

Outline of Ephesians 1-3

- I. God's eternal purpose in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)
 - A. Spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
 - B. Paul's prayer for them in Christ (1:15-23)
 - 1. Have the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:15-19)
 - 2. Understand the exalted position of Christ (1:20-21)
 - 3. Know the authority of Christ over the church (1:22-23)
 - C. God's plan for our salvation (2:1-10)
 - D. The difference Christ makes (2:11-22)
 - 1. God's family is different (2:11-12)
 - 2. God's law is different (2:14-15)
 - 3. God's foundation is different (2:20)
 - 4. God's temple is different (2:21-22)
 - E. The church is according to God's eternal purpose (3:1-21)

Ephesians 2:1-10: God's Plan for Man's Salvation – By Grace through Faith

- Vs.1-3: Our former walk in sin
 - Condition: spiritually dead
- Vs. 4-7: The exceeding riches of God's grace
- Vs. 8-10: Salvation is by grace through faith

Our former condition: Spiritually dead because of sin (vs.1-3)

- Dead in trespasses and sins
- Waking according to
 - The way of this world
 - The way of Satan
 - The lusts of our flesh and of our mind
- Living this way, they are children of wrath

But...the exceeding riches of God's grace (vs.4-7)

- God's love is behind His grace
 - God has made us alive together with Christ
 - God has raised us up together with Christ
 - God has made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
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- And...the riches of His grace extend into future generations

This salvation is by grace through faith (vs.8-10)

- God's part: Grace
- Man's part: Faith
- Salvation not of ourselves, but a gift of God
- Salvation not of works
 - Not of our own righteousness
 - Cannot exclude obedience; else, Paul's own plain practice & teaching violated.
 - What's Paul's point?
 - In keeping with the point in chapter 1 that God chose and predestined that all spiritual blessings would be in Christ, salvation is from God according to the riches of His grace through Jesus Christ
- Salvation is unto good works which were ordained ahead of time
 - Titus 2:11-14
 - Romans 6:17-18

Compare Ephesians 2:5-9 to Colossians 2:11-13

- “...even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses...”
- “By grace you have been saved through faith”
 - (By grace you have been saved) – even when we were dead in trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ and raised us up
 - When were they raised with Christ?
 - When they were raised in baptism
 - What happened when they were made alive together with Him?
 - They were forgiven of all trespasses
 - Through faith – through faith in the working of God
 - “Not of works, lest anyone should boast”

The Bible speaks of different works

Let us be sure we are performing the right works!

- Works of the Law of Moses
 - Galatians 2:16
- Works of man's righteousness
 - Titus 3:5
- Works of a boastful nature
 - Romans 3:27
- Works of iniquity
 - Matthew 7:21-23
- Works of God's righteousness
 - Acts 10:34-35
- Works of faith
 - James 2:14-24
- Works of good design
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Some Errors Taught By Misusing Ephesians 2:8-10

- Saved by grace alone
- Faith a gift
- Saved by faith without obedience
- Works not a part of salvation

Take Aways

- Every man is in need of salvation because of his own sin
- Sin brings death – separation from God
- Salvation is such that no man should glory in himself
- We are saved to walk in works