

# BUT GOD

## What is a 'But God' moment?

When God steps in and intervenes on our behalf.

*Ephesians 2:1-3* As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

## MISSING THE MARK

Transgressions means **'to slip or to fall.'**

To lose our way by choosing the wrong path.

Sin means **'to miss'** - (to miss the mark). Sin is the failure to hit the target, the goal, the standard or the right outcome.

The consequences of sin is the failure to be what we ought to be in any area of our life according to the Scriptures.

## SIN IS DEADLY

*3:1a* ...you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Three ways where the effect of sin is deadly.

## **1. Sin kills innocence.**

Once innocence is lost, it can never be recovered.

## **2. Sin kills morals.**

Each unrepentant sin makes the next sin easier and eventually our conscience erodes to justifying our wrongdoing.

## **3. Sin kills our will.**

Once a sin or sins become habits and are allowed to master us, we can then lose the will to overcome sin's grip.

# **EVIDENCE OF A CHRISTLESS LIFE**

## **1. To live by the world's standards and values.**

*2a: You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world...*

## **2. To live under the influence of evil.**

*2b: ...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air.*

The ancient world believed that the air was crowded with demons who were spreading, frustrating the purposes of God and ruining the souls of men.

### **3. To live disobeying God.**

*2c: (ncv) That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God.*

### **4. To live following our own fleshly desires.**

*3a: (gw) All of us once lived among these people, and followed the desires of our corrupt nature (flesh kjv). We did what our corrupt desires and thoughts wanted us to do.*

The original meaning for the word desire is to desire for the wrong and the forbidden thing.

*James 1:14 (nlt) Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.*

The flesh is anything in us which gives sin it's chance to breathe.

### **5. To live life that attracts God's anger.**

*3c: ...we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

It is only through God's love, revealed through Christ, that we have been forgiven and spared from the punishment we deserve.

In vs 4-7, Paul provides God's rescue plan to the predicament that he described in vs 1-3 and he begins by stating "***But God.***"

*Ephesians 2:4-7 BUT GOD is rich in mercy because of His great love for us. <sup>5</sup> We were dead because of our*

*failures, but He made us alive together with Christ. (It is God's kindness that saved you.)* <sup>6</sup> *God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus and has given us a position in heaven with Him.* <sup>7</sup> *He did this through Christ Jesus out of His generosity to us in order to show His extremely rich kindness in the world to come.*

Jesus rescued us out of our predicament and brought us into a new freedom and victorious life, sharing in His victory over sin, sickness, and the onslaughts of the evil one.

***But God...*** Paul says our help comes through an intervention of God in our situation.

***But God, in His mercy,*** took the initiative and rescued us when we could not help ourselves.

## **THE WORK OF CHRIST**

***5a: We were dead because of our failures..., BUT He made us alive together with Christ.***

Our hope comes from God who has reached out to us in mercy to save us from our sins through the death of His Son, Jesus.

**Jesus is the antidote to the sin problem.**

Problem 1: **Sin kills innocence.**

Antidote: **Jesus takes our guilt and shame away.**

*So now anyone who is in Christ Jesus is not judged guilty.*  
**Romans 8:1 (erv)**

**Problem 2: Sin kills morals.**

**Antidote: Jesus reawakens our hearts.**

*6a: God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus.*

**Problem 3: Sin kills our will.**

**Antidote: Jesus revives and restores the lost will.**

*Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

It is by grace that we are saved. It is the gift of God and our part is simply to receive it by faith.

God is love; sin is therefore a crime, not only against God's law, but also against His love.

It is not only God's laws which we have sinned against; we have also sinned against His heart!

Only an act of forgiveness of God's grace can put us back into the right relationship with Him.

**Colossians 1:13-14** (amp) *For He has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].*