EPHESIANS 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved.

Q. In your experience, can dead men choose to come back to life? *“Lazarus, come forth”* (John 11)

Q. In your experience, do babies choose to be born? *“You must be born again”* (John 3)

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Q. When a baby is born they cry, right? Does that cry make them alive, or reveal they are alive?

Say this with me: *“In Christ, I am Saved by Grace!”*

Q.3 SAVED TO WHAT?

EPHESIANS 2:6-10 (6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (7) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1. We are saved to be exalted to the position of Jesus (vv. 6)
2. We are saved to enjoy God's immeasurable riches and grace (vv. 7)
3. We are saved to boast in the grace of God (vv. 8-9)

ROMANS 4:2 [If we are] justified by works, [we have] something to **boast** about, but not before God.

JUDGES 7:2 The Lord said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel **boast** over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”

PSALM 34:2 “My soul makes its **boast in the Lord**; let the humble hear and be glad.”

GALATIANS 6:14 “But far be it from me to **boast** except **in the** cross of our **Lord** Jesus Christ.”

1 PETER 2 “You were [saved]... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

4. We are saved to do good works that God has set out for us to do (vv. 10)

MATTHEW 5:14-16 ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Q. How many of you are confused? NOT WORKS, NOT WORKS..... WORKS!

7 THINGS ABOUT GOOD WORKS **I borrowed this from Mark Driscoll

1. All works by God's grace, for God's glory are good works.
2. A lot of Jesus' good works were as a carpenter.
3. There is not such thing as sacred or secular work.
4. Discover the good works God has set out for you.
5. You may not need “new works.”
6. We are not saved by our works, but for them.
7. God does not need our works, but our neighbor does.

Say this with me: *“In Christ, I am Saved for Good Works!”*

I want you to see this and understand Salvation this way:

IN CHRIST, SALVATION IS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

1. Saved from the **Pleasure** of sin ***REGENERATION*
2. Saved from the **Penalty** of sin ***JUSTIFICATION*
3. Are being saved from the **Power** of sin ***SANCTIFICATION*
4. Will be saved from the **Presence** of sin ***GLORIFICATION*