

## ***Get Out Of The Graveyard – Ephesians 2:1-9***

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### **Introduction**

1. Having described our spiritual possessions in Christ, Paul turns to a complementary truth: our spiritual position in Christ. We are taken out of the great graveyard of sin and placed into the throne room of glory. Let's look at two specific works that Paul discusses...

### **I. Sin's Work Against Us (2:1-3)**

#### ***a. He Is Dead (v1)***

- i. This is spiritual death which basically means "separation" from God (Isaiah 59:2). The cause of this spiritual death is our "trespasses and sins." The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- ii. The word for sin here is *hamartia* which literally means a "miss." Sin is the failure to hit the target. It means that sin is something we all have experienced. We all have failed to be and do God's will for us. Trespasses means a "slip" or a "fall." We have all failed and slipped up in life. The result is death (1 Timothy 5:6)! Only resurrection power can bring us back to life.

#### ***b. He Is Disobedient (v2-3a)***

- i. There are three forces that encourage man in his disobedience—the world, the devil, and the flesh (Romans 12:2; John 8:44; 12:31; Ephesians 6:11-12; Galatians 5:16-26).

#### ***c. He Is Depraved (v3b)***

- i. We on our own cannot meet God's holy standards or do anything to merit salvation. We are spiritually bankrupt and need a savior!

#### ***d. He Is Doomed (v3c)***

- i. By nature, children of wrath (John 3:18)! However, God in His mercy wants all to be saved (2 Peter 3:8-10). Man cannot save himself, but God can through His grace if we would be willing to accept it by faith!

### **II. God's Work For Us (2:4-9)**

#### ***a. He Loved Us (v4)***

- i. God is "rich in mercy" (Eph. 2:4) and in "grace" (Eph. 2:7), and these riches make it possible for sinners to be saved. It was at Calvary that God displayed His hatred for sin and His love for sinners (Romans 5:8-9; John 3:16).

#### ***b. He Quickened Us (v5)***

- i. This means He made us alive, even when we were dead in sins. He accomplished this spiritual resurrection by the power of the Spirit, using the Word (John 5:24; Hebrews 4:12; 5:9).

#### ***c. He Exalted Us (v6)***

- i. We are not raised from the dead and left in the graveyard. Because we are united to Christ, we have been exalted with Him and we are sharing His throne in the heavenlies.

#### ***d. He Keeps Us (v7-9)***

- i. God's purpose in our redemption is not simply to rescue us from hell, as great a work as that is. His ultimate purpose in our salvation is that for all eternity the church might glorify God's grace (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).
- ii. Our salvation is the gift of God. Salvation cannot be "of works" because the work of salvation has already been completed on the cross. This is the work that God does for us, and it is a finished work (John 17:1-4; 19:30). God did it all, and He did it by His grace. The obligation of man is to accept His grace by faith (saving faith will include obedience)! – John 3:14-17; 3:5-6