

But God

10-3-21

Ephesians 2:4–5 (ESV)

But God, when we were dead made us alive!

Before we came to Christ, we were dead. But praise Jesus “But God” made us live. As dead people we, did not follow God or have a relationship with HIM. In the previous verses God identifies the actions of dead people.

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) No O/H

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

This means physically alive but spiritually dead. As a whole, people without Christ are under various influences: #1) following the course of this world, #2) following the prince of the power of the air (the devil), #3) following the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience (evil spirit of the devil now at work), #4) living in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind (This is our fleshly body tied to this world and all its pleasures), #5) thus by nature, they are children of wrath. Therefore, once God made us alive, we have live in a world of dead people.

Let us imagine a contrast of the living and the dead. We have this great message and we go into this cemetery to share with dead people. We organize a protest in the cemetery as a sign of our strength. We are passionate and articulate. We have great speakers come to the cemetery. When we are finally finished with our protest, we are surprised that everyone in the cemetery is still dead. Because the world is spiritually dead, they cannot understand God's spiritual truth. In this world in which we live, there is a tension between the dead and the living.

1 John 5:19 (ESV)

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Now those who have not been "born again" can have great knowledge, creativity, and human compassion. However, concerning the things of the One Living God, they are dead and unable to understand the spiritual and moral matters. Therefore, it doesn't help to organize a protest in the cemetery. It doesn't help to be passionate and articulate. It doesn't help to have great speakers come to the cemetery. Only the words of God give life to the dead in a cemetery. Only in love and wisdom with word from the Holy Spirit can we impact this world.

Jesus clearly stated this truth.

Luke 12:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

When confronted by the rulers and the authorities of this world, the Holy Spirit will teach us in that very hour what to say with love and wisdom. This is the power of God!

Our personal salvation experience demonstrates how God works in the world of the dead. The way we received Christ is the same way we live out our Christian life with power.

Colossians 2:6

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him.

As we have accepted Christ by faith (receiving, trusting on Christ for our salvation not by any works), we are also to live out our Christian life in that same kind of faith (receiving, trusting, depending on Christ not by any works). **This is a moment-by-moment hearing God walking in the Spirit.**

Therefore, to see how we should live out our Christian life, we need to examine how we personally came to know Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) No O/H

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

#1 We were saved by God’s favor and power by believing what God said and acting on it. Therefore, we live the Christian life by God’s favor and power hearing God and acting on what HE tells us.

#2 We are God’s “workmanship,” HIS “poem” HIS “work of art” to share the glory of Jesus. God builds us for the task HE has for us. These “good works” were prepared by God beforehand. These works start with our family, community, job, and church.

**Summary: Don’t protest in the cemetery! Speak God’s Word!
God said:**

Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)

My Word that goes out from MY MOUTH
shall not return to ME empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.