



Route 66 Ephesians

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August 16, 2023

Have you ever done one of those personality tests? Self-evaluation?

- Sometimes it hurts to reflect because the Truth Hurts.
- What if we just came to understand that we are all in process?
- We need to be careful that our current state does not become our reality?
- Because God wants to shape us in the image of Him.

Paul's going to kind of throw some self-evaluation towards the Ephesians and us as we walk into chapter 2.

Ephesians 2:1-2

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions (fell or deviated from the truth) and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”

How is Paul doing so far?

He isn't going to win any awards for flattery in these few verses.

Do you believe you fit in to this category?

Do you relate to what Paul is saying?

How does it make you feel?

Just in case you are a little doubtful... Paul says...

Ephesians 2:3

“All of us also lived among them at one time, (We all were) gratifying the cravings of our flesh and (We all Were) following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”

Wow! Have you ever really stopped to think of the wrath we deserve because of our sin?

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 5:6-10

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

Listen to how Paul continues this thought in Ephesians...

Ephesians 2:4-10

*“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—** not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Some of us are still hanging out in the gutter believing that we are deserving of wrath and that we can’t please God.

But without Faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:16).

So, you need to trust that what he has done is enough!

Do you know today that you are redeemed and that you are saved by grace, through faith?

It is not something you can attain on your own.

It is not because of works rather it is a FREE GIFT!

But that is NOT the end of the story....

God also has prepared good works for you to be a part of. Heavenly things that will make an impact on the kingdom.

Will you get out of the gutter, receive his blessings, & serve Him?

