

Dead Man's Faith Results in Life Everlasting

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A word about my Pilgrimage to a Grace Message in 1972

You/Your (in Ephesians) Refers to Gentiles; We/Us/Our (1) Refers to or (2) includes Jews

- Eph 2:11: You Gentiles
Eph 4:17: You are not to walk as the rest of the Gentiles [Majority Text, cf. NKJ].
Eph 2:15: Created one new man [the Church] from the two Jews/Gentiles.
Eph 2:16: Reconciled them both (Jews and Gentiles) in one body [the Church] to God.
Eph 2:1-7: You (Gentiles) were dead (2:1); We (Jews) were also dead (2:5) [diagram].

Calvinists Falsely Claim that *Dead* Refers to Total Inability, Ignoring Paul's Grammar

Observations from the text as a preliminary to a rebuttal of what Calvinists assert:

1. Both You (2:1) and We (2:5) were dead (see the diagram).
2. Eph 2:5b speaks of God jointly-enlivening you_{pl} and us with Christ
sunezōopoiēse [sun- = together with; zōon = alive; poiēse = made]
3. Eph 2:5c (and 2:8a) speak of salvation by grace. No one has anything to recommend himself/herself to God. For God to save believers, despite Eph 2:1-3 and 2:5a is pure grace. I view *by grace* as a reference to 2:1-3 and 5a. (2:1-2 focus on dead Gentiles; 2:3 and 5a focus on dead Jews).
4. Parenthetical Statements Often Define Terms: *Saved = Made Alive* by God (2:5).
5. Thus, salvation here is the granting of everlasting life to ones who were dead.
Being saved (in this context) equals *being made alive* by God

First Rebuttal of Calvinism: Paul Asserts that People Believe while Dead Spiritually, so Dead Cannot Refer to the Calvinist Doctrine of Total Inability.

The word through (By grace you_{pl} have been saved through faith) speaks of instrumental means. Instrumental means precedes what it is the means for:

The light comes on by electricity through flicking the switch.

You are saved by [God's grace] through faith.

Through flicking the switch precedes the light coming on.

Through faith precedes [by a split second] a person being saved.

Paul's definition of dead (Eph 4:17-18) contradicts Calvinism's assertions.

Many Calvinists Falsely Assert that Ephesians 2:8 Says that God Must Give People the Faith with which They Believe Christ’s Promise of Everlasting Life.

The following is an expanded translation of Eph 2:8-9 from a Calvinist Perspective:

8 For by grace you_{PL} have been saved through faith, and **this** [*touto*] [*faith is*] not of yourselves; [*faith is*] the gift of God, 9 [*faith is*] not of works, lest anyone boast.

A fatal flaw in their case is that faith (*pistis*) is a feminine word in Greek, which would have required Paul to have used a feminine form of the word **this** (e.g., *hautē*). Instead, Paul used a neuter form of the word **this** (e.g., *touto*).

This word = **houtos** *logos*. *Logos* is a masculine word, so **houtos** is masculine.

This writing = **hautē** *graphē*. *Graphē* is a feminine word, so **hautē** is feminine.

This gift = **touto** *dōron*. *Dōron* is a neuter word, so **touto** is neuter.

There are no neuter words in context, but Greek regards phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs (multiple-word grammatical units) as neuter. This is frequent in the NT.

By grace you are saved (2:5)

By grace you are saved (2:8)

this [the by-grace-kind-of-salvation] is not of yourselves,
it [the by-grace-kind-of-salvation] is the gift of God,
it [the by-grace-kind-of-salvation] is not of works,
lest anyone boast about [his/her by-grace-kind-of-salvation].

Calvinists Use Eph 2:10 to Justify Fruit-Inspection (e.g., their “no-fruit; no-root” nonsense)

They like to say, ~~“If someone does not have works, that person has not believed, because God ensures that all people who are His workmanship do the works which He prepared beforehand.”~~ [Their statement deserves to be crossed-out].

My translation of 2:10 uses *artifact*, not *workmanship*, because knowing that the word is truly singular is important. Such words as *deer*, *fish*, *seed*, *workmanship* can be either singular or plural (with no change in form). E.g., *one deer*_{SG}, *ten deer*_{PL}.

Importance of *poiēma* (workmanship/artifact) being singular vs./ plural.
The word *we* is plural (*we* *are His workmanship*). A key interpretive issue rests upon whether workmanship/artifact is singular or plural.

We_{PL} are people_{PL}. We_{PL} are individuals_{PL}.

versus

We_{PL} are family_{SGL}. We_{PL} are a church_{SG}. We_{PL} are a nation_{SG}.

2:10’s point: He created us (the body of Christ) to achieve His purpose.

CONCLUSIONS: (1) You/we believed while dead & were made alive by grace thru faith.
 (2) He created the body of Christ (the church) to achieve His purposes.