TWO MOST WONDERFUL WORDS

Ephesians 2:1-5

Introduction: There is no way that people can ever know what this world would be like without God. Even though in God's eyes mankind is dead in trespasses and sin and is walking as the prince of this world wants, seeking the heart's desires and by nature have no interest in God, God is supremely interested in every single human being and two most wonderful words spell the difference between life and death and between heaven and hell for the human race.

I. HUMAN HISTORY REVOLVES AROUND TWO WONDERFUL WORDS - "BUT GOD..."

1. There was a day:
- when the earth was without form...**but God** said, *"...let here be light..."*
- when man became so wicked there was no right...**but God** found Noah.
- when man forgot God, walked his own way..**but God** called Abraham.
- when God's chosen people were enslaved...**but God** spoke to Moses.
- when Israel backslid, followed idols...**but God** raised up Ezekiel and Daniel.
- when mankind wallowed in sin, lost, without hope, groping in darkness, struggling in chains of sin...**but God** sent His Son to live, die, live again, to bring light to groping mankind, to break the chains of sin that bound the human race.
- when the early church seemed doomed from the start...**but God** struck down a rebel named Saul, later to be called Paul.
- when it seemed the Bible would be replaced by catholic policies and superstition...**but God** called Wycliffe and Tyndall to translate the Bible into the language of the common people and everybody could have a Bible for him/herself.
- when it seemed catholocism threatened to choke God out of His own church...**but God** touched a miserable monk and Martin Luther rose up in strength for the Lord.
- when the world seemed lost again...**but God** woke up a preacher named John Wesley who in turn stirred up God's fire again.

2. There has never been an age so hopeless but just when it looked as though Satan had finally won that the page of history was turned and there at the very top was written, "but God."

II. HUMAN LIVES REVOLVE AROUND THOSE TWO WONDERFUL WORDS - "BUT GOD"

1. One has but to look back through his/her life and see the many times when all seemed hopeless and lost, no where to turn...but God stepped in.

2. Over and over again and again God has proven Himself, yet He is left out of one's plans, dreams, ambitions and lives. He who loves so much is never even thought about.
- Too often God is the last resort. All is tried until nothing is left, then finally God is turned to.
- People are quick to complain about not having this or that but forget that it is God who wants to provide what is needed. Success is measured by one's own abilities, leaving out the One who has really given all that one has.

- One decides for him/herself how much he/she can do or not do and say, "Yes, but I..."
- People need to change their way of life from Me, Myself and I to "Yes, **but God..**"

III. THOSE TWO WONDERFUL WORDS, "BUT GOD," CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

1. **The first missionaries were told that what they wanted to do was impossible and they agreed, but God..."**

2. **Moses said that he couldn't speak...but God said, "I'll tell you what to say..."**

3. **Isaiah said he was a man of unclean lips, but God, had an angel cleanse them.**

4. **Amos said he was unworthy, but God said, "I'll make you worthy..."**

5. **Man's condition without Christ is hopeless, condemned, but God can do something about it.**

6. **The night of is black, but God sent the light of the world, Jesus.**

7. **Mankind was chained to sin, satan and death, but God sent Jesus to break those chains.**

8. **Great is the burden of sin, but God can remove that heavy load.**

9. **Sin abounds all around mankind, but God says His grace is greater.**

CONCLUSION:

1. **Someone said:**
   - Once I was blind, **but God** touched me.
   - Once I was lost, **but God** found me.
   - Once I was under His wrath, **but God** loved me.
   - Once I was under guilt, **but God** forgave me.
   - Once I was dead, **but God** gave me life.
   - Once I walked after the ways of this world, **but God** taught me to walk in His ways.
   - Once I followed Satan, **but God** turned me around and now I follow Him.
   - Once I was a child of hell, **but God** has brought me into His eternal family.

2. **People say:**
   - I don't need Christ, **but God** says all without Christ are damned and condemned.
   - I have plenty of time, **but God** says "today" is your time.
   - I'm going to believe soon, **but God** says His spirit won't always be there.
   - I'll go to church, do good, etc, **but God** says Jesus is the only way to Him.
   - I'm waiting on someone else, **but God** says you are accountable for no one else but yourself.
   - I'm afraid, **but God** says I am with you always.
   - I don't understand, **but God** says it isn't for you to understand His ways.

3. **What would your life be without these two wonderful words, "But God?"**