

Ephesians 2: 1-10

Author: Paul

Recipients: Church in Ephesus

Location: Western shore of modern day Turkey; Aegean Sea

Key Theme: "The Body of Christ is Blessed"

Recap

Paul is thankful for the Ephesian church's faith in Christ. He has a specific prayer for them that the Lord would grant them wisdom, knowledge of Him, that He would give them a new heart, and that they would understand just how great the hope that they've been called to is. He continues his letter to them in chapter 2.

v. 1-3

Dead in Sin

- Paul tells them that they were dead in sin
- Notice two words: *Were* and *Dead*

Were

- Past tense
- A state that they *used* to be in.
- The emphasis here is that they are no longer in that condition.
- They are to walk in newness.

Dead

- Not alive
- Deceased
- Not merely sick
- This is a permanent condition unless outside forces capable of undoing death intervene.

Paul says that they WERE DEAD

- Dead in what? In their sin and trespasses.
- This isn't simply the wrong things that we do but also the very sin nature that we are conceived with
- In this condition we follow our own desire which is in rebellion against God.
- The phrase "were dead" implies that they are now not dead.

Analogy of the Life Raft

- We oftentimes view salvation as this process where we as believers share the Gospel with people thereby throwing them a life raft.
- They in turn grab the life raft and are saved.
- The problem with this is that dead men don't grab.
- They are utterly incapable of grabbing.
- The picture that we see in Scripture is that we are spiritually dead, rotting, skeletons.
- It takes a miracle of the Lord to make us alive from the dead state that we are all born into.

v. 4-7

But God...

- The Bible tells us here in verses 4 and 5 that because God is rich in mercy He has made us alive in Christ Jesus.
- It is by the will of God that anyone be regenerated.
- The idea that it is of the will of man would give man a reason to boast.

Regeneration

- The action of being made alive.
- In this context it is spiritual life.
- We cannot regenerate ourselves; it is a work of the Holy Spirit by the grace of God.
- We cannot believe on Christ until He regenerates us and makes us alive to our sin.

Grace

- The end of verse 5 tells us that it is by grace we have been saved.
- Grace is something that we are given that we do not deserve or could not otherwise earn on our own.

Analogy of a good payment vs grace.

- If I paid someone \$1M to mow my grass would that be grace?
- While this seems like a great payday it is in fact not grace.
- This is an agreed upon payment for services rendered.
- Grace is being given something that you cannot otherwise earn on your own.
- In order for \$1M to be considered grace it would simply have to be given without being asked for.

Grace (cont...)

- Through this He has granted us to be joint heirs with Christ Himself.
- We are not equal to Christ but we are His adopted brothers and sisters (ch.1 v.5)
- He has done all of this so that He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us.

This is the reason that anyone was created and saved. God wants to show every attribute of Himself to His creation and He does that by upholding righteous judgment against unbelievers and showing kindness and mercy to all who He has chosen to make alive.

v. 8-10

The Gift of God

- The gift is not necessarily salvation.
- The gift is the faith while salvation is the byproduct of the faith.
- It is not of our own doing. It's not of our will or desire but His.
- It is set up this way so that no one may boast in anything but the Lord.

Workmanship

- When we hear the word "workmanship" what do we think of?
- I think of carpenters or brick masons who build things with their hands.
- We are not only the physical workmanship of His hands but the spiritual as well.
- Our regeneration is His work. It's His plan.
- We were created physically to bring Him glory. We were regenerated spiritually to bring Him glory but the two are not the same.
- We are created in Him spiritually that we may walk in good works that He has prepared for us beforehand. In keeping with the theme of chapter 1 we have to assume that these works were prepared before the foundation of the world was ever laid.

Small Group Notes

- 1) What does Paul say about the Ephesian church in verse 1?
 - He says that they were dead in their sins and trespasses. Go into detail about the words “were” and “dead”.
- 2) Who pulled them out of their dead state and what is that called?
 - God did. Regeneration. Talk about what regeneration means (Being made alive) and by whose will it comes from (God’s).
- 3) What is grace?
 - Being given something that you don’t deserve and cannot otherwise earn on your own. Go over the good payment vs undeserved gift analogy. Talk about how important that is to our understanding of what the Gospel actually is.
- 4) Why did God create us physically and spiritually?
 - We were created physically to bring God glory by allowing Him to show every facet of who He is. He saves us spiritually so that He may show His mercy, kindness, and love.