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## Salvation: Its Necessity, Source, and End

### Introduction

In the second chapter of Ephesians, Paul sets forth three important truths about our salvation: (1) Salvation is necessary, because all are sinners; (2) Salvation is only possible by the grace and power of God; and (3) Salvation leads us to the real purpose of our life. We live in a syncretistic world culture. That culture indiscriminately precludes what it doesn't like and includes what it does like without regard for the need for absolute truth. This means that some things precluded or rejected may be good, even essential to one's eternal well-being. Some things included or accepted may be detrimental to one's personal and eternal well-being.

#### I. What is the necessity of salvation? 2:1-3

1. Without Christ we are spiritually dead, 2:1
  - Rom 3:10-18 - none are righteous; Ps 14:1-3; Ps 53:1-3
  - Rom 3:23; 6:23 - all have sinned; wages of sin is death
  - Gal 3:19-25 - law sealed our guilt to bring us to Christ; Rom 8:1-11
2. Without Christ we are spiritually disobedient, 2:2-3a; 5:6
  - 2 Cor 10:1-6 - we are in a battle against spiritual enemies
  - Heb 2:1-3 - God gave truth to the disobedient; 2 Tim 3:1-9
  - Titus 3:1-8 - God has delivered us to obedience; Col 3:5-7
3. Without Christ we are spiritually doomed, 2:3b; 5:6; Col 3:6
  - Rom 1:18-32 - wrath for suppressed truth; Gen 19:1-29; Rom 2:1-29
  - Rev 16:1-21 - day of wrath; apostasy, 1 Thess 5:4-9; 2 Thess 2:1-12
  - John 3:18 - without Christ we condemn ourselves; Acts 4:12

#### II. What is the source of salvation? 2:4-6, 8-9

1. In Christ God loved us, 2:4
  - Character of God is love, 1 John 4:7-12, 17-21
  - Evidence of God in us is love, 1 John 3:1-3, 14-17
  - Person of love for us is Christ, John 3:16; Rom 5:6-8
2. In Christ God's great love saved us, 2:5-6
  - Great love results in great grace/mercy, Rom 5:8; 2 Thess 2:16-17

- Great love raises us to sit with Him, Eph 1:3, 20; 2:6 (standing)
  - Great love resurrects us on "last day", Eph 1:19-23; John 6:38-40, 54
3. In Christ God's grace receives us, Eph 2:8-9; 1:6; Rom 5:9; 1 Thess 1:10
- God's love and grace are an inseparable bond, Rom 8:38-39
  - God's grace is rich and according to need, Eph 1:7, 4:7; 1 Cor 12:9
  - God's grace is for the humble, Phil 2:8; Jas 4:6; Matt 18:4; Col 2:18, 23; 2 Chron 7:14; 12:6, 7, 12; 30:11; 32:26; 33:12, 23, 34:27

### **III. What is the objective of salvation? 2:7, 10**

1. In Christ God exalts us, 2:7
  - We are the future trophies of His grace, 2:7a
  - We are His workmanship, 10a (His masterpiece), 2:7b
2. In Christ God perfects (matures) us, 2:10a
  - Good works not means of salvation, but evidence, 2:10a, 9; Jas 2:14-26; Matt 7:21-23; Heb 6:9-12
  - Good works complement our position and practice, Eph 4:1ff; see especially Col 3:12-17
3. In Christ God works through us to fulfill His will, 2:10b
  - We walk in His will/Word and do His work, Col 3:16; Ps 119:9-11
  - We are the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer to work in us and through us, see John 17:20-26