



## GOING BACKWARD SO YOU CAN GO FORWARD

*“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*

Did you ever have to learn something backwards? If you learn something backwards you know it pretty well. For example, if a child learns how to count to ten then ask him to count backwards from ten. We count backwards toward the end of a sports game. Recently, we witnessed the last shuttle mission which began with a countdown and a great burst of engines.

I think you get my idea. Sometimes you have to go backwards to go forward.

The above passage from the Bible is an interesting read backwards.

The bottom line is at the end of verse five: – *it is by grace you have been saved.* Then the next part of the passage from back to front gives us the reason we are saved by God's goodness:- *even when we were dead in transgressions, we were made...alive with Christ.* Something that is dead cannot make itself alive. God made us alive. Why? *“God (who) is rich in mercy AND because of his great love”.*

When you are troubled by what may come in the future or you are troubled by the transgressions of others, go back.

- Go back to the manger...and see that God's love came at a time when you did not ask.
- Go back to the cross...and hear Jesus say that all God requires of you “is finished” in him.
- Go back to the empty tomb...and know that the same power that raised Christ from the dead gives you new life (Romans 6:4).

Go backward so you can go forward in your high calling as a follower of Jesus,

Pastor John