

Ephesians 2A Review, Chapter 2:1-10

CHAPTER 2:1-10

Begin by reading these verses.

1. As the Apostle Paul often does, he starts with the negative and then follows with the positive. Look at what he says we were.
2. As Christians, we are to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world. Someone illustrated it this way:
a boat is made to be in the water, but if the water gets in the boat, that's trouble!
Read what the Apostle John wrote about the "world" in 1 John 2:15-17.
3. Remember what C.S. Lewis said, There are two mistakes Christians can make about the devil: at the one extreme, being obsessed with him, at the other denying his existence.
4. The greatest sign of our love for Jesus is obedience. Read what He said in John 14:23-24.
5. Paul begins verse 4, "But God...." In spite of what we were, God showed us His grace. All of this is because of God's innate characteristics: rich in mercy and exhibitor of great love.
6. When did God show us this great love and mercy? Paul answers that in Romans 5:8.... read it, and it would be good to memorize it, too!
7. What did God do for us? He made us _____, together with Christ. In the Acts of the Apostles to the end of the New Testament, the resurrection of Jesus is central to the proclamation of the Good News. That's why Paul focused on this in 1Corinthians 15. (If you're not familiar with this chapter, take a few minutes to read it.)
8. Paul says that we will "share" in Christ's resurrection. What does he indicate that means? Another place where Paul talks about this is 2 Timothy 2:11-12a.
9. Now we come to verses 8 - 10, three verses that all Christians should know, memorize and internalize. Remember, we are not saved by faith, which would be our work ("How much faith do you need?"), but by God's grace... a free gift because of God's love, that we receive through faith.
10. Do you remember the acrostic for grace? It is God's Riches At Christ's Expense.
What does God's grace mean to you?

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11. Ephesians 2:8-9 is central to how a person becomes a Christian, and to the simple focus of the Gospel. From the early 15th century to early 20th century, this was summarized in what has become known as the “Five Solas”.

(1) Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone

The Scriptures alone are the final and highest authority. This is our starting point. (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

(2) Sola Christus – Christ alone

Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation (John 14:6), the only mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) and the only human revelation of God.

(3) Sola Gratia – Grace alone

We are saved by the unmerited grace of God given to us. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

(4) Sola Fide – Faith alone

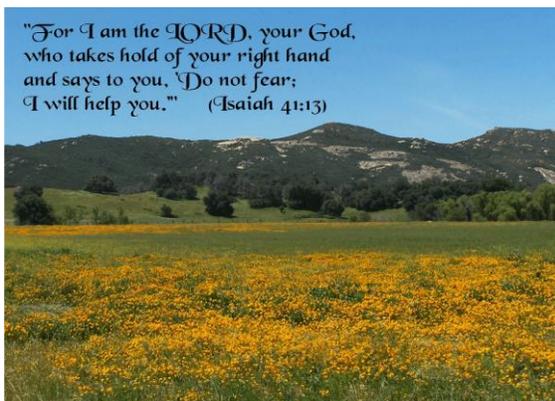
We are saved from our sins by grace through faith alone in Christ alone and not by faith plus anything we do. When we have faith in the work of Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, we are justified (Romans 5:1).

(5) Soli Deo Gloria – (All of this is) to the Glory of God alone.

God alone is the one who is to receive all the glory for our salvation, and for everything we do as a result of it. We are to live for God and glorify God always (Isaiah 43:7)

12. But Paul doesn't leave out the importance of good works – he just puts them in proper perspective in v. 10. (And this is how you reconcile Paul and James.) Good works are the result, not the cause of salvation. That is why we are never to boast about our good works. God's Spirit, working through a transformed heart, produces a good life. That transformed life is evidenced in the Fruit of the Spirit. (Read Galatians 5:22-23.)

Verse of the week:



(Poppy field near Descanso)