



CAPITOL
ministries®

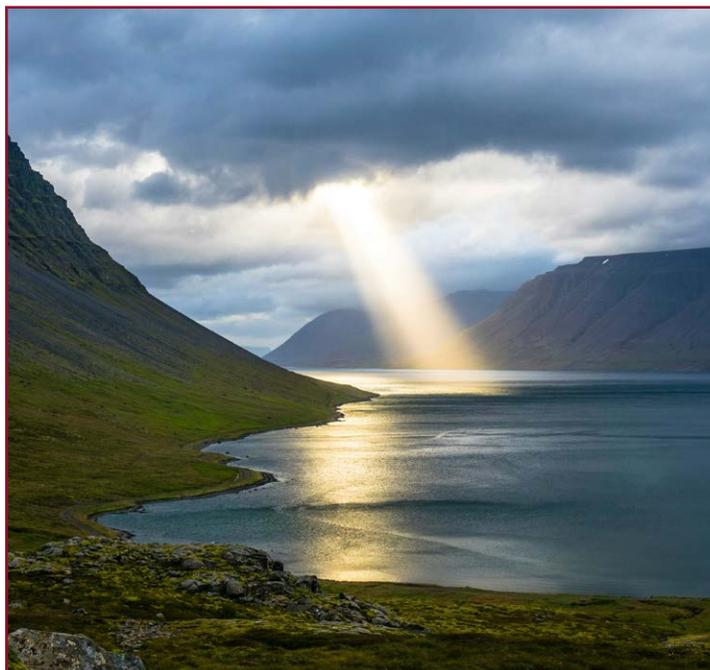
MARCH 23, 2026

VERSE OF THE WEEK..... 2

Romans 10:9

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES 4

Do I Need to Be Saved to Go to Heaven?



- WHITE HOUSE CABINET
AMBASSADORS
AND GOVERNORS
- Alex Acosta DC
 - Mike Braun IN
 - Phil Bryant MS
 - Dr. Ben Carson DC
 - Mike Dunleavy AK
 - Greg Gianforte MT
 - Mark Gordon WY
 - Pete Hegseth DC
 - Mike Huckabee DC
 - Sarah Huckabee Sanders AR
 - Mike Keboe MO
 - David Perdue DC
 - Sonny Perdue GA
 - Rick Perry TX
 - Jim Pillen NE
 - Tate Reeves MS
 - Kim Reynolds IA
 - Brooke Rollins DC
 - Kevin Stitt OK
 - Scott Turner DC
 - Russell Vought DC
 - Scott Walker WI
 - Glenn Youngkin VA

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 - Senate Majority Leader
 - Marsha Blackburn TN
 - Katie Britt AL
 - Ted Budd NC
 - Bill Cassidy LA
 - Kevin Cramer ND
 - Steven Daines MT
 - Joni Ernst IA
 - William Hagerty TN
 - Cindy Hyde-Smith MS
 - James Lankford OK
 - Markwayne Mullin OK
 - Mike Rounds SD
 - Tim Scott SC

- REPRESENTATIVES
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 - Speaker of the House
 - Mark Alford MO
 - Robert Aderholt AL
 - Rick Allen GA
 - Brian Babin TX
 - Don Bacon NE
 - Nick Begich AK
 - Michael Bost IL
 - Josh Brecheen OK
 - Tim Burchett TN
 - John Carter TX
 - Juan Ciscomani AZ
 - Rick Crawford AR
 - Jake Elzezy TX
 - Ron Estes KS
 - Glenn Grothman WI
 - Pat Harrigan NC
 - Kevin Hern OK
 - Richard Hudson NC
 - Bill Huizenga MI
 - Dusty Johnson SD
 - Jim Jordan OH
 - Nathaniel Moran TX
 - Gary Palmer AL
 - August Pfluger TX
 - David Rouzer NC
 - John Rutherford FL
 - Marlin Stutzman IN
 - Glenn Thompson PA
 - Tim Walberg MI
 - Randy Weber TX
 - Daniel Webster FL
 - Bruce Westerman AR
 - Roger Williams TX
 - Rob Wittman VA
 - Steve Womack AR
 - Rudy Yakym IN

CapMin’s cofounder Ralph Drollinger related this significant story: “I will never forget the morning I played 3-on-3 basketball with Pete Maravich in Pasadena, California. That very morning, he would die from a massive heart attack. How well I remember Dr. James Dobson and myself trading back and forth in our attempts at mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After what seemed like an eternity, the ambulance finally arrived a half-hour later. During resuscitation attempts, we had no response at all—no sign of life in Pete whatsoever. The autopsy would later reveal that one of the all-time greatest basketball players was dead the moment he hit the floor, incapable of benefitting from our futile attempts, incapable of responding to any stimulus, incapable of any ability of his own to respond. That chilling, stark memory, which will forever remain etched in my mind, serves as a poignant picture of this lesson’s Scripture passages.”

I. INTRODUCTION

Spiritual death is the complete inability and incapacity to respond to spiritual things, especially the Word of God. Keep this in mind as we unpack the meaning of Ephesians 2:1–5:

Continued on next page

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

- White House Cabinet and Governors:** Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served
- Senate Members:** Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served
- House Members:** Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served

The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.





VERSE OF THE WEEK



Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.



If you have not placed your faith in Christ for salvation, we encourage you to invite Him into your life today.



And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ... but God ... made us alive together with Christ.

II. A SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF EPHESIANS 2:1

A. DEAD

All men and women—declares the Bible—are dead in their trespasses and sins. There is no clearer insight than this in the entire Word of God regarding the spiritual status of mankind: physically alive but spiritually dead.

In Matthew 8:21–22 Jesus is found responding to a reluctant follower. Notice the parallel thought in this passage:

Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

The man’s response to Jesus’ call was one of delay. He wanted to wait until his father died (for which there is no indication he was even about to pass away). His motive was most likely to inherit his wealth—in essence revealing that material things were of greater importance to him than following Jesus. That being the case, Jesus said, *“Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”*

What Jesus said similarly reveals God’s perspective of mankind—physically alive but spiritually dead. In 1 Timothy 5:6, Timothy receives instruction as a pastor on how to handle widows in the church. Paul counsels him, *She who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.* Note again the clear biblical perspective on mankind’s spiritual status: physically alive but spiritually dead—the sad but real state of every human being who does not know the Redeemer. Everyone needs to be resuscitated by the breath of Jesus in order to go to heaven.

B. IN

Further investigation of the passage involves a careful analysis of the word *in*. The

Greek case used here indicates sphere—the sphere in which something exists, i.e., spiritual deadness does not come from trespasses and sins. Rather, within the sphere of deadness, or born out of deadness, are trespasses and sins. To illumine the textual meaning—people do not become liars because they tell a lie; they tell lies because they already are liars. The same is true with all sins, such as adultery, theft, homosexuality, murder or bearing false witness (cf. 1 Timothy 1:9–10). Committing sinful acts does not make a person a sinner; rather, sinful acts vividly and accurately reveal man’s sinful nature.

In Genesis chapter 3, the Fall of man occurs; mankind has been cursed by spiritual death ever since. All are the descendants of Adam’s fallen race. Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Ecclesiastes 7:20 states, *Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.* To broaden this understanding, consider the following:

Today’s outward manifestations of sin are not a result of improper environmental conditioning, a lack of education, or squelched opportunities.

Biblically, both Romans and Ecclesiastes—indeed, the remainder of God’s Word—state that the squeeze of exterior pressures is not the source of a human’s sin. An improper environment, a withheld education or opportunity—these serve to illuminate the sinful, base nature of man. Even though man is created in the image of God, which explains the goodness in him, he is tainted by the Fall through which sin entered the world and forever tarnished God’s image in everyone He created.

C. TRESPASSES AND SIN

Trespasses (paraptoma) means “to slip, deviate or go the wrong direction.” *Sins* (*hamartia*) derives its original meaning



from the sport of archery, where the word meant “to miss the bullseye.” In a spiritual sense, *sin*, as used 173 times in the New Testament (NT), means “to miss God’s perfect standard of holiness.” Both words are used in this verse in stereo to illustrate the breadth of hazardous emissions spewing forth from spiritually dead people. Whereas Scripture teaches that people can ascertain genuine Christians by their love (John 13:35), spiritually dead men will be known by their trespasses and sin.

D. THE DEPTH OF SIN

Concerning the depth of sin’s corruption in the life of unregenerate man, 1 Corinthians 2:14 provides profound insights:

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

In this passage, the spiritually dead man is referred to as a “natural man” in contrast to the “spiritual man” who has been made alive to God through Christ (vv. 2:15; 3:1). Spiritually dead people cannot even begin to reason their way to knowing God because the Fall has gone so far as to corrupt and darken their thinking when the mind also fell.¹

E. THE SEVERITY OF SIN

The severity of the sin problem is described in the remaining section of Ephesians 2:1-3. To the redeemed (believers) Paul states:

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Many today may think these words are too harsh. But note this: there are those

who are outwardly better than others; history has recorded a wide variation in the levels of human goodness and evil.

This year will be the twentieth-fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks on America. The actions of the hate-driven terrorists that resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent American lives indeed provide a vivid picture of an extreme degree of human depravity. But as soberly contemplated through the lens of Scripture, from God’s perspective—both terrorists as well as all others who do not know God are in desperate need of Jesus Christ to satisfy the payment for sin in order to be saved from an eternal sentence of separation from holy God.

Certainly not all are equal in their level of sin, but all are equal in their separation from God. Related to God’s standard of holiness, all are equal in their failure to even come close to His standard of perfection.

F. TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT

Capitol Ministries’ co-founder Ralph Drollinger enjoyed mountaineering in the magnificent Sierra Nevada. Having studied its climbing history, he was often fascinated with the routes and ascents of Norman Clyde, who was by far the premiere explorer in all Sierra Nevada climbing history, having notched up over 2000 ascents! Ralph, in more than half a century of climbing, made more than 300 ascents. Compared to a novice who has climbed Mt. Whitney, Ralph may appear quite superior in mountaineering accomplishment, but in light of Norman Clyde’s standard for excellence, both the novice and Ralph are dismal failures.

God says, “**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY**” (1 Peter 1:16). God’s standard is perfect holiness, and all who rely on an economy of personal achievement fall direly short in comparison. Make no mistake: salvation cannot be attained by personal merit or works. Salvation is achieved by Christ’s work on another’s behalf. A

person needs to be saved by the propitiatory work of Christ to go to heaven.

While the world in gushy sentimentalism often characterizes everyone as being “children of God,” Scripture makes clear that apart from the imputed righteousness through Christ’s work on man’s behalf, all are doomed for eternal failure. God’s sober perspective? Mankind is dead—as evidenced and revealed by sin—and Ephesians 2 subsequently states are by nature children of wrath—not children of God.

When John Newton penned the famous hymn “Amazing Grace,” he said of God’s grace it “saved a wretch like me.” The word *wretch* is a biblically apropos description.

III. A SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF EPHESIANS 2:4-5

How are people made alive to God?

A. BY THE GRACE OF GOD

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Again, a person is not saved by any form of human works, but keep in mind the book of James says that good works are always indicative of those who are truly saved. Specifically note what Paul states in Ephesians 2:8-9 regarding how a person is made alive to God.

B. BY FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

In this passage, God’s means of salvation could not be any clearer. Salvation is not achieved via personal works; rather, it is achieved by God’s work on our behalf!

God’s standard of holiness is far too lofty to be achievable through any or all of man’s self-efforts.



The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:20–47 unequivocally illustrates this truth as Christ peers underneath seemingly good outward actions to judge mankind’s sinful, condemning inward thoughts.

C. BY A GIFT OF GOD

Salvation cannot come from self; rather, it is a total gift of God. Romans 5:8–9 reinforces this:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ... by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

The biblical teaching on salvation is consistent and repetitive. By placing our faith in Him, we are justified and made alive together with Christ. Speaking of this glorious salvation in Romans 6:4, Scripture attests, so that *we too might walk in newness of life*. Accordingly, those who have received Christ have been born spiritually (cf. John 3:3–6); they have God’s nature and are spiritual people capable of living spiritual lives via the empowering, indwelling Holy Spirit. Second Corinthians 5:17–18 attests to this fact:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

IV. CONCLUSION

Scripture provides a tremendous contrast between a person who is born spiritually through Christ and one who has yet to make that life-changing discovery. Whether you know Christ as your personal Savior and Lord or not, you are welcome to study His Book with your CapMin Ministry Leader in any one of our studies going on in town or city halls or state or national Capitols around the world. On behalf of those in each group, we desire your participation where we hope you will experience the love of Christ and grow in His grace and knowledge. Come just as you are.

Does a man or woman really need to be saved to go to heaven? Contemplate what the book of Romans records in verses 9 and 10 of chapter 10:

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

If you have not placed your faith in Christ today for salvation, we encourage you to invite Him into your life.

1. The mind also fell at The Fall. This is theologically referred to as “the noetic effect of sin.”



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols.

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