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Pastor Chris Hill

By Grace

¹ Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT2)

- We used to live in _____

²³ For the wages of sin is death... **Romans 6:23a (NLT2)**

- But God _____ us so much

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **Romans 5:8 (NLT2)**

- Saved by God’s _____.

²³ ... but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23 (NLT2)**

- Saved to do the _____ he has planned.

⁹ So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. **Galatians 6:9 (NLT2)**

My Next Step Is To...

- Memorize and/or meditate on Ephesians 2:10
- Let my works be an offering of praise to God as I rest in his grace.
- Repent of any hint of living as if my works were saving me.
- Respond to God’s love by surrendering my life to Him as I invite Jesus to become my Savior and Lord.