

Saved by Sheer Grace

Ephesians 1:1 – 2:10

by Don Falkos

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We who are Jews have many reasons to praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ, has loved and chosen us in Christ, has adopted us through Christ, has lavished grace on us in Christ, has purchased our freedom and forgiven our sins through Christ, has revealed through Christ the plan to bring everything in heaven and on earth together in Christ, so we who hope in Christ might bring praise and glory to God.

Now when you Gentiles heard the good news and believed, you also were given the Holy Spirit, who guarantees the inheritance we will all receive in Christ. May God allow you to understand the power you have inherited through faith in Christ, the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in heaven, where God has put everything under his feet and made him head of the assembly of believers, which is his body, the full expression of the one who fills all creation.

The ruling spirit of the world once drove each of us to do what our flesh and our minds urged us to do, until God, rich in mercy and with great love, took us, dead in sin, and made us alive in Christ – we are saved by sheer grace – raising us up as an example of God's unsurpassed grace and kindness, for it is by grace we have been saved through faith, which is itself a gift from God, having no basis in good works, so we can't claim any responsibility for it.

We are all, both Jews and Gentiles, created by God in Christ to do the good things God prepared ahead of time for us to do.