

# RICH *in* GRACE

## *Sermon Series in Ephesians*

**Preparing for Small Group:** Read the passage below, and answer the following questions.

- (1) What do these verses tell me about God?
  - (2) What do these verses tell me about sinful humanity?
  - (3) What do these verses tell me about Jesus?
  - (4) What does God want me to know?
  - (5) What does God want me to do?
- 

### **“Marvelous Grace”** *Ephesians 2:1-10*

**Main Point:** In God’s grace, salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone.

*Realities about the saving grace of God:*

#### **Without God’s grace, everyone is dead (1-3).**

Paul reminded the believers in Ephesus about the reality of who they were before Jesus. That’s something that every believer needs to be reminded of from time-to-time, and the reality is that before Jesus, the believers in Ephesus were dead. They followed Satan’s sinful course in this world. They pursued the passions of their flesh. They were children of wrath rather than children of God. Between Satan and sinful flesh, no-one stands a chance. All people on this earth either were or are children of wrath. Either this is who you used to be, or this is who you still are. Remembering this reality is essential for the believer, and this reality should grow gratitude to God and urgency in the gospel work of God in the life of every believer.

1. Take time to highlight and to discuss each thing that these verses tell you about who you were apart from Jesus. Looking back, how did you see these realities in your life before you were saved?
2. What do these verses tell you about the reality of the lives of those who do not follow Jesus? Do you think about this reality on a daily basis? What can you do to make this more of a focus in the way you think about the lost around you each and every day? How should this reality change the way you interact with and focus on relationship with those who don’t follow Jesus?
3. Who is someone you can share the gospel with this week? Commit to try to have a gospel conversation with them, and take time right now in your group to pray for them.

#### **With God’s grace, believers are alive (4-7).**

When the believers in Ephesus were dead in their sin, God looked at them in love and showed them mercy when they didn’t deserve it. Through faith, God joined their lives with Christ’s life, making them alive. He not only raised them from the dead but also gave them an eternal inheritance. He moved them from children of wrath to become children of God, and He did all of this to display His grace to the world. What a powerful picture of God’s powerful, sovereign work in salvation. God still does this wonderful work of regeneration in the lives of

those who will believe, and this wonderful work of God's grace is what those who are still dead in their trespasses and sins desperately need in their lives!

1. From these verses, who is responsible for salvation in the life of a believer? From these verses, highlight and discuss what God does in the lives of those who believe.
2. From these verses, what is God's motivation for saving sinners? How could you share these truths with the individuals you just prayed for in your group?
3. How do these verses impact your gratefulness to God for your salvation? How do these verses impact your understanding of the security of your salvation? How should these verses impact your theology of evangelism and your confidence in the work of the gospel?

### **God's grace is a gift that's given and not earned (8-9).**

Paul emphasized the fact that life in Christ isn't something that the Ephesian believers did or could do by their own power. God's grace that raised them to life in Jesus was a gift that was given to them. This truth was critical for a proper understanding of salvation and for a proper response to salvation. In other words, understanding the grace of God in salvation is essential to protecting against a self-righteous, entitled view of salvation. It's essential to guarding against a shaky, unsure view of the security of salvation. It's essential to developing a grateful, worshipful heart because of salvation. Because believers don't earn grace, only God gets the glory for His grace in their lives. There's no room for boasting in the life of a believer because their salvation and their righteousness in life is only by the grace of God through Christ.

1. Read verse 8. Discuss the meaning of this verse. What does this verse clearly and concisely teach about salvation. Why is this important?
2. Read verse 9. Discuss the meaning of this verse in connection to verse 8. What does this verse clearly and concisely teach about salvation. Why is this important?
3. Is salvation only for eternal life, or does God's salvation have implications in the lives of believers here-and-now on earth? What's the role of grace in life here on earth?
4. What are some ways that we may boast? How can we guard against boasting? Where should all of the credit and recognition go? Why?

### **God's grace changes you to do what He created you to do (10).**

Paul reinforced the reality that God's grace wasn't just for salvation. God's grace was also for redeemed living! The believers in Ephesus were God's workmanship. They were being handcrafted by God! Today, nothing has changed. God has plans and purposes for His people, and the life in Jesus that He gives you through faith makes it possible for you to live the life He has given you to live for Christ. God wants your life to display His work not only through your life but also in your life.

1. If believers are God's workmanship, discuss the implications of that truth in the importance of the work of discipling, the value of the life of every believer, etc.
2. Who are believers created *in*? Discuss the significance of this for your identity.
3. What are believers created *for*? Discuss the significance of this for your purpose.
4. What does it mean that God "prepared beforehand" good works for believers to walk in? Discuss the significance of this for motivation and hope in your life.
5. In a practical way, how does this verse give you direction for the week to come? Discuss and then encourage and pray for one another to walk in the way that God's prepared for you in the coming week.