

THE PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US
PART 3—BUT GOD!!!
EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Introduction

In the last couple of messages we have been looking at the first five verses of this chapter as we have looked at the matter of THE PROOF THAT GOD LOVES US!

The picture we saw about ourselves was not a pretty sight! In fact, it is not something that we readily like to admit to be the truth!

However, we saw ourselves as God saw us before we came to know the Lord Jesus Christ!

We were spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins:

- We walked in the error of our own ways.
- We walked according to the course of this world. (The broad road...)
- We walked according to the prince of the power of the air.
- We walked according to the spirit that still works in the children of disobedience.
- Our manner of living was wrapped up in fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind and we were by nature the children of wrath.

Some may want to say they weren't all that bad! Nevertheless, the Bible says that in the eyes of God, we ALL were!

But then the Bible picks up in verse 4 with **"But God. . ."** And that is where life changes! If it wasn't for that **"But God. . ."** we'd still be where we were!

Romans 3:10—"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

If God hadn't come seeking for us we never would have sought for Him!
When I look at who I was and where I was I shake my head. **"But God. . ."**

I. WE WERE UNCLEAN, BUT GOD IS RICH (or GREAT) IN HIS

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MERCY! (Vs 4)

There are many aspects to God's mercy: *tender pity; kindness; forgiveness; compassion.*

Psalms 86:15—"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

But today I want us just to think of God's mercy as it relates to our salvation.

Titus 3:5-7—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

1 Peter 1:3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Psalms 86:5—"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."

WE WERE UNCLEAN, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS MERCY!

**II. WE WERE UNLOVELY, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS LOVE!
(Vs 4)**

When the Bible says that God is **great in His love** we need to know what kind of love it's talking about.

It's not talking about love in the terms of what most of this world thinks of when they hear the word "love."

The English word "love" has been so misused and abused that some folks don't even know what real love is!

The Greek language used three words for what we would translate as "love" in our English language.

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EROS–Physical love. Not used in the Bible.

PHILEO–Affection and friendship.
Philadelphia–brotherly love.
Philoteknos–love of children.
Philandros–love of a husband.
Philanthropia–love of mankind.
Philotheos–love of God.
Philoxenos–love of hospitality.
Philautos–love of self.
Philedonos–love of pleasure.

AGAPAO–A giving, sacrificial love. Seeking the highest good for another even at great cost.

A. Love Is God’s Nature!

1 John 4:8–“ . . . for God is love.”

1 John 4:16–“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love . . .”

B. Jesus Is God’s Manifestation Of His Love Toward Sinners!

1 John 4:9-10–“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:6-8–“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

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III. WE WERE UNDESERVING, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS GRACE! (Vs 5-8)

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God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.
Grace literally means “*favor*.”

Biblical grace means the unmerited eternal salvation of God which comes freely to the believing sinner through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is receiving the opposite of what we deserve.
Not getting what we do deserve is **mercy**! Getting what we don’t deserve—now that is **grace**!

Salvation by grace means that salvation is not **attained or maintained** by human works; rather, it is the free gift from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ’s finished work of redemption on the cross of Calvary!

Salvation is through Christ alone...It is by His grace alone...It is through faith in Him alone!

Salvation by grace alone through faith alone is the Gospel preached by the Apostles and revealed to us in the Bible!

Paul described the Gospel in **Romans 3:24 – 4:6**.

This is the Gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone without works of any kind!

Paul also described the Gospel in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**.
The Gospel is wrapped up in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

There is not one word about works or sacraments or any other thing by which we obtain salvation!

Acts 4:12–“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be

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saved.”

When the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Barnabas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”, they replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. . .” (Acts 16:30-31)

The Lord Jesus Christ taught the same thing to Nicodemus in John 3. *John 3:16–“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

John 3:18–“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John the Baptist taught His disciples in John 3:36 to look to the Jesus. *John 3:36–“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

Jesus taught the same thing in **John 6:28-29**.

John 14:6–“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

A common error made by many, even today, is to attempt to intermingle grace and law, faith and works! But my friend, it is “*Nothing But the Blood of Jesus!*”

We were so undeserving, but thank God He was great in His Grace!

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WE WERE UNLOVELY, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS LOVE!
WE WERE UNDESERVING, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS GRACE!
IV. WE WERE UNDONE, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS WORKS!
(Vs 4-10)*

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A. He Is Great In His Creation!

Psalm 19:1–“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.”

B. He Is Great In His Redemption!

On the day of Pentecost: *Acts 2:11–“. . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

**C. He Is Great In His Resurrection! (Vs 5-6)
1 Corinthians 15:12-22**

D. He Is Great In His Salvation! (Vs 8-10)

Hebrews 2:3–“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

E. He Is Great In His Sanctification! (Vs 10)

Philippians 1:6–“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

F. He Is Great In His Glorification! (Vs 6-7)

1. He Was Glorious In His Past!

John 17:5–“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

2. He Was Glorious In His First Coming!

John 1:14–“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

- a. His Birth.
- b. His Life.
- c. His Death.

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d. His Resurrection.

3. He Was Glorious In His Ascension!

Acts 1:8–“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”

4. He Is Glorious Now!

Colossians 3:1-4–“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

5. He Will Be Glorious In His Second Coming!

Luke 21:27–“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

G. He Is Great In Ways Past Finding Out!

Job said in Job 9:10–“Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.”

Psalm 40:5–“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Psalm 107:8–“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

Conclusion

I’m glad for that phrase, “*But God. . .*” aren’t you?

WE WERE UNCLEAN, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS MERCY!

WE WERE UNLOVELY, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS LOVE!

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*WE WERE UNDESERVING, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS GRACE!
WE WERE UNDONE, BUT GOD IS GREAT IN HIS WORKS!*