

The Upside Down Kingdom: The Dead Live

Wylie Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 23, 2025

Ephesians 2:1-9

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 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. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

In the upside down kingdom...

1. DEATH IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

Ephesians 2:1-2

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live...

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "... 17 ... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

In the upside down kingdom...

2. THE SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF JESUS RESULTS IN LIFE

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...

Isaiah 53:5-6

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

In the upside down kingdom...

3. WE RECEIVE LIFE BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:6-9

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 11:25

Jesus said..., "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."