

The journey of God's Grace

Ephesians 2.1-10

Key Points:

- This passage is one of the great collections of God's Truth in the Bible. In the original greek it was one long sentence, and may have been used to read out as an act of worship and encouragement.
- It tracks the journey of God's grace for each and every believer, from (spiritual) death and enslavement to sin and passions, through God's saving love, to our elevation with Christ at God's right hand and all of the fruits of our union with Jesus and our identity as new creations. The tenses are key here - some of these truths have already happened in the past (even if it still feels like a present struggle) and some are about our present reality.
- Underlying all of this is the truth in v.5 - *It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!* This is all about God's grace in our lives, and the journey that this passage tracks out is one that we're all on because of this amazing grace. But what transpires is that sometimes we find ourselves interrupting this journey because we get stuck believing lies about ourselves or God. What we believe affects how we live, and recognising and believing where God has already taken us from, and where He's taking us to is really key to acting like who we already are.

Questions:

1. What do you understand the term 'Grace' to mean? Can we really ever hope to fully understand God's Grace?
2. In v.2 Paul says that 'you used to live in sin' & In Eph 1.1 he writes to the saints (holy ones) in Ephesus. Are you a sinner or a saint? How might what you believe about yourself influence the way you live?
3. What are your '*passionate desires & inclinations*' (v.3)? Some of these will be good (God designed) and some of these will be part of our old selves, our sinful nature. For the latter category, are you ruled by any of them? Should you be?
4. Why is obeying God (v.2) so important?
5. What are the grace-filled truths about us that are in the past tense in v.4-10? Why is it significant that these are in the past tense?
6. V.6 says that we are seated with Jesus in the heavenly realms, far above all powers, rulers & authorities because we are united with Christ. That means we share in God's authority & power (which we looked at last week) over sin & the enemy. What might this mean for our struggles and battles?
7. What might being '*examples of the incredible wealth of [God's] grace and kindness toward us*' (v.7 - I.e. Adverts of God's grace) look like for you tomorrow?
8. '*We are God's Masterpiece*' (v.10). Every single one of us is a Masterpiece! Why don't you encourage & bless the person to your left by reminding them of some of the awesome ways in which God has created them?

THE JOURNEY OF

God's Grace

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

v.10
We are new creations in
Jesus, so we can do the
good things He created us
to do

We are adverts
of God's grace
v.7

v.6
We are united with Christ

God raised us
& seats us
with Christ
v.6

v.2
You used
to live
in sin

God gave
us life and
saved us
v.5

God
loved
us
v.4

You used
to follow
passions
& desires
v.3

You were
dead
v.1