



But God...

Key idea:

The Believer's testimony is that God mercifully stepped into our dead existence and brought us to life.

Key text:

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Key points:

1. Before we were saved, we all were dead in our trespasses and sins and followed our fleshly desires, Satan's leading, and the world's enticements.
2. God showed His mercy by saving us while we were dead in our trespasses and sins.
3. God saved us from the wrath to come.
4. The gift of salvation is only by God's grace and not from our works.
5. God's plan is for us to walk in the good works which He prepared in advance.
6. Every Believer has a powerful testimony that they can share.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Can you recall when you were dead in trespasses and sins? Can you think of some ways that you act, think or speak differently than you did then?
3. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 it says "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." As an angel of light, how does he keep unbelievers in darkness? In what ways does he deceive believers? How can you guard against this?
4. How does this passage relate to our American holiday of Thanksgiving?
5. Can you think of specific circumstances in which you can apply the phrase, "But, God" in your daily life? What are some challenges that "But God" could help you in? What are some benefits of applying this phrase?
6. How does God's love for us relate to His mercy and grace?
7. Have you ever shared your salvation testimony with anyone? Has fear ever stopped you from sharing? What can you do to overcome the fear? Has the Holy Spirit put someone on your heart with whom you can share your testimony?
8. Have you ever received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If not, would you like to? If not, why not? If so, pray to God and admit that you are a sinner in need of Him, ask Him to save you from your sin and ask Him to be Lord of your life. If you have done this or would like more information, please contact an elder or contact our church office.
9. Are there other believers with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word.

Preview of next week: Touch of Christ Ministries