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Amazing Grace

Ephesians 2:1–10

Purpose: To see how God has brought us from death to life by the riches of his grace.

One of the best-known verses in the book of Ephesians is 2:8, “By grace you have been saved, through faith.” *Grace* has often been defined by the acrostic, God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In this study we'll consider some of the riches we have been given in Christ.

1. How might your life be different if God ceased to be gracious?

2. Read Ephesians 2:1–10. In verse 1 Paul says, “You were dead in your transgressions and sins.” How does sin kill?

3. In verses 2–3 Paul mentions three negative influences on our lives which were later put into the formula of “the world, the flesh and the devil.” According to Paul, how did each of these affect our lives as non-Christians?

4. How have you seen these influences at work?

5. According to verses 4–7, what motivated God to save us?

Why are these motives so remarkable when you consider our condition as non-Christians?

6. What parallels do you see between 2:4–6 and 1:19–20?

7. What does Paul mean when he says we have been “made alive,” “raised” and “seated” with Christ (vv. 5–6)?

How does our union with Christ relate to the fulfillment of God purpose stated in 2:7 and 1:9–10?

8. What do we learn about God's grace from 2:4–10?

9. When Paul says that our salvation is not from ourselves (vv. 8–9), is he saying that we play no role in our salvation? Explain.

10. Does verse 10 contradict verses 8–9? Explain.

11. What good works has God prepared for you to do?

12. What has hindered you from doing these?