



Lesson 5: Grace On Full Display

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Key Thought: We are saved because of what God does... period!

1. As we dive into our text, let's remember it comes right on the heels of Paul's prayer for those to whom we wrote (1:15-23). In it he expresses his gratitude to God for saving them. In Ephesians 2:1, he describes the state of every person ever born before coming to faith in Christ as "being dead in our trespasses and sins". Why does he refer to people who are obviously alive as being "dead"? In what ways is that true? (See also *Ephesians 4:18*)

A.

2. In Ephesians 2:2-3, Paul outlines the behaviors of "spiritually dead" people. What part of his description can you relate to most? How does it describe your life before God opened your eyes?

A.

What part of his description best describes the non-Christians in your life?

A.

3. Paul's attention now shifts from our actions, to God's mercy and grace. Mercy involves not getting what we do deserve, while Grace involves getting what we don't deserve. Write down every action taken by God and man in Ephesians 2:4-7.

God's actions

Man's actions

A.

A.

4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. These verses further demonstrate that we have nothing to do with our spiritually awakening and becoming saved or born again besides believing. Why does thinking we need to add something to God's efforts actually negate and undermine grace?

Negate = to make ineffective, to nullify or make invalid

Undermine = to injure or destroy insidiously or secretly

A.

5. "God will save me by His grace" is a perfectly true and complete sentence. What sort of things do people feel they need to **add** to grace in order to be saved? How might they complete one or more of the following sentences?

God will save me by His grace, but a _____.

God will save me by His grace, when _____.

God will save me by His grace, if _____.

6. There are several reasons why people don't accept the clear teaching of Ephesians 2:8-9. Which one do you think is most prevalent?

Atheism (*They simply do not believe in God or the hereafter, so it's irrelevant to them.*)

Ignorance (*They have never heard about Jesus or their need to be saved.*)

Cultural norms/expectations (*They believe in being good and karma.*)

Religious teachings not grounded in the scriptures (*They believe it takes God's grace AND their efforts.*)

Human pride (*They don't believe they are so bad that God's son would have to die for them.*)

Works based thinking (*They believe they should pay their own way... even paying off sin and paying for their ticket to heaven.*)

Other _____.

How would you respond to someone who holds to that view using our text verses and/or others?

A.

7. Who will you share the truths found in our text with next? When?

A.