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, 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).


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, 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 Falsey 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:

For by grace you [PL] have been saved through faith, and this [tuto] [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 deerSG, ten deerPL.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WePL are peoplePL</th>
<th>WePS are individualsPL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>versus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WePL are familySG</td>
<td>WePS are a churchSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WePS are a nationSG</td>
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</tbody>
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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.