

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul describes 3 stages of a believer's life.

- I. Stage 1 is the past reign of sin (vs. 1-2a).
 - A. Controlled by the world (v. 2b).
 - B. Controlled by Satan (v. 2c).
 - C. Controlled by our flesh (v. 3a, b).
 - D. Condemned by God (v. 3c).

- II. Stage 2 is the present reality of salvation.
 - A. The cause of our salvation: God's character (v. 4).
 - B. The results of our salvation:
 1. We are made alive with Christ (v. 5).
 2. We are raised with Christ (v. 6a).
 3. We are seated with Christ (v. 6b).
 - C. The source of our salvation: God alone.
 1. Offered by grace (v. 8a).
 2. Received by faith (v. 8b).
 3. Given as a gift (8c).
 - a. So works are precluded (v. 9a).
 - b. So boasting is precluded (v. 9b).

- III. Stage 3 is the future result of salvation.
 - A. Good works (v. 10a).
 - B. Good walk (v. 10b).
 - C. God's glory (v. 7).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 30, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10 (review chapter 1)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:1-10.** Write a paragraph recounting what you learned last week concerning the walk of an unbeliever.
- (b) Verse 4 begins with “but,” which is an adversative (i.e. a word expressing opposition or antithesis). In what ways do verses 4 and following speak as an antithesis to what has just been written?
- (c) What do you learn about God’s character and work from the 2nd & 3rd phrases in v. 4? In what specific ways do they counter vs. 1-3, and how are they foundational to what follows?
- (d) Take a moment to take stock of your day-to-day life and write a few sentences or verses that express the idea found in the little phrase “but God.” As an example: “I feel lonely and sad this morning, **but God** promises I am loved with an everlasting love and He will never leave me or forsake me, so my sadness and loneliness are not as debilitating as they seem.”

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** “Made us alive together with” is the main verb of vs. 1-10. It is also the first of 3 verbs that appear with the prefix *syn*, which adds the idea of “with” or “together with” to the verb to which it is attached (cf. “raised us up with” and “seated us with”). Are these 3 terms literal or metaphorical? Explain your answer.
- (b) What doctrine does Paul presuppose when extolling these three “together with Christ” verbs?
- (c) On what basis can Paul promise these 3 blessings (do not miss the clear and important connection between 1:20 & 2:5-6)?
- (d) To what time does the phrase “the coming ages” refer (v. 7), and how does v. 7 reaffirm what you learned in 1:3-14?
- (e) Given what you have already learned about God’s work in Christ (1:20-23), about your union with Christ (“made alive together with Christ,” “raised up with Christ,” and “seated with Christ in the heavenly places”), write down at least 5 ways this union equips you to live a resurrected life.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** As we look at verses 8-9, take a moment to define the following words as they are used in this context: grace, saved, faith, gift, result, works, & boast.
- (b) Now examine their relationship to each other by answering the following questions: (1) How does “grace” stand in relation to “saved?” (2) What does the phrase “through faith” tell us about “saved?” (3) Does “this” refer to “grace,” “faith,” or both? (4) What does “gift” have to do with “works” and how do these affect “boasting?”
- (c) Now write down at least 4 answers to this question: “How should my life be affected by the truths found in 2:8-9?”
- (d) Write out 2:8-9 without looking at your Bible. After such deep meditation on the words and ideas you most likely have them memorized even if you have never tried memorizing them before!

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** To whom does “his” refer in v. 10? In what way are we as believers “his workmanship” (NB: the word translated “workmanship” appears in the NT only twice, here and Romans 1:9)?
- (b) What 3 things do you learn about our “good works” in v. 10? Considering these, give at least 10 examples from your own life that would fall into the category of “good works.”
- (c) Explain how the “for” that begins v. 10 connects its content with what precedes. Why is it imperative to understand this?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** Let’s explore the relationship of regeneration (“made alive together with Christ”) to faith. Read the following passages and record what you learn: Ez. 36:25-27; John 3:5-6; 6:44, 65; Acts 16:14; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:4-5; Col. 2:13-14; 1 John 2:29; 4:7; 5:1. Is faith a result of regeneration or is regeneration a result of faith (i.e. which comes first?)?

DATE: April 30, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:1-10

But God! (Part II)