

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

LESSON 11

God's Gift, God's Work

1. Ephesians 2:6-7 – What We Receive Through Christ

- a. Chapter 2 = how we received the positional blessings in Christ of chapter 1.
- b. God hath quickened us (past), God made us sit (now), God will shew (future)
- c. *"ages to come"* – here not Israel's earthly kingdom, but you in Christ – Eph 1:6,12,14
- d. *"riches of his grace"* - God wants to give us all things through Christ – Rom 8:32

2. Ephesians 2:8 – God's Gift

- a. A most wonderful passage describing how salvation is possible ... for everyone
- b. Only now could be revealed, because now we are without Israel not under law
- c. Salvation is undeserved 2:8, and unearned 2:9 – which is why 'grace' is a gift.
- d. "By" = means/agency which is grace; "through" = access/channel which is by faith
 - i. By grace, not entitlement as Israel nor because you're special – Ro 3:10-12
- e. *"not of yourselves"* – who you are, do you think you deserve it?
- f. *"gift of God"* – See Rom 1:16; 3:22-25; 5:15,16,17,18, 6:23, 8:32, 2 Cor 9:15
 - i. The gift of God is salvation, eternal life, justification through faith in Christ.
- g. Salvation as a gift insults all religious minds. It requires trust God is right. Ro 3:26
 - i. You need something from God – you cannot do it on your own.

3. Ephesians 2:9 – Not of Works

- a. Grace requires the cross for God to be just – Work is still done, but not yours.
- b. Through faith - not sacraments, covenants, Israel, law, tithing, works, etc
- c. *"lest any man should boast"* – the 1 Cor 1:31, Jer 9:23-24; Rom 3:27, 4:2-5
 - i. You can't boast in yourself or your works – but only in Christ – Gal 6:14
 - ii. Where does faith come from? Rom 10:17 – the word of God.
- d. Salvation does not come by works nor through doubt/distrust – Ro 10:17, Eph 1:13
 - i. If you think you earned or deserved it, or doubt it you are not saved.
 - ii. Your surety comes by virtue of grace and faith in Christ – Rom 4:16
 - iii. Faith has an object – the content of faith is what changed – Ro 1:17

4. Ephesians 2:10 – The Good Work of God

- a. A lot of mention of works in this passage, but none of them are yours.
- b. *"his workmanship"* – A new creature, 2 Cor 5:17, Gal 6:15, Titus 2:14
- c. *"created in Christ Jesus"* – not Jer 1:5, but the new man - Eph 4:24, Col 3:10
- d. *"unto good works"* – we are not licentious, antinomian nor libertine -1Co 6:12,10:23
- e. *"we should walk"* – there are many things we should do – there is an effort
- f. There is no requirement to become a saint, but there is a responsibility in being one
- g. You are now in Christ, and what you do is done in him. You should walk – 2 Cor 5:14