

January 27/28, 2001

The Truth About Our Life in Christ
A Study in the Book of Ephesians
You Are a Masterpiece
Ephesians 2:1-10

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever had someone take credit for something you did? Tell what happened and how it made you feel. Have you ever taken credit for something someone else did? Why?
2. List what you consider to be the values that define our culture.

What do these values look like lived out in people's daily lives?

3. Discuss your life before and after Christ. What were you then, and what are you today?

Bible Study

1. Read Ephesians 1 through to remain familiar with what we've studied so far.
2. Paul states in Eph. 2:1 that we were "dead" in sin. What does that mean? What is a corpse capable of? What can a corpse do for himself?
3. Paul states that the things which motivated our life when we were "dead" were: the world, the demonic, and the lusts of our flesh. How does this compare with 1 John 2:15-17?
4. How do Paul's and John's words help us better understand why people around us live the way they live? How do these truths affect how we respond to the corpses around us?
5. What does it mean to be "children of wrath?" Before Christ, how bad off were we? Are there any exceptions to this description in Eph. 2:1-3? What about that nice neighbor or that caring friend?
6. Go back and review Christ's exalted position from chapter 1:20,21. What does it mean that we are raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenlies? If we could dial into the spiritual realm, what would we see concerning ourselves in Christ?
7. In 2:7 Paul identifies the reason for our salvation. What is that reason? How does that fit with 1:6?

How could God have demonstrated His grace and mercy if sin had not entered the picture?

8. Read slowly 2:8,9. What is the main emphasis of those verses and how does that emphasis line up with verse 7?

9. A “workmanship” is the Greek word from which we get our word “poem.” It meant something, like a work of art, that is made. A Masterpiece. When we fail to realize how dead we were, we fail to realize how amazing grace is. When this happens we take credit for what God has done. How does that spoil His purpose for our salvation as stated in verse 7?

Application

1. In verse 10 we are called God’s masterpiece, created for good works. Given the truth of this passage, what are some good works that would celebrate God’s grace before others? List 3 very specific things you could do to display this masterpiece of grace God has painted.

2. How does this passage affect your view of others and your view of yourself?

3. Write a prayer to God, responding to what we’ve learned about our salvation from Ephesians 2:1-10. Share that prayer with the group. Then read that prayer to God once a day for the next week.