

**SERMON OUTLINE MAY 10, 2015**

**“But God”**

Ephesians 2:1-5

INTRODUCTION: [Read with me] –

**As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you lived when you followed the ways of this world . . . like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**

**BUT GOD, because of His great love for us, because of His great mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.** (Ephesians 2:1-5)

I. ST. PAUL PAINTS QUITE A PICTURE OF THE CONDITION OF MANKIND

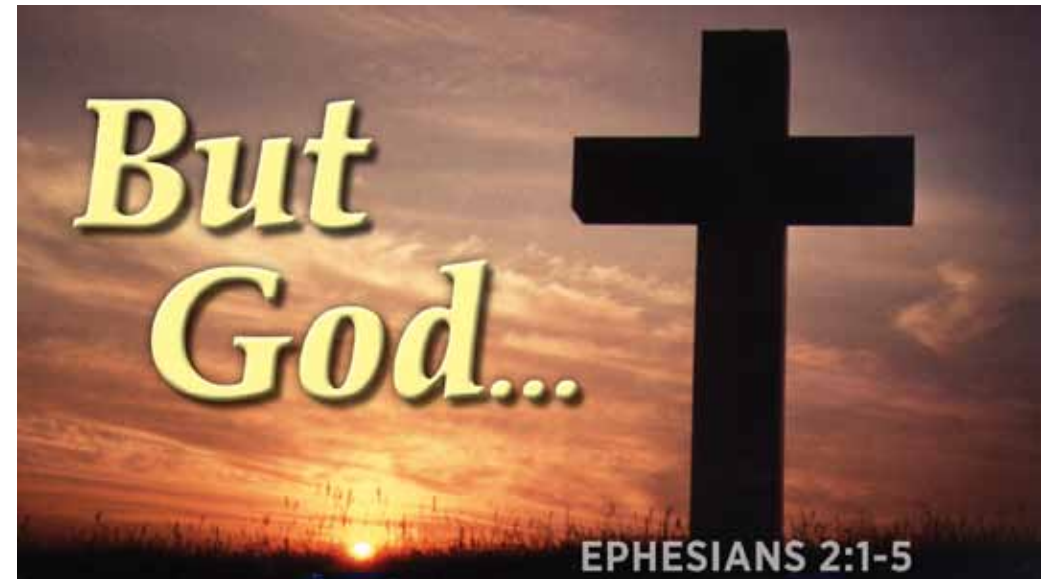
- A. He “pulls no punches”
- B. He says we are dead
- C. He says we are objects of God’s wrath

II. AND THEN, WITH NO WARNING, HE SPEAKS TWO WONDERFUL WORDS:

- A. ***But God . . .***
- B. Our sin problem was a death problem
- C. Our sin problem was a wrath problem
- D. ***But God . . .***
- E. What a wonderful reversal!

III. MANY TODAY DO NOT EVEN USE THE WORD *SIN*

- A. Substitute words and phrases are used . . . why?
- B. If you speak of sin, you must speak of God
- C. The sin problem is everywhere
- D. Without the ***But God*** reality, we make our journey under the direction of the devil, the world, our sinful flesh
- E. St. Paul was on a journey down the Damascus road to destruction, ***but God*** intervened



IV. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF ***BUT GOD*** TESTIMONIES

- A. Noah
- B. Abraham
- C. Moses
- D. Daniel
- E. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
- F. Ezekiel
- G. Blind Bartemaeus
- H. Dead Lazarus
- I. Jesus Himself

V. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A ***BUT GOD*** TESTIMONY

- A. Let’s listen to a few . . .
- B. If you came here today without a ***but God*** testimony, you can leave here with one
- C. We can live every day in the promise of **Romans 8:1**

CONCLUSION: ***But God, but God, but God!***