

THE HEART OF COMMUNION

Ephesians 2:1-9

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INTRODUCTION: YOU CAN DO IT

It seems to me one of the strangest forms of encouragement, "You can do it."

The heart of communion is realizing that Jesus did for us there, what we could never do for ourselves.

? How dependent is the sinner on the cross of Jesus?

? How much of salvation is God's work and how much is ours?

I. WE NEED GRACE, VV. 1-3

Isaiah 59:2

but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

If anyone is saved from hell, it is by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone not of works.

II. GOD EXTENDS GRACE

Grace

Undeserved gift of favor/kindness; the Lovingkindness of God.

III. GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

Mercy

Undeserved compassion that leads to forgiveness.

IV. GOD LOVES US WITH GREAT LOVE

Love

Unconditional affection that sacrifices for the good of another.

V. GOD MAKES US ALIVE WITH CHRIST

A. HE MADE US ALIVE...

Titus 3:5-7

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

B. ...WITH CHRIST

Somebody did work to accomplish your salvation. It just wasn't you. Jesus is the one who worked to pay the penalty for your sins.

Ephesians 1:7

Galatians 2:20, 21

? Why did God choose to do things this way?

Ephesians 1:4-6; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

? So how does grace operate? How does a person receive grace?

VI. THROUGH FAITH ALONE

A. TWO KINDS OF FAITH

1. Believing Facts

2. Trust

Trust

to have confidence in someone

In fact, trust is one of the few actions we commit, by doing nothing. If I trust you to fix my car, what do I have to do to fix my

We are saved by grace through faith and that is not a work, it is the opposite of work. It is stopping our work and trusting God to save us.

B. TRUST IS A GIFT

? What do we contribute to salvation?

1. We are Dead in our trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:2
2. We are Not seeking after God, Romans 3:11
3. We are Suppressing the truth of God, Romans 1:18
4. We are not even able to understand the things of God, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Nevertheless, God shows us grace.

CONCLUSION: RESTING AT COMMUNION

There are two religions in the world, one that says “you can do it” and the other that says “you can’t.”

The ones that says we can do it keep trying only to find in the end that they can’t.

Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his skin
Or the leopard his spots?
Then you also can do good
Who are accustomed to doing evil.

Then there are those know they can’t work to save themselves. These fall to their knees, crying in desperation, begging for the mercy of God that He offered us in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:5

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness