

THE GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8 ... “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...For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourself; it is the gift of God...”

One of the most amazing things about God, is that he loves us when we are unlovable. He loved you when you were living deep in sin. He loved you when you hated him, and when you hated other people. Even mothers who are designed by God to love their children with the deepest love known to man, sometimes abandon their own children for a variety of reasons.

The part of today's verse that reads: “when we were dead in trespasses,” illustrates our future without Christ and without the gift of salvation. We are all born into sin. When a baby throws food or flails his arms about to try and hit you, it is a tiny act of rebellion. You may laugh at such incidents when the child is only a few months old, but a child who does that as a teenager will probably provoke you to anger. We are born as sinners and our primary goal should be to grow up, mature, and become committed followers of Christ. Jesus desires the best for you, which is a relationship with him. And he will offer that to you until the day you die, after which it will be too late to avail of his mercy.

The “gift we do not deserve,” is God's grace, salvation, a loving friend, the provision of what we need to survive life here on this earth, and a future in heaven. You cannot buy or earn any of those things with your good deeds, good thoughts, or good intentions. You can obtain God's grace by simply believing in the teachings and mission of Christ to save you from hell. That belief constitutes your faith. God will keep the door open to heaven for you until the moment you die. You will not receive that opportunity after you die. Decide, today, to avail of God's rich mercy and salvation by accepting Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Neither you nor I deserve God's mercy and grace, but we would be fools to ignore it.

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