

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Eph 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, 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— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

1. Summarize the passage above into your own words.

- We once were:
 - Lost but now are found
 - Dead and separated, far away from God
 - Living for ourselves, following the prince of the air (Satan)
 - Under condemnation and God's judgement

Eph 2:4-7 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2. But God intervened. Because of God's grace, his mercy and love, we have been raised up and made alive with Christ. In relationship to the passage, define these three terms; mercy, grace and love.

- Mercy
 - Not getting the just punishment of what we deserve
 - The wrath of God from (v3)
- Grace
 - Getting something good that we don't deserve
 - Saving us when we could have been left to our own devices
 - Shown the immeasurable riches of his grace for all of eternity
- Love
 - An emotion, act, will and choice all done in affection
 - Made alive, raised up with Christ
 - Seated us with Christ and blessed us
 - Father/son, Mother/daughter relationship
 - Parents do things for the good of children, in their best interests

3. What does it mean to be raised up and made alive in Christ (c.f. Col 2:13-14; Rom 6:1-14)?

- Col 2:13-14
 - The demands and consequences of not keeping law were removed
 - Forgiveness of our wrong doing

- Rom 6:1-14
 - Change of direction and trajectory (v1-4)
 - We were once hell bound
 - We are now headed for heaven and into the newness of life
 - This new life allows us to enjoy God for who he is and glorify him
 - Death has no dominion over us (v5-11)
 - We are united in Christ
 - We are to live for God
 - We have died to sin, and are now alive to God in Christ
 - We were unable to please God, slaves to Satan and flesh
 - Reminder of Eph 2:1-3
 - Choose to present yourself to God (v12-14)
 - Do not live in unrighteousness
 - Life now has purpose, it has meaning
 - Example of an instrument, there is a specific use and purpose for it
 - Live for righteousness

4. How do you think the immeasurable riches of God's grace are manifested in your life today? How will they be manifested in the age to come (c.f. Rev 7:9-12)?

- Reminder of our way of life, Eph 2:1-3 and where we stand today before God because of his grace
 - We were on death row and now have been given freedom
 - See life in light of all the privileges we have been given and live life abundantly
- See this truth in your own life, in the life of those around you
 - The church is a reflection of God's grace
 - We glorify God, worshiping him for the grace he's provided in Christ
- This is God's goodness manifested to us now and in the age to come

- Rev 7:9-12
 - If the church is a foretaste of what is to come, how much more will we be able to glorify God in the age to come?
 - You will have a resurrected body, worshipping God unhindered from the flesh, sin and struggle
 - You will glorify God with everything you have
 - You will be glorifying God with the saints around the throne – this is why God made you alive, raised you from the dead – for worship

Eph 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

5. Explain what faith is to your neighbour. What are the crucial elements of saving faith (c.f. Rom 10:9)?

- Faith is belief in something, trust
 - A conviction so deep it will change the way you live
- Saving faith is a conviction that you are a sinner, dead (Eph 2:1-3) and unable to save yourself
 - You repent, turn away from sin, agree with God about your hopeless condition
 - Faith involves an object of belief, Jesus Christ

Rom 10:9

- Believe in your heart -> you live in light of this conviction, impacts your life, relationships and the core of your being
- It is a declaration of what is in your heart

a. Isn't faith an action or something you are required to do (a work)? Why or why not?

- Eph 2:1-3
 - We were dead in our sin and trespasses
- Eph 2:8-9
 - It was grace that saved us, the work of Christ applied to our lives through faith, we didn't earn it
 - Someone gives you a gift, you didn't earn it, you just accepted it from the giver
- We do not merit salvation, faith is but the means of salvation

b. Consider John 8:47, 10:26-27, Phil 1:29.

- John 8:47; 10:26-27
 - God's people hear the words of God
 - Obey them, turn from their sin and follow him
- Phil 1:29
 - God grants belief (predetermined choice before the foundation of the world)

God's _____ **INITIATIVE** _____ (n e i v i t a i t i) is the gift.

Those who are part of God's new creation (his workmanship) are expected to live in godly ways. Scripture is clear that salvation is not earned or obtained by any of our works, however our works are the natural manifestation of our salvation. This is why there is no room for boasting! This is an inseparable condition of the Christian life; that we will walk in and be known for the good works which God the father predetermined before the foundation of the world.

6. Knowing that you are part of Christ's body, the church, how are your good works being manifested for God's glory and to one another in this context? What are one or two ways you can get involved?

- Works are a result of our saving faith.
- What are some "good" works the group is engaged in?
- Encourage discussion and areas where each member of the body can use their gifts to serve the larger group.
- Give examples as needed.
 - As Christians, we imitate God
 - We should exhibit the same characteristics to others in our relationships
 - Love, grace, kindness, mercy
 - How are they manifest in your life?

As we've considered tonight, the basis of our salvation is grounded entirely in the Lord's work. There was a time when we once walked in disobedience and sin, followed the ways of this world, were in terrible bondage to the devil and were destined for wrath. But now because of God's mighty salvation, our lives have been changed and our attitudes and behaviour now show the hallmarks of the new creation. There are no grounds for boasting, we have not contributed nor do we deserve anything. Praise God indeed!