

## ***A Grace that Saves & Pervades - Ephesians 2:1-10*** **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

### **Notes from the Sermon**

Scott Holdegraver is preaching this week, and has written these notes for us this week.

In the movie, *The Princess Bride*, Inigo and Fezzik take Wesley to miracle Max to hopefully bring their friend back to life. During the course of their conversation, Max says that their friend is only mostly dead and not all dead.

John Piper defines grace as "both the inclination of the divine heart to treat us better than we deserve and is the extension of that inclination in practical help." As followers of Jesus, we may not be totally aware of just how bad off we were without Christ. Or perhaps, we just need to be reminded. We all have a tendency to think that we know what's right and folks that don't agree with us are wrong on any number of subjects. However, in our current culture, and especially when it involves any number of hot-button topics, it tends to become much worse and we can be tempted to see others as the enemy.

In verses 1-3, we see a life lived apart from the grace of God. There are a lot of actions taking place (walking, following, living, desiring). So what does Paul mean when he says we were dead exactly? Are we only "mostly dead"? Paul doesn't really tell us in this passage so we have to look at a couple of other passages to fully understand what he's referring to. Later on in this same letter in chapter 5:6-8, Paul uses the same phrase "sons of disobedience" and says that these people are darkness. Then in chapter 4:17-18, Paul states that they are darkened in their understanding and alienated from the life of God because of their hardness of heart. Paul tells us that this deadness is ultimately hardness of heart to God and his ways. Because of this hardness, we are hostile to the things of God, we do not submit to God, and we cannot please him.

Because of this deadness, we are children of (under) wrath. The sin we so willingly love and commit demands that God judge us accordingly. Because God is perfectly just and righteous, we will get the full punishment for our rebellion. If our story ended there, God would be just and we would have no recourse. But God, because he is lavishly rich in mercy, he so greatly loved us to send Jesus to take our place and pay the penalty for our sin, take the wrath that is due us, and die the death that we deserve. He did this even while we were still dead. God can then make us alive with Christ, raise us with Him, and seat us with him in heaven. This means that we now have soft hearts for the things of God. We can please him. We want to submit to him. As Mike talked about a few weeks ago, we are now sons of God! We don't earn any of this! It is all of faith, and even that faith is a gift from God. Before our conversion, our works just bring death.

After our conversion, however, we are to walk in good works. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, Paul tells us God is able to make all grace abound to us so that we may abound in every good work. By walking in obedience, we do not "earn" more love or favor from God. He already loved us perfectly by sending his Son! God is in no way indebted to us because of our obedience and yet it is so easy to fall into that mode of thinking. When we walk in humble obedience, relying on the grace of God to empower and change us, we experience a relational closeness to our Father.

But what happens when we fail? He doesn't kick us out of the family but that closeness that we can feel is lost. Do we just toughen up and "promise to do better"? Do we devote ourselves to read our bibles more or pray more, or do ... more? That

didn't work before to bring us from death to life and it doesn't work now. We must "repent and believe in the gospel", Mark 1:15. Something has taken the preeminent place in our heart. We must repent (180 degree change of mind), and believe in the gospel (by faith make Jesus the preeminent). Only then can we begin to start those other things, which are the good works that Jesus wants us to walk in.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 14	Genesis 15	Genesis 16	Genesis 17	Genesis 18	Genesis 19	Genesis 20

Reading from this past week: Ephesians 2:1-10

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 6:22-40

**Family Worship**

Song - *The Gospel*

<https://youtu.be/uCibVFxaJW8>

Gospel Project

Story: Paul was arrested

Story Point: God protected Paul so he could preach about Jesus.

Big Picture Question: What is sanctification?

Answer: Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 21-23

New City Catechism

Question #24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Answer: Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

Verse: Colossians 1:21-22

Scripture

Ephesians 2:1-10

- How would you define the word "grace"?
- How do verses 1-3 describe a person who does not know Jesus? Do you actually believe our problem is this bad?
- What are the blessings of God's grace in verses 4-7 that answer the problem in the first three verses?
- How do our works fit if all of salvation and life is from God's grace? Why can't works save us? Yet, why must there be works if grace is true?

Prayer

\*Pray that God would help you understand that we are saved by grace alone and that you would see the glory of His grace in your life.

\*Pray for the David & Brenda Meyer our church planting missionaries in Cayambe, Ecuador and the Buen Pastor Church.