

“GOD’S POETRY” Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

It’s been said that there is no greater pressure than a great potential. It could also be said that there is no greater loss than a wasted potential. Although that point could be argued, we will probably agree that there is much sadness in a wasted potential.

Of course, potential is tied to purpose. We must know our purpose before we can discover our potential. This presumes that we were created by design for a specific purpose. And that is what God is trying to get across to the Ephesians. They were created and saved for a purpose, and until they discover that purpose, they will never become a Purpose Driven Church.

What was true for them is true for us today. We were created for a purpose and have the potential for eternal impact. But before we can begin to reach or even realize our potential, we must understand our purpose.

I. PROSPECTS FOR SALVATION 1-3

“Dead in trespasses and sins”—this describes our **POSITION** before trusting Christ. We were not “in Christ”; we were “in sin,” dead “in trespasses and sins.” Dead does not mean “inactive”; it means spiritually separated from God—born spiritually dead. It doesn’t mean we didn’t have an active spirit (Gen 41:8—Pharaoh; see also Nebuchadnezzar in Dan 2:2-3). It means our human spirit was separated from God. Sin causes separation (Isa 59:2).

Zechariah 12:1 says the Lord forms the spirit of man within him. To what purpose? Is this spirit within the unbelieving man a corpse? Hardly.

If the spirit of an unbeliever could not feel, there would be no torment in the Lake of Fire. In Jesus story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19ff), the rich man in Hades can feel, see, speak, and think. Now his body is in the grave. What is in Hades? His spirit, obviously. Pretty active for a spiritual corpse.

“By nature”—our **POSITION** affected our **CONDITION**—totally depraved, “fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.” But, as we shall see, total depravity is not total inability.

These are the prospects for salvation: people who are separated from God in their **POSITION** and so thoroughly depraved in their **CONDITION** they have nothing within themselves to offer God in order to be united to Him again (saved).

II. PROCEDURE FOR SALVATION 4-6

“He loved us even when we were dead in trespasses”— GOD LOVES SINNERS!

“Made us alive” = “saved”—this is salvation from the **PENALTY** of sin. We are no longer separated from God. We see the Greek preposition **syn** connected to “made alive,” “raised,” and “made . . . sit”—it means **with**; in other words, we are not separated from Him anymore; we are alive **with** Him, raised **with** Him, and seated **with** Him. In Christ Jesus”—our new **POSITION**—we are **in Christ**.

But what’s the procedure? **BY GRACE**—you have been saved (from the penalty of sin).

III. PURPOSE FOR SALVATION 7-10

“That”—this word (*hina*) marks the purpose of our salvation.

“Show”—He wants to show us off—trophies of His grace. But notice: the showing won’t be until the age to come (Millennium). It’s after Jesus comes back. Only then will there be a full revelation of who His trophies of grace really are and what has become of them.

Why will we be trophies of His grace? Because “**by grace** you have been saved through faith . . .” And “faith” is not the gift of God. That is grammatically impossible. The entire process of salvation is the gift of God. Believing = Receiving (Jn 1:12).

“Grace”—an undeserved favor. But just to make sure we don’t get confused and think we can earn grace, Paul includes it in the “free gift.” “Gift” here is a special Greek word (*dōron*) that emphasized the “free” aspect of the gift; see Rev. 21:6. If we could earn it or deserve it, then we might have something to boast about. But we don’t.

Why don’t we have anything to boast about? Because we are “His workmanship.” This word “workmanship” is found only twice in the NT—here and Romans 1:20. It is the Greek word *poiēma*, from which we get “poem” or “poetry.” After the creation of the universe, believers are His *magnum opus*, His greatest work, His poetry. Unfortunately, we can frustrate His “workmanship” and wind up one of His unfinished poems.

CONCLUSION

So, God’s great purpose for life is not about you, and it’s not about heaven. It is all about _____.

