

Outline

Introduction

- Walking through cemeteries: reflection on life, death, and eternity
- The quiet stillness of graves: no movement, no response, no life
- Paul's diagnosis: humanity apart from Christ is spiritually dead

Main Point

Without Christ, even the most vibrant person is a spiritual corpse—heart beating but dead in sin

Three Scenes of Our Salvation Story

Scene 1: Dead in the Grave (vv. 1–3)

- **The meaning of "dead" (nekros)**
 - Not weak or ailing—completely lifeless
 - No pulse, no heartbeat, no breath
 - We needed a miracle, not motivation
- **Our spiritual condition before Christ**
 - Walking corpses: physically alive, spiritually dead
 - Born into sin, wallowing in it daily
 - Romans 3:23—all have sinned
 - Totally depraved, unable to please God
- **The lifestyle of sin**
 - Following Satan, "the prince of the power of the air"
 - Chasing whatever the flesh craved
 - Children of wrath, oblivious to consequences

- ****The buzzard illustration****

- Focused on the carcass, blind to approaching danger
- Sin blinds us to judgment until it's too late

- ****Application to our community****

- People drowning in addiction, despair, brokenness
- Physically alive but spiritually dead
- Our responsibility: engage with the Gospel
- Challenge the world's "you're OK as you are" message
- Call people to change and follow Christ

Scene 2: Mercy That Brings Us To Life (vv. 4–7)

- ****"But God..."—two of the richest words in Scripture****

- God is rich in mercy
- God loved us so much

- ****Made alive (zōopoieō)****

- To infuse life
- Only God can breathe life into a corpse
- Romans 5:8—Christ died while we were still sinners
- Colossians 2:12—raised with Him through faith

- ****Mercy vs. pity****

- Charles Hodge: "God's passion turning tombs into trophy cases"
- Grace doesn't just wipe the slate clean—it writes a new story
- Not resuscitated but resurrected to new existence

- ****The drowning illustration****

- Sinking ship, floating in open ocean

- Too weak to save yourself
- Strong hand pulls you into the boat
- Salvation gifted when you couldn't even gasp for help

- **Application to our generation**

- People doubt God's grace applies to them
- Two generations taught self-improvement, not grace
- Salvation confused with trying really hard
- Need to proclaim: grace is undeserved and unearned
- God stepping into our fallen world
- God sending a Savior to do what we cannot

Scene 3: The Masterpiece Paul Calls Grace (vv. 8–10)

- **Raised and seated with Christ (vv. 6–7)**
 - United with Christ in heavenly realms
 - Examples of God's incredible wealth of grace
- **Saved by grace through faith (v. 8)**
 - Saved (sōzō)—rescued from peril
 - Complete deliverance, not partial repair
 - Titus 3:5—saved by His mercy, not our works
- **Not by works (v. 9)**
 - Salvation is not a reward
 - No room for boasting
 - Faith without works is dead (James)
 - Works are evidence that grace has come alive
- **God's workmanship (v. 10)**

- Poiēma—God's artwork, His poem
- Newly created in Christ
- Good works prepared in advance for us
- Not adjusted but created brand new

- ****The significance of being His workmanship****

- God alone gets credit for who we are
- New creation, not moral tune-up
- Old condemned structure died with Christ
- New building rises—temple indwelt by Holy Spirit
- Designed for good works
- Not just able to live differently—destined to live differently

Conclusion

The Simple but Stunning Message

- We were spiritually dead, not damaged
- We were rescued by mercy as demonstration of God's grace
- We were recreated for His glory, destined for divine purpose

Final Challenge

- If you've wondered whether God could love someone like you
- The cross proves His grace doesn't improve life—it replaces death
- We are no longer dead men walking
- We are resurrected to new life in Christ
- We will live forevermore