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| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: Two sets of two words are all it takes to turn the book of Ephesians upside down. In chapter 1, Paul has been building a description of God that gets bigger and bigger. Like a rollercoaster, it has been up and up and up. Then in two simple words, it all comes crashing down; but you.  These two words shift the focus from an almighty and eternal God down into our finite world, and into the lives of the audience reading this letter. It’s not a pretty picture, they were distracted, disobedient and ultimately dead. Yet Paul is quick to point out that they are not alone in this for all people lived this way at one time. We were all, by nature, deserving of God’s mighty wrath.  This image of humanity is in stark contrast to the way we are told to think about ourselves today. To a modern secular mind humanity is not bad, we are not dead inside, we are alive and we are good. Though history and our present cultural moment show us otherwise, this is how our world thinks of itself. We are not dead we just need to make a few improvements.  Unfortunately, both our text and the Bible as a whole state otherwise. We are all born dead in our sin which makes the next two words all the more powerful: But God…  These two words sum up the gospel. We were dead but God has made us alive in Christ Jesus. Paul goes on to show that this salvation is an act of pure grace and brought to light by faith alone, though that’s not the end.  Paul closes this section with a call to action, not for our own merit but because of what God has done for us and in us. And you... but God... so walk. |  Ephesians 2:1-10 |  | |  | | --- | | And you…But God  1. How does the world around us tell us to think about ourselves? 2. What does Paul mean when he says that they were dead in their transgressions and sins? (v.1) 3. In what ways does the description of all of us (v.3) fit perfectly into the way our world acts today? 4. Why are we ‘by nature’ deserving of God wrath? (v.3b) 5. In verse 4, God’s nature is stressed as important to our salvation? Why is it important? 6. What does ‘made alive with Christ’ mean? (v.5) 7. How would you explain the idea of God’s grace to someone? (v.5b&8) 8. What does it mean to say we are seated with Jesus in the heavenly realms? (v.6) 9. Do you think God is expressing the incomparable riches of his grace in the present age? (v.7) 10. How is our being made alive with Jesus ‘through faith’? Where does it come from? (v.8) 11. What does it mean to say we are God’s handiwork? (v10) 12. What is the point of our good works if they are not for our own merit? (v.10) | |