



# The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

## Lenten Meditations

### GOD'S GREAT LOVE

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

#### **Living in sin –wrath of God**

When we read verses 1-3, we see that before the grace of God, we were dead in our sin. Sin is the separation between mankind and God. One can seek life only by being connected to God. Because we were not connected, we were falling into the pleasures of sin that defiled our nature. We were living according to the standards of the world and we were living to please our desires. We have the 'cravings' as seen in verse 3 that seek to satisfy the flesh and its desires. In doing so, we often fall into disobedience and find ways to fulfill satisfaction through participating in sin. We all deserved to receive the wrath of God and deserved punishment because of our nature.

#### **Live in Christ – Grace of God**

When we read verses 4-10, we see a huge turnaround. We now have a connection to God because of the grace God has given to us. It is nothing that anyone of us deserves, but it is a gift. We were once dead because of sin, but through Christ, we are made alive. We should now understand that grace is receiving something that we do not deserve. Through Christ, we are given the gift of salvation and we are raised with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly realms. We do not deserve such an honor, but only through Christ, it is made possible for us.

#### **Grace of God leading to transformation**

Because of grace, we need to understand that it is also a transformation for us to inherit. Works cannot take us to heaven; it is the grace that God gave us to take us to heaven. However, that grace should work within us to be transformed to a new being pleasing and acceptable to God. That grace allowed us to be alive in Christ, in being alive in Christ it is also our responsibility to live transformed in Christ's likeness.

"Grace is not looking for good men whom it may approve, for it is not grace but mere justice to approve goodness. [Rather] it is looking for condemned, guilty, speechless and helpless men whom it may save, sanctify and glorify." (C.I. Scofield)

#### **Prayer:**

Gracious God, we thank Thee for thy abundant grace through Thy Son Jesus Christ. Help me to understand the grace in how I should walk in the journey of life transforming myself from the sins that are hindering me and to make me more like Christ. Amen.

**Jess M. George, Chicago**

*"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

*Ephesians 2: 4-5*