

Ephesians 2:1-10. *Good Works?* As for you all, you were dead; your violations of God’s moral code and resulting distance from Him killed you. You used to live in the ways of this world, and according to the ruler of this world—the veritable spirit of evil who works within those who fail to listen to the voice of the Lord our God.

Of course all of us once have also lived among them—we’ve gratified the cravings of a fleshly being, following our thoughts and aspirations to the point we became objects of God’s wrath. BUT, because of His great love for us, and because of His great mercy, we were made alive in Christ, even when we were dead because of our transgressions. It is a gift, God’s mercy, that you have been saved from His wrath. You see, God raised us up with the Christ, and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms εν Christ Yeshua.

[DID HE DO THIS TO GLORIFY US? NO.]

He did this so that in the future, people will see the incomparable riches of His mercy demonstrated, as expressed in His kindness to us εν Christ Yeshua.

Remember, you have been saved by God’s gift of mercy through your trust in Him. So? It’s not by what you’ve done—that way, no one can boast. So why? We are God’s work of art [ποίημα, “a thing created, made;” 4161], created fully by Christ Yeshua—to do good things, which He determined a long time ago for us to do.

- Q What caused our failure to be redeemed? [Hint: it’s who you follow, not just what you follow. You can behave well, even morally, but for evil purposes. Consider marketing as a born again to the born again.]
- Q What is the purpose of our redemption, our box seat in the heavenly realms?
- Q How can we express gratitude for this gift of mercy?
- Q What saves us according to Paul here? [mercy & trust in that mercy] Why?
- Q What makes us Christ’s work of art? When were the specs for this work identified, outlined?
- Q What makes our good works, “good?” Why good works?
- Q Why is it spiritually pragmatic to remember why we were given grace, rather than earning it?

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive [ζωο] with [the] Christ [“the” is actually there; i.e., τῷ Χριστῷ] even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in [εν] Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in [εν] Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

