

Ephesians 2:1-10 CJB

Our lesson today focuses on the **greatest love ever**. That **agape** love that moved Elohim to save sinful humanity. John said in chapter 3:16.

John 3:16 CJB

"For God [Elohim] so loved the world that he **gave** his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.

Our salvation is tied to **Yahweh's gift of love. He gave!!!!**

THERE ARE **BIG** DIFFERENCES BETWEEN **GIFT** AND **WAGES**.

- We are familiar with **working to earn** something and with receiving an unearned gift.
- Religions teach that Yah's favor **must be earned by one's works**.
- The Bible teaches that, Yahweh, the **one true Elohim** operates much differently!
- Let's look at that **difference** and the difference it makes.

In our past Lives we were living Dead.

Ephesians 2:1

(1) You used to be dead **because** of your sins and acts of disobedience.

We may not want to **admit it**, but we are committing **spiritual suicide** when we sin.

DEAD--

Is in a state of **spiritual death**; Empty, void **of grace**; lying under the power of sin. **not producing** good works. James said that faith without works is dead. James 2.

In **Ephesians 1** Paul praise the believers because in messiah Yeshua they were free from sin.

Ephesians 1:7 CJB

(7) In union with him, through the **shedding of his blood**, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace

And so now he is **reminding** them of their **previous** condition before having faith in Messiah. **"You used to be dead"**.

What happened when you were in a state of **spiritual death**; Empty, void **of grace**; lying under the power of sin. **not producing** good works?

You were dancing by **Satan's** music.

Ephesians 2:2 CJB

(2) [At that time] You **walked** in the ways of the world and **obeyed** the **Ruler** of the Powers of the Air, [the ruler of the spirit] who **is still** at work among the **disobedient**.

The ruler of the power of the air is none other than the **Devil** himself.

Ephesians 6:12 TLV

(12) For our struggle **is not** against flesh and blood, but against **the rulers**, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the **spiritual forces** of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Being born again **does not exempt** you from **Satan's** influences.

Before exercising faith in the messiah, we were **all** in the same condition. Yeshua did not die for the righteous, because there was **no** righteous person.

Psalms 14:2-3 TS2009

(2) Yahweh looked down from the heavens on the sons of mankind, To see if there is a wise one, **seeking Yahweh**.

(3) They have **all turned aside**, They have **together** become filthy; **No one is doing good, not even one**.

And so, we were all in the **very same** sinful condition. We were all **rebellious** Children.

Ephesians 2:3 CJB

(3) Indeed, **we all once** lived this way — **we followed** the passions of our old nature **and obeyed** the wishes of our old nature and our **own** thoughts. In our natural condition we were headed for **God's wrath**, just like everyone else.

Paul quoted Psa. 14:1-3 & 53:1-4 in his epistle to the Roman congregation.

Romans 3:10 TS2009

(10) **As it has been written**, "There is none righteous, **no, not one!**"

"We were headed for **Yah's wrath**," The **just punishment** of an offense or crime.

Yah's wrath, in Scripture, is **his holy** and **just indignation** against sin.

Romans 1:18

Elohim's **Wrath** is revealed **against all godlessness**.

This wrath is continuously being **revealed**, because people keep on sinning.

However, Elohim does **not delight** in his wrath, his delight **is in his mercy**, not in **actively pouring out wrath**.

But the **moral laws** of the universe he created are such that Yah's anger **automatically** goes on being revealed to those **who go on disobeying him**.

Because people continue to **disobey** him Yah has no choice but to **punish** their offense.

Ephesians 5:6 TLV

(6) Let no one deceive you **with empty words**, for because of such things **Elohim's judgment** comes on the children of **disobedience**.

1 John 2:16 TLV

(16) For everything **in the world**—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the boasting of life—**is not from the Father but from the world**.

Therefore, **all of us** at one time were **Rebellious Children** and was **dancing with the devil**.

Even though humanity has **all gone astray** and become evil continually, Yahweh **loves us too much to let us go**. He knows we are **only weak** human being

Psalms 103:14 TS2009

(14) For He knows how we are made; He remembers that **we are dust**.

However, in spite of our sinful condition, Yah Lavishes His Love on us.

Ephesians 2:4-5

(4) But God (Elohim) is so rich in mercy and loves us with such **intense love** [*extreme, extraordinary, exceptional and great love*]

(5) that, **even** when we **were dead** because of our acts of disobedience, he **brought us to life** along with the Messiah — it is by **grace** that you have been delivered.

Not by **any works of righteousness that we have done**. There is nothing we can do to bring life to our **dead, inactive, life**. We cannot save ourselves.

Yahweh reached **way down** into the **pit of sin**, breathed the breath of life into us and raised us up in his **son Yeshua**. He did this because **of the intense love** he has for us.

That is a **love** so great, **so exceptional, extraordinary, strong, powerful, overpowering**, and **vigorous**.

Ephesians 1:7-8 CJB

(7) In **union** with him [Yeshua], through the **shedding of his blood, we are set free** — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the **wealth of the grace**

(8) he has **lavished** on us. In all his wisdom and insight

Ephesians 2:5

(5) *that, **even** when we **were dead** because of our acts of disobedience, he **brought us to life** along with the Messiah — it is by **grace** that you have been delivered.*

Ephesians 2:6

(6) That is, Elohim [God] raised us up **with** the Messiah Yeshua and seated us with him in heaven,

Through being in union with the Messiah, **believers share his position** and so are **seated... with him in heaven** "at the right hand of Elohim.

Ephesians 1:19-20 CJB

(19) and how surpassingly great is **his power** working in us who trust him. It works with the **same mighty strength** he used

(20) when he worked in the **Messiah to raise him** from the dead and seat him **at his right hand in heaven**,

*Yah raised us up **with** the Messiah Yeshua and seated us with him in heaven,*

Ephesians 2:7

(7) in order to **exhibit** in the **ages to come** how **infinitely rich is his grace**, how great is his kindness toward us who are **united** with the Messiah Yeshua.

"In the ages to come" –

Yah has produced in us who believe in yeshua, an example, that will be on record through **all generations**, that he **brings to life dead souls**; that he **forgives** the sins of the **most** sinful, **when they repent** and believe in Yeshua.

So that what Elohim has done for the sinners at Ephesus will serve as an **encouragement** to all ages of the world; and on **this** evidence **every** preacher or teacher of the Gospel may boldly proclaim that **Yeshua saves unto the uttermost** all that come unto Yah the father through him.

And thus the **exceeding riches of his grace** will appear in the provision he has made for the salvation of all people. **Both** Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:8

(8) For you have been delivered **by grace** through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment **but Elohim's [God's] gift**.

We are delivered by Yah's favor and loving-kindness.

Yah's grace is his **unearned** and **unmerited** favor and **loving-kindness** toward human beings.

Included in this **grace** is the **gift** of having **enough faith** to believe the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah. However, this **gift** is **not** restricted to a **select few** but is available to **everyone**.

Titus 2:11 CJB

(11) For Elohim's grace, which brings deliverance, has appeared to **all people**.

When a person is **trusting** in this Good News, **that is evidence** that Elohim's **grace** has in fact come to apply **individually** to him. To the extent that we are **trusting**, Elohim can mold us, so that we become **of His making**, able to carry out the **good actions already prepared by Elohim for us to do**. If we don't do these **good actions**, it shows that we **are not** believers after all.

There is no such **thing as faith apart from the works**. faith must lead to work. "faith without works is dead".

James 2:14, 17 CJB

(14) What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith but has no actions to prove it? Is such "faith" able to save him?

(17) Thus, faith **by itself**, unaccompanied **by actions**, is dead.

Trusting that does not lead to **good actions** cannot save and is **not** a channel for **Yah's grace**.

On the other hand, **works without faith** cannot save the one who does them. Good works **alone** do not buy salvation.

"Great stress is laid on doing good works, privately and corporately; but when it comes to **salvation**. Isaiah's says, '*All our righteous deeds are as **filthy rags***'

Isaiah 64:5 CJB

(5) All of us are like someone **unclean**, all our **righteous deeds** like **menstrual rags**; we wither, all of us, like leaves; and our misdeeds blow us away like the wind.

While most translation says **filthy rags**, the Hebrew word used here for filthy means the **menstrual flux** (the act of flowing out).

No work is a good work in relation to rewarding its doer (even though others may benefit) if it does not stem from **faith in Elohim**, which today entails trusting in his Son Yeshua the Messiah.

The crowds in Galilee asked Yeshua, "What should we do in order to **perform** the works of Elohim?" Yeshua said **they were to trust in him**.

John 6:28-29 CJB

(28) So they said to him, "What should we do in order to perform the works of **Elohim** [God]?"

(29) Yeshua answered, "Here's what the work of **Elohim** [God] is: **to trust in the one he sent!**"

Ephesians 2:9

(9) You were **not delivered** by your own actions; therefore no one should **boast**.

Romans 3:27 TLV

(27) Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what principle? Of works? No, but **by the principle of faith**.

Jeremiah 9:22-23 CJB

(22) Here is what Yahweh says: "The wise man should not boast of his wisdom, the powerful should not boast of his power, the wealthy should not

boast of his wealth;

(23) instead, let the boaster boast about this: that he understands and knows me—that I am Yahweh, practicing grace, justice and righteousness in the land; for in these things I take pleasure," says Yahweh.

Ephesians 2:10

(10) For we are of **Elohim's making**, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of **good actions** already prepared **by Elohim [God] for us to do**.

Conclusion:

Sin causes us to be **spiritually dead**. Yah's **merciful grace** gives us **spiritual life** in order that we might properly serve him in **good works**.

This good works has nothing to do with our **feeling**.

- Yeshua **did not feel like taking the sins of the world upon himself**.
- He did not feel like being mocked,
- **did not feel like** being whipped beyond recognition,
- **did not feel like** wearing a crown of **thorns** on his head,

But he did it.

He did it for those whose righteousness is like **filthy** menstrual rages.

He marched right up the Calvary's hill, **stumbling** under the load of that cross.

To bear **your** sin. To make it possible **for you** to serve yah in good works.

By Yeshua's death, he demonstrated the **intense**, extraordinary love of the father.

Some people are confused. **They don't know who they are; why they are here, or what their purpose in life is.**

Paul said we **were created** in union with the Messiah Yeshua for **a life of good actions** already prepared **by Elohim [God] for us to do**.

If we **submit to his will**, he will **use us in mighty ways**, and **our purpose** in life will be clear.

What about you today?

- **Do you *Who you are?***
- **Do you know why you here?**
- **Is your purpose in life clear?**

Prayer

Heavenly Father. We acknowledge that you are the Elohim of **grace and life**, we are **humbled** when we realize that our part in our salvation **is to accept it**. We are amazed when we stop and contemplate your **great** and **intense** love for us. We are excited when we anticipate your plans for us, both as **instruments of your grace to others** in this life and as **participants** in your glories in the future. In Yeshua's powerful name we pray all this. Amen.