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Ephesians 2:1-7
3/10/24

Why would He do that?

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you relate to being a “follower” of the world and your own desires before knowing Christ?
 2. Early Christians called the Christian faith, “the way.” How is that term helpful for us even today?
 3. How can you make sure you can access God’s mercy?
 4. What means the most to you, God’s mercy, love, or grace? Why?
 5. Do you have any helpful takeaways this week from the study?
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Teaching Notes:

Last week, we started looking at Ephesians 2.

This is one of the most important passages for us to understand who God is and who we are in Christ & before Christ.

Message title: Why would He do that?

Big Idea: God’s purposes are eternal.

Some people think religion is all about power and control...

But, Jesus didn’t come to control people...

...He came to die for people.

Why would He do that?

1. God wants to give us life.

Sin and death is what controls people...

2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Before Christ, we were followers...

...we were like dead wood following the course of a river.

We followed the ways of the world.

We followed our own personal passions.

We followed the devil’s influences.

It seemed ok, everyone else was doing it & what else was there?

But there are a lot of rocks on that river and...

...the river ends in a waterfall of judgment and death.

...and most people don’t know what to do.

In our new life, we are still followers...but...
...we are NOT dead wood floating downstream...
... following the course of the river of this world.

We are new people following Christ on His path...
...We have a new heart & power, and His life in us.

Why would God give us life?
4 But God, being rich in mercy,

2. God is rich in mercy.

Mercy means you don't get what you deserve.

Mercy is pulling back from the full extent of deserved judgment.

Jesus told us **mercy** is one of the **weightier** things in life.

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Mercy overrules justice...

...If justice says 10 years of hard labor, mercy says...
...no, 2 years probation.

God knows our frame, He understands how we are made.

When you follow Jesus, you will at times, get off the path...
...either accidentally or purposely.

When that happens...

...confess and acknowledge you are off the path.

Let Him cleanse whatever got dirty & get back on the path...

...with more focus and intention on following Jesus.

We make mistakes.

We are influenced by the world,

We are tempted by our passions,

We are deceived by the devil...

...**And God knows all that and He is merciful.**

God is rich in mercy, but does He ever run out of mercy?

Yes. God runs out of mercy. For who?!

For the unrepentant.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' 24 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear,

but followed the counsels *and* the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. **25** Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending *them*. **26** Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck.

But why would He give us life and show us mercy?

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

3. God loves us greatly.

We know the greatest motivation...

... is not money or fame or power...

...the greatest motivation is love and...

...that's God's motive for giving us life and mercy; it is His love.

For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son.

His love moves Him toward you.

His love energizes Him for you.

His love covers all of you.

But why does He do that?

Why does He give us life & show us mercy & reveal His love us?

The truth is...we don't deserve it.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

4. God is gracious.

You are not only forgiven your debt, you are given eternal life.

You are not only set free from sin, you are part of the family.

You are not only shown mercy, you are given grace.

You are not just saved, you are seated in the heavenly places!

Grace is the unmerited, undeserved favor of God.

Jesus came to give us life, to show us mercy, to reveal His love and to demonstrate His grace.

And why would He do all that?

7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God has saved us and raised us, and seated us in the heavens...
...So people could see the riches of His grace and kindness to us...
...and find life in Him.

5. God is glorified in us.