

More Than Just Saved By Grace

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Ephesians 1:15 - 2:10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:8-10, ESV)

Introduction

Last week we focused on just how blessed we are in Christ, and in this week's passage from Ephesians the revelation of that blessing continues. One of the greatest truths of the New Testament, the one that rocked the Roman Empire in the First Century, and rocked Europe almost 301 years (10/31/1517) when Martin Luther posted his famous 95 theses on the door of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg, is found here in Ephesians 2:8-9. It is truly wonderful that we can be saved apart from our feeble words and works! But we are much more than just saved by grace, we have become the handiwork, the masterpiece of God, "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

1. An apostle's prayer for the saints. (Ephesians 1:15-23)

a) For what reason? *Our hope in Christ and the guarantee of the Holy Spirit.*

b) A prayer for revelation of the hope, riches and power of God at work in you and me.

2. From enemies of God to children, servants and friends of God. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

a) The greatness of God's power, love and faithfulness as seen from our beginning point.

b) We have been redeemed and raised from spiritual darkness, deceit, despair and death.

3. The riches of God's mercy to us, His glory in and through us. (Ephesians 2:4-10)

a) The riches of God toward you and I begins with the riches of His mercy.

b) We are saved by grace through faith, not by our works, to become God's handiwork.

Conclusion

There's no doubt that we have received a wonderful salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. But we were not just saved to be saved; we were saved, given a commission to fulfill and the Holy Spirit to empower and guarantee acceptance and entrance into the hope and glory of God. The goal of our faith is not merely to escape judgment and this broken world, but we are saved that we might have a share in Christ's victory over the world. We are so much more than just saved by grace.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

1. Read Ephesians 2:15-23. Discuss this prayer with one another and then pray for each other.
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-7. Where was the start and where is the finish for those who are in Christ?
3. Read, talk and pray about Ephesians 2:8-10. What is the Word and Spirit of God saying to you?

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