ALONE SERIES Grace Alone! Ephesians 2:8-10

When a person gives their life to Jesus they are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God...

We become citizens of heaven and earth is no longer our home...

The Lord has not left us here in this dangerous, dark world to fin for ourselves the best we can...

He has given to us the essential gear necessary to not only SURVIVE the harsh environment of this fallen world, but to THRIVE no matter what situation we find ourselves in...

The Lord has given us the essential items necessary to thrive in the harsh environment of this present darkness.

Over the next few weeks we are going to go over the SIX essential elements necessary for thriving in this world...



Pic 2 - Grace Alone



We are going to continue our series, "ALONE!" with the second of these essential items...

→ Grace Alone! ←

ONE THING

Mercy – God's goodness <u>NOT GIVING</u> us what we *DESERVE!*

Grace – God's goodness <u>GIVING</u> us what we <u>DO</u> NOT DESERVE!

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) — For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

At its core, the Reformation was a "back to the Bible" movement.

1. The <u>AMAZEMENT</u> of Grace

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) — For by grace you have been saved... And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) — And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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— 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.

> Until we <u>UNDERSTAND</u> our <u>PLACE</u>, we will never COMPREHEND God's GRACE! • And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...

You were not sick and need doctor Jesus to make you better!

You were dead and need the Resurrected Jesus to make you alive!

• ... 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...

1 John 5:19b (ESV) — ... the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

He even goes on to tell us what this looks like...

 ... we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind ...

So, what does the passage tell us are the results of this course of living?

• ... were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:4–5 (ESV) — But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

1. The AMAZEMENT of Grace

2. The <u>ACTIVATION</u> of Grace

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV) — For by grace you have been saved through faith...

> <u>SAVING</u> faith is <u>TRUSTING</u> fully in the <u>FINISHED</u> work of Jesus apart from any SELF-EFFORT.

Religion is man's self-effort to re-establish relations with God...

Romans 10:9 (ESV) — If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

We will look more at this next week ...

- 1. The AMAZEMENT of Grace
- 2. The ACTIVATION of Grace

3. The APPLICATION of Grace

Ephesians 2:9–10 (ESV) — ... not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Grace is received <u>APART</u> from <u>WORKS</u>, but the grace that SAVES you WORKS!

You need to notice the way in which our works are applied...

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) — For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

→ Pic - Using Grace

| Using Grace | Liberation | Grace of God Resulting in Grace Works |
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James 2:18–20 (ESV) — But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

James begins this section on the part works play in faith and grace by asking a question...

James 2:14 (ESV) — What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

→ Pic - Misusing Grace

| Using Grace | Liberation | Grace of God Resulting in Grace Works |
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| Misusing Grace | Legalism | Grace of God Plus Good Works |
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→ Pic - Abusing Grace

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→ Pic - Confusing Grace

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James 2:26 (ESV) — For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

ALONE! Grace Alone! Ephesians 2:8-10

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