

Ephesians 2:1-10 – 28 August 2022

“Why Does God Save People?”

Introduction

*There’s noticeable absence of addressing contentious people & contentious issues

*Theme of Book: What is it to be right with God

*Ephesians Outlined

*Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**

*Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**

*Our Position = It not like we’ve just taken a new job, but that we’ve taken on a new identity

*Chap 1, we saw we are chosen to receive a great inheritance & be empowered for this life & the next

*But why? Why did God put us into this great position?

*I love it when God gives some of the ‘why’ answers?

***Today, we’ll see 3 reasons God has chosen to save those who put their trust in Him**

1st reason God saved us is b/c He loves us (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Satan is called the god of this world
 - a. God gave -> Adam forfeited -> to Satan
2. Our previous position was dead b/c of our 3 enemies “you”, “course of this world”, & “the prince of the power of the air”
3. 3 enemies seen at the Fall of Man (Read Gen 3:6)
4. 3 enemies seen at the temptation of Christ
 - a. Jesus beat temptation by telling Satan the key to winning is worship of God (Luk 4:8)

Read Vs 3

1. Our old nature is epitomized by...
 - a. *First*, doing whatever our body & mind wants (Read I John 2:16, Book of Judges)
 - b. *Second*, being under the wrath of God
 - i. Law proves us to be under wrath (Rom 4:15)
 - ii. Tribulation is the wrath of Lamb (Rev 6:16)
 - iii. Therefore, mortify ourself (Read Col 3:5-6)

Read Vs 4

1. “But God” changes everything!
 - a. Overflowing mercy (what if he sins 7 times?)
 - b. Overflowing love (Turn to John 3:16-19)

Read Vs 5

1. “We were dead” – earthly analogy of Abraham being dead, not able to give seed from Rom 4:17
2. “He hath quickened us together w/ Christ”
 - a. Read Rom 8:10-11: spirit now, body later
 - b. Read I Cor 15:21-23: Christ’s life imputed
3. “By grace ye are saved” – bringing us from death to life IS the grace or gift that saves us
4. The wrath (from vs 3) on us is now gone!
 - a. Read Jhn 3:36: Gain the Son to shed wrath
 - b. God’s not given believers to wrath, but to be salvation & to live with Him (I Thes 5:9-10)

Read Vs 6

1. We are now partakers of all the blessings of this new position (Eph 1:3)
2. We will bear image of the heavenly (I Cor 15:49)

2nd reason God saved us is to show His greatness (Vs 7-9)

Read Vs 7

1. This is the great “why”!
 - a. Why would he save us, redeem us, bring us into His presence? To show us **His greatness**
 - b. Eternity isn’t a meaningless experience
2. It’s unimaginable the great things God has planned for us (Read I Cor 2:9-10)
 - a. See, we love God b/c He first loved us
 - b. In human relationship we often get into the opposite contention
 - i. We heap on selfishness, & it comes back
 - ii. W/ God, He heaps on grace b/c of His love for us, & it compels us to give love back at Him
 - c. Paul said, “the love of Christ constrains me”

Read 8

1. The substance, meat, heart of the effectiveness here is God's gift/grace, God's work of the cross!
 - a. Read II Cor 5:21 – His work exchanges my sin for His righteousness
 - b. Not within us to do, but it's given as a gift
 - i. Turn to Rom 5:12-19
2. God's grace is actuated or becomes effective when we believe that it's true & valuable
 - a. Read Rom 3:24-26 – We believe He is righteous, there's no reason for death to hold Him
 - b. Our faith is proven to be real saving faith as we live a life of repentance

Read Vs 9

1. We don't work for Christ *to earn* His favor; we work for Christ *b/c we have* His favor!
2. If attaining eternal life was from our efforts it would violate the very center of God's plan, which is to glorify Himself (deservedly so)

3rd reason God saved us is to work thru us (Vs 10)

Read Vs 10

1. God wants to work all thru our lives to bring Himself glory, not just for the act of salvation
2. We're on a journey in this life of building our faith in who He is
 - a. We have faith that He saved us, now have faith to walk w/ Him daily trusting His good path
 - b. Exp: God taught Elijah faith at brook Cherith
 - i. He would use this faith later in life with the widow & the whole nation
3. "We are God's workmanship" – *poema* – we are the place, the product, the fabric on which He does His work
 - a. Thru His H.S. within us, He wants to use us to bring others to the knowledge of Christ & get Himself glory

4. “Unto good works” – Oh there are rewards in heaven for our efforts on earth to honor God (see I Cor 3:14, II Cor 5:10)
 - a. We can’t attain eternal life by our works, but it’s our joy to serve Jesus
 - i. Read I Thes 2:19-20
 - b. We’ll talk all about ‘how do we live now’ in the 2nd half of Ephesians

Conclusion

So why would the all-powerful God of the Universe take the effort to stoop down to this lowly place & rescue us?

1. **B/c He loves us**

- a. God wants the best for you – this is love
- b. God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

2. **To show His greatness**

- a. If we can't find time to talk about the glory of God in this life, why would we want to go to eternal life w/ Him?
- b. He deserves to be center-focus of our lives

3. **To work thru us**

- a. We get the glorious task of spreading the good news of Christ's love for us to others
- b. We serve Him w/ time & effort b/c He is wonderful & He does wonderful things for us