

QUESTION 29

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

ONLY BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND IN HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONING DEATH ON THE CROSS.

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

This passage describes those without a Savior as “dead in [our] trespasses and sins,” a devastating description that applies to everyone who has lived, is living, and will live. Those who have sinned against God are dead spiritually. They have no relationship with God because their sin separates them from God, and therefore they can do nothing to please God. We need a Savior to save us from this terrible predicament!

Paul identifies everyone as a sinner— someone who has rejected God’s rule and failed to live according to his laws. These verses are truly amazing because they explain that God so loved the world that he sent his only beloved Son to save all those who are dead in their sins, to bring them from death to life. Jesus is the Savior! He’s the only One who is able to save. God still had to punish someone for all the sins committed because he is a just God; Jesus took the place of and bore the punishment for sinners. Jesus was the only person who ever lived a perfect, sinless life. He was the only person who didn’t deserve punishment and death, because he never disobeyed God.

When Jesus died on the cross, he stood in to take the punishment for sin. He paid the price that was required for people to be made alive to God. It is the greatest swap of all time: God takes the repentant sinner’s sin and puts it on Jesus. And he takes Jesus’s perfect righteousness and imputes it to all those who have faith in him.

Those who don’t trust in Jesus are described as dead, but those who trust in Jesus are made alive. The good news is that those who are alive—those who have put their trust in Jesus to deal with their disobedience and sin—will enjoy a relationship with God forevermore. New life is a free gift from God. The Bible calls that saving grace. We don’t have to do anything to be saved except repent and believe in Jesus, whose resurrection from the dead ensures our eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)