



Introduction to Ephesians 2:1-10

Sunday, October 15, 2017
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It can be difficult for us to diagnose their own spiritual condition. It's even more difficult in a time when the most valued commodity in human relationships is unqualified affirmation. We all want to be told that we're ok and that there's nothing wrong with us - in fact, to be who we are (regardless of what that means) is brave and courageous. But the Bible does no such thing. It makes no pretense and does not gloss over any detail. In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul lays out the gospel with great clarity such that, like a mirror, it will reveal our spiritual condition apart from Christ to us - even when we can't perceive it ourselves.

The gospel Paul preaches begins with bad news. It teaches us that apart from Christ we are following the world's system and all that that entails. It teaches us that we are actually following Satan himself if we are not following Jesus. And it tells us that we can do nothing but carry out our own selfish desires unless Christ intervenes. Thankfully, that is exactly what He did! The key phrase that the passage hinges on is "but God" (v. 4). Even when we were God's enemies, destined for eternity in Hell, God loved us and was merciful towards us in sending Jesus to die for us so that we could experience the riches he describes earlier in the letter.

Context

Chapter 2 of Ephesians links to Paul's prayer in 1:15-23 by way of reminder. Paul's prayer includes praying for the Christians to know God's power (1:19). How do we know God's power? He raised Christ from the dead and put all things under His feet. But it wasn't just Christ. You were dead! And you were outside of Christ! But God has the power to make dead people alive and unite us to Christ. This passage, then, is a reminder to the individual of God's power at work to save. He will follow that with a corporate reminder to Gentiles and Jews (2:11-22).

Read and Reflect (Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)

öDead or Aliveö

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Ruined by sin Eph. 2.1
 - Dead v. 1
 - Following the ways of the world v. 2
 - Following the Ruler of the air v. 2
 - Following the cravings of the flesh v. 3

2. Rescued by God Eph. 2.4

What has He done?

- Made us alive with Christ ó regeneration
- Raised us up with Christ ó resurrection
- Made us sit with Christ ó exaltation

Why did He do it?

- Great *love*
- Rich *mercy*
- Incomparable *grace*
- Continuing *kindness*

Discuss

- 1) If you had 60 seconds to explain the gospel to someone, what would you say?
- 2) Why does the gospel necessarily start with bad news?
- 3) Is it easy or difficult for you to remember your condition apart from Christ? Why or why not?
- 4) What do verses 4-7 teach us about the character of God?
- 5) How does knowing that salvation is entirely the work of God give us comfort? How should it motivate us to live?