



## Devotional \_\_\_\_\_

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:4-5; 8

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

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

We were dead men and women before being saved by Jesus. No matter how “good” or “bad” your behaviour was, the Bible says you were dead in your sins. Dead people have no bargaining chips; nothing to offer to gain any reward.

**It was only God’s mercy, His love and sovereign choice that saved us. Self-righteousness without Christ stinks of death; it is utter darkness. The gift of Christ’s righteousness is perfect light.**

As Christians, we are called to walk uprightly before God, and through His transforming work in our lives, our lives should start to mirror Jesus and produce good works. However, our salvation rests squarely on God’s grace and not on our behaviour. Before Him we were all equally lost and are equally saved.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 ESV

*14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

We should therefore regard all people as dead in Christ, and those who have received His gift of salvation as having been raised from the dead. We could therefore refer to ourselves as grace gifts walking!

### Application

1. What is God saying to you through this passage?
2. If it were not for Christ, what would your life look like today?
3. Think of someone around you who is not saved - a neighbour, colleague or family member. Share the good news with them of what Jesus has done for you.

### Prayer

Father, thank you for your incredible mercy and love for us. Help us to live for you and tell others of your great love and gift of grace for **them, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**