Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 & Ephesians 2

Singing: 368:1-5 – 435:9 – 384:1-5 – 92:1, 3 – 415:2

**The nature of God’s grace**

I. It enters the dead II. It makes alive

**I. God’s grace enters the dead**

A. The ‘dead’ don’t always look as ‘dead’

 1. The Ephesians did look dead before their salvation (vs. 1-3)

 2. Yet Paul didn’t look dead (vs. 3)

B. Yet ‘the spiritual dead’ are all alike within the heart (vs. 1-3)

 1. there is no breathing in either after the living God and holiness

 2. there is no sorrow over sin

 3. there is no crying under the hammer blows of God’s Word

C. This ‘**spiritual death’** is little regarded – feared – lamented yet this

 death of our soul is **more terrible** than death of our body

 1. this death *separates your from God and leads to eternal misery*

 2. The only hope is for God to act sovereignly and savingly

D. Paul wrote about a decisive moment that came in Ephesians (vs. 4)

 1. It was Jesus Who quickened them through the Holy Spirit (John 5:25)

 2. Each ‘spiritual resurrection’ is unique and yet essentially is similar

 a. be not perplexed by the circumstances or leadings Spirit used

 b. be keen to examine the essentials the Spirit teaches

 3. How or what to examine?

 a. what are **no** **real** evidences of this spiritual quickening

 b. what are **the real** evidence of this spiritual quickening

II. The nature of God’s grace *… make alive*

A. We need to examine: *not all what looks alive is alive (Ezek. 37:7)*

B. What are *no real evidences* of being quickened together w/ Christ?

 1. to be alarmed about your sins

 2. to do things for God

 3. to make a confession of Jesus

 4. to be assured of your salvation or good hope

C. What are *real evidences* of being quickened together with Christ?

 1. that we become a *poor and needy people* in our own eyes

a. this sense is always the *fruit of experience*

b. in this mindset, God makes a man willing to *condemn himself*

 2. that we mourn with a ‘godly sorrow’ about sin

 a. mourning is *different than weeping*

b. such mourning Christians will also know of times of singing

 3. that we are looking more and more to Christ for salvation

 a. though poor and needy, they seek to trust in the LORD

b. there is hunger for Christ and His righteousness

 4. that we have a new delight in pursuing holiness as never before

 a. the ‘living soul’ cannot enjoy being among the ‘dead that stink’

Closing Thoughts …

A. Be Alarmed those *of you still dead in your sins/trespasses*

B. Be comforted *all those who may detect even weakest sign of life*