

GLEANINGS FROM EPHESIANS...PART 9

From George Wood

Ephesians 2:7-10

In our last lesson we looked at the most powerful promise in Scripture..."BUT GOD". It was God who came to our rescue out of "His great love". It was God's "grace" that saved us from our trespasses and sins. It was God's grace that brought us from death to life.

But why? In verse 7 Paul describes God's purpose in redeeming us, in raising us, in seating us in the heavenly places. (v6). He begins the verse with the words: "So that...He might show". In other words, He desires to showcase something. What is it? "THE SURPASSING RICHES OF HIS GRACE." And how does He purpose to do that? "BY HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US."

Do you see that? We are the SHOWCASE of God's grace...for all to see both in heaven and earth. God is putting us on display. Each one of us is a vivid demonstration of God's immeasurable grace!

Such a thought makes me wonder: Do the angels of heaven know anything of God's grace? Have they ever seen it manifest? Perhaps grace is a part of God rarely before seen in the spiritual world...the unmerited favor of God bestowed on helpless sinners. So God uses US to demonstrate something about Himself that may have been hidden from the rest of creation...His matchless grace. Something to think about!

Also note the phrase "in the ages to come". What does that mean? It appears to suggest that there will be different "ages" of eternity. The "age" we are now in will someday cease and a new age will come. But that won't be the last! The word "age" is in the plural, ie. more than one. Think of it. The future will have things we've never dreamed of. And why not? God is a creative God and the possibilities of future ages are endless!

In verses 8-9, Paul again emphasizes how our salvation is ALL GOD and we have nothing to boast about. Our works are meaningless when it comes to salvation.

But our works do play a role in our Christian lives. In fact, we were created in Christ "for good works". (v10). I love the fact that we are "His workmanship". The word workmanship comes from the word "poem". We are God's POEM...HIS MASTERPIECE, which is displayed in the works we do. We are to be His masterpiece of kindness, love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and gentleness. And the list goes on. As His masterpiece, our works should always reflect the character of God.

So rejoice! We are so privileged to be His SHOWCASE AND HIS MASTERFUL POEM FOR ALL OF CREATION TO SEE....BELOVED CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH!

See you next time. Rest in Him.