

Episode #2-44 – Ephesians 2 Part 2 - Grace That Raises Us

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. In Ephesians 2, Paul acknowledges that we in Christ are dead to sins, but points out that in spite of this, we sadly are sometimes caught up in the sinful flow of this world and act as Satan would desire us to act, behaving no differently than the children of wrath around us!

III. Ephesians 2:4-7. The critical phrase, "But God."

A. Verse 4. God steps in, and it affects everything. These are possibly the most important words in all Scripture, for without God stepping in to help us, we would be lost! He does this because He is rich in mercy and has great love for us who are in Christ.

B. Verse 5. He makes us dead to the offenses we commit, and makes us alive together in Christ. We are saved from our own wicked actions, and it is all through His grace!

C. Verse 6. He not only makes us dead to our offenses and alive in Christ, but He also raises us with Christ, and seats us with Him in the heavenly seats, even among the most elevated positions offered in Christ! All this even while we are acting sinfully and letting Him down. This is how much He loves us, and how great His grace is.

D. Verse 7. His great purpose in all this.

1. To accomplish something in the eons to come. This is *aion*, the same word as in verse 2.

2. At that time, He will display the transcendent wealth of His grace. The record of how gracious He really is will never be lost!

3. He will demonstrate it through His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. We will be the living object lessons of His grace! Compare Ephesians 3:10.

IV. Ephesians 2:8-10. The grace that saves us.

A. Verse 8. It is in grace through faith that He saves us.

1. Notice that it is not the faith that saves us, but the grace. Faith is just the conduit through which the grace flows. It is grace that delivers, preserves, and blesses us.

2. This salvation is a gift of God, and is not out of us or anything we do.

B. Verse 9. This salvation is not of works. Those who work for their salvation might boast in how well they work. But boasting is excluded for those who are "in Christ!"

C. Verse 10. We are His achievement in Christ, created "in Christ" for good works.

1. We are not saved by good works, but for them. God wants us to do good works once we are saved, but not to seek to be saved by them.

2. The good works we are to do are not just any good works, but those God has prepared beforehand for us to walk in. The "good works" He wants have to do with the "worthy walk" He wants us to walk. See Ephesians 4-6.

V. Conclusion: The amazing truth is that we who in Christ are dead to sin, even while we are walking in sin, God raises us up to the highest seats in Christ. This is all through His grace. How unbelievable it is! It is the grace that saves us, through faith. Yet this does not mean we are not to do good works, for God has created us "in Him" to do them. What marvelous grace God has towards us! Let us all seek in gratitude to work the works that will please Him.