

“WHO AM I?”

“BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Community Group Curriculum for the week of November 2, 2014

Big Picture

Our passage this week reminds us how Christ's death and resurrection can take us all the way from death valley, “*dead in our transgressions and sins*”, to heaven's heights, “*seated with Him in the heavenly realms*”. It shows a clear picture of what and who we were and are, the before and after picture of a life with or without God. I love the “*But God's...*” in the Bible. In verse four it says “*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us...*” completely and freely gave us at His cost what we did not deserve.

Let's Explore Together!

Who We Used To Be (Ephesians 2:1-3)

1. What is our condition (Romans 3:9-20)? Who is Paul addressing in the Ephesians passage and what do you think it means to be “*dead in your trespasses and sins*”?
2. From Ephesians 2:1-3, make a list of all the words or phrases that describe a person who is apart from Christ. Which of these words or phrases most stand out to you? Why?
3. Who is the “*the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience*” (2 Corinthians 4:3-6; 1 Peter 5:8)? What are some of the other names God gives him (Matthew 4:3; John 8:44, 12:31; Revelation 12:9)?
4. In light of Ephesians 2:1-3, what would the rest of your life look like if God had not rescued you from your sin?

God Came To The Rescue (Ephesians 2:4-7)

1. What attribute within God moved Him toward us and what does this section of Scripture teach you about God's mercy and grace? Is there a difference in mercy and grace? Can you have one without the other?
2. When did God bring us to life in Christ (v. 5; Romans 5:8)?

3. According to verses 5 and 6, what are the three things that God does in our salvation?
4. What does it mean, *"he raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* (v. 6)?

Salvation Through Grace (Ephesians 2:8-10)

1. Verse 8 says *"you have been saved"* (past tense). Also looking at verse 6 we see that the verbs "raised" and "seated" are also in the past tense. Can you explain?
2. What is the connection between grace and faith? If we can't earn salvation, what is our part in it (John 1:12)? Why is grace the crucial element in salvation (v. 7)?
3. As a result of God's saving grace, what are we now? In whom are we created and for what reason? How does this knowledge that God made you to fulfill a specific role impact your life (v. 10)?
4. Looking back over the entire passage (Ephesians 2:1-10), what do you think Paul really wanted these believers (and us today) to understand about grace?

Prayer

Pray for all those that are still following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience; walking in darkness, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind and by nature are still children of wrath. Pray that because we are His workmanship and because God has prepared good works for His children to do beforehand, that we would have the passion and desire to follow Him whole heartily. Pray that through our transformed lives others will see the God who transformed us and receive the free gift of salvation through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Final Thoughts

We don't earn our salvation in the sense that once we are good enough, we earned God saving us. God saved us completely by His grace. If you have put your faith in Christ, you are saved. Your good works had nothing to do with it – it was God's grace alone. The Holy Spirit lives in you, to help you do the works God prepared especially for you.

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INTRODUCTION:

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:1-10

BOTTOM LINE:

EXPOSITION:

1. From _____ (2:1-3)

a. Dead in _____ (2:1)

i. _____ (2:2a)

ii. _____ (2:2b)

iii. _____ (2:3a)

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BOTTOM LINE:

EXPOSITION:

1. From _____ (2:1-3)

a. Dead in _____ (2:1)

i. _____ (2:2a)

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iii. _____ (2:3a)

b. Children of _____ (2:3b)

2. We are _____ (2:4-7)

3. By _____ through _____ (2:8-9)

a. _____

b. _____

4. For _____ (2:10)

APPLICATION:

b. Children of _____ (2:3b)

2. We are _____ (2:4-7)

3. By _____ through _____ (2:8-9)

a. _____

b. _____

4. For _____ (2:10)

APPLICATION: