



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## By Grace Through Faith

JUNE 22, 2011

Tom McCullough/PO Box 503, Granville, Ohio 43023/tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org /www.capitolcom.org/ohio

**The setting is a Roman prison** (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the existing Christian church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. While the church in Ephesus had been established for several years, Paul in this letter counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. In this second chapter of Ephesians, Paul describes to church how all/we were lost and spiritually dead, separated from God, due to our sin nature, but God in His love and mercy by His grace through Christ reconciled us and seated us with Christ.

*Ephesians 2: 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (NASB)*

**Paul paints a picture** of each person's past, we were spiritually dead due to our trespasses and sin, that we walked according to the ways of the world (cosmos - Greek) and that we were enslaved by Satan. (v 1&2) It's a very bleak picture. Traveling to Ireland recently, I heard an Irishman define a cemetery as 'a place where the dead live'. In many ways that describes our world today.

John puts it in these words: *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."* (1Jn. 2:15-17)

We are born with a sin nature; if we reject Christ knowingly after reaching an age of accountability, we become children of disobedience. When we accept and trust in Jesus Christ, we become children of God.

*4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as 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 so that we would walk in them.*

**"But God"**. What great words, He could have allowed us to continue to be spiritually and eternally dead. But He chose to save us and give us eternal life with Him. We see attributes of God in these passages; that God is 'rich in mercy'. Mercy means that God does not give us what we deserve. Additionally, because of 'His great love with which He loved us', He then chose to make us alive together with Christ, raised up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v5-7).

**Saved By Grace Through Faith.** Grace is a gift from God. Grace means that God gives us something that we don't deserve. We can't earn grace, we can only receive it as a gift from God through faith in Christ alone (v8-9). We are His creation made for His will and His Glory.

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you accepted God's Grace Gift of Salvation through Faith in the completed work of Christ?
- Have you shared this 'gift' with others?
- As His creation, are you serving Him and in His will?

---

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44