

## Life Before GRACE and After

Ephesians 2:1-10

Pictures of “before” and “after” entice us to buy products that transform our bodies, furniture, etc. Paul encourages us to see the impact of GRACE on our lives.

### I. Life BEFORE GRACE: described (2:1-3)

3 words to describe our “natural” condition

1) DEAD (vs.1)

- In transgressions → false step, deviation from truth
- In sins → “living” death – spiritual, not physical

2) ENSLAVED (vs.2)

- To ways of this world – no way out
- To ruler of kingdom of the air – Satan’s control

3) CONDEMNED (vs.3)

- By our actions – cravings (additive response to sinful nature)
- By our desires – goals – purpose in life  
(pleasure, freedom, indulgence)
- By Our thoughts – mind given over to
- By our nature – children of wrath

### II. Life AFTER GRACE: described (2:4-10)

#### A. NEW POSSESSION

- Great love (4) – in spite of our natural condition
- Rich mercy (4) – tender pity on our helplessness
- Abundant life (5) – sharing the power of Jesus’ resurrection
- Powerful grace (5) – super-abundant grace for our rescue

#### B. NEW POSITION

- Alive in Christ (5) – new birth
- Raised up with Christ - ascension
- Seated with Christ - authority
- On display for eternity – glorification

#### C. NEW PROCESS

- Receive grace as a gift by faith (8)
- Cancels self-effort salvation (9)
- Focus of re-creation follows a clear and predetermined plan

*Think about this...*

- 1) Can you remember when you first experienced the free grace of a loving God?
- 2) Can you identify the characteristics of your life “BEFORE GRACE”?
- 3) Then can you better display the transformation of your “AFTER GRACE” life?