

God's Love in Action **Ephesians 2:4-10 (NKJV)**

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

After listing all the things that we had going against us Paul changes the story.

You who were dead in trespasses and sins,

you once walked according to the course of this world,

You once walked according to the prince of the power of the air,

That spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

We all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

But then he changes the story. He changes the story because God changed the story.

God changed the story for everyone who are His own.

Everything seemed to be against us and we did not even know it, for we were dead spiritually.

We were alienated from God and held God as our enemy.

We were not in subjection to the law of God, neither indeed could we be in subjection to His holy law.

We were children of wrath, just as others, sons of disobedience, fulfilling the desires of the flesh.

But God, but God stepped in and everything changed.

Paul says that God made us alive, He quickened us, He gave us spiritual life.

But why would God do something like that?

There was nothing in us that He could admire, nothing that He could have hope in.

We often see a couple and wonder what does she see in him or him in her. But there is always something that draws them together.

But in God's case there was nothing in us that drew Him to us. There was not one reason in us why He should come in and change our story. But He did.

And now that is our story.

- I. God . . . made us alive
 - A. This is the main part of the sentence.
 1. Everything else helps us understand this main part.
 2. But we must get this first else everything else is not as useful
 - B. God is the subject.
 1. The God of the Bible.
 - a. No other religion speaks of God giving life to those who are opposed to Him.
 - b. Only the God of our Lord Jesus Christ gives grace to those who so much do not deserve it.
 - c. So far from God not interfering in His creation He love to interject Himself on behalf of His own chosen ones.
 2. God is the action taker for no one else could or would.
 - a. He alone must save us for there is no other.
 - b. We cannot make our own selves alive, for we are dead.
 - c. We did not even want to be alive, for that meant changing from what we were to what God wanted us to be.
 - C. Made alive is the verb.
 1. We have talked the last couple of weeks on the power that God worked when He quickened us in Christ Jesus.
 2. Jesus spoke of it as a resurrection.
 - a. John 5:25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,
 - b. Just in case you thought that He was talking about a physical resurrection in v-28 He says this, "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."
 - D. And us is the object of the verb.

1. Obviously not everyone. 2Th 3:2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.
2. Jesus said narrow is the gate that leads to life and only a few would enter it.
3. Paul is referring to himself and the believers at Ephesus.
4. But he is also referring to all those who are changed by the mighty power of God.

II. The reasons lie within God and not in us.

A. He is a God rich in mercy.

1. Once again Paul refers to God's mercy and how He is rich in it.
2. As our Sunday School class saw last week it was the part of God's character that Jonah did not like.
3. He did not want God to be merciful to Israel's enemies.
4. But God will be merciful to whom He will.
5. Rom 9: 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

B. It is because of His great love toward us.

1. There is no more beautiful passage than found in Ezekiel 16:1-14.
2. Ezekiel 16:1-14 (NKJV) 1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4 As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. 5 No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. 6 "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' 7 I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. 9 Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off

your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 10 I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. 14 Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

3. This in a figure is what God has done for all His children.
4. He has saved us by His grace.
5. He has done it all.
6. And He deserves the credit and the glory.