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Ephesians 2:8-10
Why would He do that? Pt 2
3/17/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Besides God's word, how have you discovered your identity? Was it ever in conflict with who God says you are?
2. Does grace ever seem too good to be true? Why or why not?
3. Where does faith come from? See Romans 10:20.
4. What are problems with boasting? Where should we boast?
5. What are good works you have seen people walk in? Can you describe any good works you have walked in?

Big Idea: You and your purpose are handmade by God and for God.
Title: Why would He do that?

In chapter 2, we have learned a lot about ourselves...
Before Christ, we were all dead in our trespasses and sin
We were failures and rebels according to the kingdom of God.
We followed the course of the world, the devil, and our passions.
We were under the judgment and wrath of God.

BUT we found we are also greatly loved by God...
And in Christ...we are made spiritually alive.
We are raised with Christ
We are saved though we don't deserve it.
We have access to rich resources of divine mercy.
We are seated in heavenly places in Christ.
We bring God glory through our lives and His grace.

Today we will ask again...[why would He do that?](#)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

Grace is getting good when you deserve bad.
It is being taken to lunch when you should have gotten detention.

Grace is accessed through faith.

Biblical faith is not just believing something...

...it is trusting IN someone.

The good news is, our salvation is bought and paid for...
...and faith is the choice we make to trust that good news.

Why would God save us by grace through faith?

Why would He do that?

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

1. God is a giver.

Part of God's identity is being a giver.

...Every perfect gift comes from the Father...

By grace thru faith...and THIS is not your own doing.
The this is not referring to our faith but to our salvation.
All of salvation is the gift of God.

Why would He do that?

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Let's say this is a positive way, not just don't boast, but...

2. We boast in God.

There is no boasting in heaven...

...but there should be no boasting on earth either.

1 Corinthians 1:31, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor the strong man in his strength, nor the wealthy man in his riches, But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises loving devotion, justice and righteousness on the earth--for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

Why is boasting a big deal?

Boasting is not just about pride; it is about confusion.

If you boast like you did something...

...People think they need to do something.

Why would God save us by grace thru faith and why would He want us to boast in Him?

Why would He do that?

10 For we are his workmanship,

We are His workmanship...it is the Greek word poiēma.

Poiema is a product, a thing that is made.

Why would He do that?

3. We are His masterpiece.

We are all made in the image of God...
...But when we are in Christ, we become a new creation...
...We are God's own special creation.

This word poeima is used only one other time...
Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

People see His power and majesty and beauty in nature...
...but they see His mercy and grace and love in us.

Why would He do that?
...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

4. We are made for good works.

God didn't make us to just sit in a museum or hang on a wall.
God made us for action.

We are the one in the parable with talents to invest, with a house to manage, with the lost to find, with the hurting to help.

This is in direct opposition to how we used to walk...
BUT we are no longer supposed to be walking like that.

We are God's creation, His workmanship, His masterpiece...
...He shaped us with a purpose to do good works.

We are not saved because of good works...
...we are saved for good works.

You are going to walk into situations that are for you.
You are going to walk through circumstances that are for you.
You are going to walk up to opportunities that are for you.

Our identity impacts our activity.
We are God's masterpiece created for good works prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.