

Lesson 5, EPHESIANS 2:6-10

After reading Paul's assessment of mankind in Ephesians 2:1-3, it seems there is no hope until we read verses 4-5. Grace is one of those words used in Christian circles that some people do not understand. However, Paul's focus in many of his letters is all about grace.

1. Reading verses 4 and 5, how does God accomplish our salvation? Look up the biblical definition of "grace". What does John 1:17 say about grace?

2. Looking at the verses from this lesson, what are the "perks" of having God's grace?

3. In verse 6, the idea of being seated with the Lord Jesus in the heavenly realms is mind boggling. Reading Revelation 3:21 and 20:4, what do these verses say about our future? See also Hebrews 3:1 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

4. Read verse 7 and compare it to 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. If this is a heavenly "show and tell", how does it affect the world today, and how does it affect the age to come?

5. What do verses 8 and 9 say about works and salvation? Compare this to James 2:17-24. How do we justify these seemingly contradictory statements?

6. Verse 10 seems to support the idea of works as a sign of salvation. What “works” has the Lord God prepared for you to bring him glory? Remember, like creation, each of us is unique and has unique callings on our lives.

Application: Contemplate a gift of salvation beautifully wrapped with an exquisite bow. As you open this wonderful gift, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what is inside.

Prayer: God of all grace and love, we fall short of deserving salvation, but the gift of your Son became the way to new life in you. We praise you for Jesus and his love that enables us to be seated with Christ for eternity. In his glorious name we pray. Amen.