

EPHESIANS 2. 1-10

- 1 And as for you Gentiles, need I remind you,  
you guys were doornail dead in your violations and in your sins
- 2 in which you walked around just like other worldlings,  
stuck in the values and habits of this world.  
You acted just the way the prince of ego and celebrity manipulated you,  
that prince of the defiant spirit  
that now energizes the 'who gives a damn' children of anarchy.
- 3 We Jews, too, I admit it, all of us used to live like that.  
We lived in the lusts of our flesh.  
We indulged the impulses of the flesh and mind.  
And we Jews were by nature children of wrath just like the rest of humanity.
- 4 Yet God was zillionaire rich in mercy!  
On account of his immense love with which he loved us,
- 5 even when we were doornail dead in our violations,  
God made us alive together in Christ.  
(Remember. It's all grace by which you have been saved.)
- 6 And God raised us up with him.  
And God seated us with him in authority in the heavenly realms together in Christ Jesus.
- 7 And God did this in order that in the ages to come  
he might prove beyond the shadow of a doubt to all the universe  
the surpassing riches of his grace.  
He proved his grace through compassionate usefulness for us in Christ Jesus.  
[alternate reading "through becoming for us a slave called 'Useful' in Christ Jesus"]
- 8 Because it is by grace you have been saved through faith.  
And that grace is not drawn out of God by your adorability.  
Not a chance!..It is a gift from God.
- 9 It is not a result of our works so that nobody can boast! Ever!
- 10 Because we are God's personal pet project [literally *poiema* "poem," masterpiece]  
created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of accomplishing those good works,  
which God has prepared in advance for us,  
those good works he intended us to walk around in day after day.