

*Love*

BEFORE

*Labor*

WHY WE SERVE FROM GRACE, NOT FOR IT

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Call to the Word  
Eph 2:4-10

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

Call to the Word  
Eph 2:4-10

## **The Superiority of Spiritual Blessings**

**Earthly blessings expire; Spiritual blessings endure.**

**Christ cannot be shaken, neither can what you have in Him.**

**They address your greatest needs.**

**They reframe earthly blessings.**

**They satisfy what earthly blessings never can. Because your soul was made for eternal things.**

Introduction

***“Until you know where you have been, you cannot know where you are going.” African Proverb***

Chapter one was all about the blessings we have in Christ  
Chapter two is how they got there and why they're there.

Introduction

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Introduction

# **The Superiority of Spiritual Blessings**

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Introduction

Our condition: Spiritually dead

We were alive horizontally.  
But we were dead vertically.

Eph 2:1-3

We were dead in trespasses and sins.

“Sin” (*hamartano*) means to miss the target...

The glory of God. The holiness of God. The perfection of God.

“Trespasses”: stepping over a boundary

Eph 2:1-3

“But God...”

You were dead in sin — flatlined spiritually. No pulse toward God.  
No hunger for righteousness. No movement in His direction.

Then God steps in and calls life where there was none.

Eph 2:4

“...rich in mercy”

Mercy means God does not give you what you deserve.

“Great love”

He loved because He is love.

Love was the motive.

Grace was the method.

Mercy was the expression.

Eph 2:4

God's Timing: "when we were dead"

You didn't assist your resurrection.

The same power that rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb is the power that woke your soul up.

Eph 2:5

Seated: to cause to sit down together, place together

You have a place at the table.

Grace has come down and sits you down beside the King..

Eph 2:7

## Display His Grace

*“...heaven glorifies God for saving sinners.” (MacArthur)*

The spotlight in eternity won't be on how far you climbed. It will be on how far He came down, and the longer eternity rolls on, the brighter that grace will shine.

Eph 2:7

“... by grace through faith...”

Faith is the channel, not the cause.

*“Faith is the empty hand which receives the gift of grace.”  
(Spurgeon)*

*“Even the faith with which we believe is a gift of God. Salvation is entirely of grace.” (MacArthur)*

Eph 2:8-9

“... lest anyone should boast...”

*“lest anyone should claim to have grounds for confidence in themselves...”*

Eph 2:8-9

“For we are His workmanship...”

His masterpiece.

A work of art. Something carefully crafted with intention.

“...created in Christ Jesus for good works”

Not saved by works - But saved for works.

Eph 2:8-9

“...created in Christ Jesus for good works”

Good works are the result, not the cause. They're the fruit on the tree, not the root of the tree.

The root is grace - The fruit is obedience.

If you reverse that, you lose the gospel.

Eph 2:8-9

“...which God prepared beforehand that we should *walk* in them.”

A walk is a lifestyle.

“walking” isn’t private spirituality. It’s public, observable conduct. It’s how you move through your neighborhood. How you treat people at work. How you carry yourself in society.

Eph 2:8-9

Because of our riches in Christ, because of the great mercy and grace shown to us, because of the transformative work of the holy Spirit in our lives - “good works” became the natural by-product of our faith.

Grace must be embodied. It must take on flesh and move through streets and schools and systems.

Eph 2:8-9

Western civilization did not emerge from ideas floating in the air. It emerged from people who believed they were created for good works and then walked in them.

**Faith did not stay inside church walls. It built things.**

Eph 2:10



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