

Class Workshop Questions: Ephesians 2:8-10

Part 1: The Literary Context (The "Why Here?")

1. What big ideas did Paul teach in the first half of his letter to the Ephesians (chapters 1-3)?

2. Read the verses that come just before our passage (Ephesians 2:1-3). What was our spiritual condition *before* God stepped in?

3. Look closely at verse 9 ("not of works") and verse 10 ("for good works"). How do these two verses work together? Are they a contradiction?

Part 2: The Lexical Analysis (The "What's in a Word?")

4. In verse 8, find the word "**grace**." Write and define the Greek word for "grace". What is its Strong's number? What extra depth or meaning does the original word give us beyond the English meaning?

5. Now look at the word "**saved**" in verse 8. Write and define the Greek word for "saved", including the Strong's number. What is the tense and voice of this word in Greek? What does that tell us about the act of salvation?

6. In verse 10, find the word "**workmanship**." Write and define the Greek word. Listen to the pronunciation. What English word does this sound like, and how does that change the way you see yourself as God's creation?

Part 3: The Historical Context (The "So What?")

7. Who was Paul writing this letter to? What was the city of **Ephesus** famous for in the ancient world?

8. Based on the culture of Ephesus, what would the average person have believed about how to please a god or goddess?

9. Knowing that, why would Paul's message that salvation is a free gift and "**not of works**" have been so shocking and revolutionary to the people in that city?
