

Value 1: We are a worshipping community

- We seek to extol the highest view of God and to live all of life out of a grateful response to His love and grace in our lives.
- We value authentic worship, and we resist the temptation to earn God's favor through our accomplishments or even our religious behavior, affirming that God rescued us while we were sinners.

Summary points:

1. God is so great! So big, strong, gracious, kind, loving (Ephesians 2)
2. Worship him: give your whole being over to him in gratitude for who he is and what he's done (Romans 12)

I. Ephesians 2:1-10

Two main sections: first (vv. 1-3) begins "and you," second (v. 4-10) "but God"

A. Verses 1-3

Paul describes this condition before God in three ways.

1. Dead: v. 1: "you were dead (dead in trespasses and sins)"

Dead spiritually: unresponsive to God's love, blind to the truth of the gospel
Like a corpse: stuck, powerless, nothing inside you to make yourself alive.

2. Enslaved (vv. 2-3)

In bondage to three forces:

1. v. 2 following the "age" of this world
 - = society organized without reference to God
 - = a system, network, culture with a set of values that are hostile to God

2. Satan

v. 2: following the prince of the power of the air
the prince of the "spirit": that is, the ethos of the culture

3. The passions of the flesh (v. 3)

Our own sinful nature/desires.

Flesh: not just physical; but psychological, emotional, spiritual

Example: addiction

3. Condemned (end of v. 3)

By nature "children of wrath" = left to ourselves we were people deserving/destined of God's wrath

Example: going backwards on the freeway, headed for a crash

Good description of every human being before God saves them

B. Verses 4-10

“But God”

1. What has God done?

In a word, “saved” us

“Jesus” = “the Lord saves,” “Yahweh to the rescue”

Verses 5-6:

Key: parallels with what God has done in Jesus

Ephesians 1:20-21: God’s power raised him, seated in the heavenly places

That same power is at work in you (correlation): made alive, raised up, seated

Three words showing our close connection with Christ

Made us alive together:

Raised us up together:

Seated us together:

-“we have been made alive”

Whereas we were spiritually dead: unresponsive to God, resistant to the truth

We are now spiritually alive: responsive to God, embrace him and the truth

“Raised and seated in the heavenly places with him”

Vivid language to convey a particular reality.

Christ came and in his death and resurrection something in history changed.

The age of this world, Satan, and the flesh were dealt: judged and defeated

“being raised up with and seated”= we are a part of this new age/kingdom

-Col 1:13: “God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and

transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.”

Being “raised and seated in the heavenly places”= transferred

Saved, rescued from that old order, from Satan, from the flesh

In order to pursue a life committed to God and his kingdom

Also a future aspect to this salvation.

He’s started it, but he’s going to complete it in the future—in heaven

But he refers to it in the past tense because “it’s as good as done. Guaranteed.”

Look at the change:

- 1) We were dead, been made alive;

- 2) We were enslaved, we've been raised up to the kingdom of God
- 3) We were condemned to wrath, and now we're destined for the heavenly places

2. Why has God done it?

a) What was his motivation?

- v. 4: Nothing to do with anything in us. Everything to do with something in him.
- Rich in mercy
 - Because of the great love with which he loved us:

What was his motivation? Mercy and love

b) What was his purpose/goal in doing this?

v. 7

- In order to show us the "surpassing riches of his grace"
- God has saved so that he can spend eternity unwrapping/unlocking the treasures of his grace

vv. 8-9

The heart of the passage

v. 8 "by grace": repeated from v. 5 for emphasis

Not because of who we are, but who God is

"through faith": not something we did.

Simply accepting what God has done, believing what God has done

"This"= the whole thing (by grace you've been saved through faith)

"Not of yourselves" (not your own doing):

-dead people can't make themselves alive.

"Gift of God"—not something you earned, something God freely gave

v. 9: "Not of works": not a result of your performance or morality

"So that no one can boast"

In as many ways as he can think of: you didn't do this! God did it.

(We are so suspicious of grace)

II. Therefore, Worship

Romans 12:1-2

v. 1

“in view of God’s mercies” (in view of God’s salvation--chapters 1-11)

“Present your bodies as a sacrifice”:

Bodies= yourselves. Everything you are and do in this body.

Using OT language of sacrifices.

Present your whole selves to God—that’s your sacrifice

“which is your spiritual worship”:

Spiritual: Logikos = logical, reasonable

Give your whole being over to God.

-That’s the only appropriate response

-that’s true worship

v. 2

“Don’t be conformed to this world”. Literally to this “age”

v. 2 in Ephesians: following the age of this world (system, structure, values)

-don’t let that determine how you think and act

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

-live in the light of what God has done—in the truth of his kingdom

-that is true worship.

Two Definitions of Worship

1) bowing all of who we are before all of who God is

- a 24/7 response to God in all that we do.

2) responding faithfully to God’s love and grace in our lives

Two ways to do inauthentic worship

Both involve completely forgetting what God has done (in Ephesians 2)

1. When we don’t bow all of who we are before all of who God is

-To occasionally do religious things like go to church or pray or read our Bibles, but when it comes to the real stuff of our lives (our finances, how we treat people, our jobs) to not bow those things before God

-To continue to follow the values and expectations of this age/culture

2. To not live our lives out of response to God’s grace

To try to make something of ourselves spiritually

To measure God’s approval based on our own performance.

That's legalism

Ephesians 2:10

we are "his" workmanship. Products of his work

"For good works"—yes, indeed, we will do good (righteous) works

"which he has prepared in advance that we might walk"

We don't try to conjure up good works, he's prepared them

Like a red carpet that we walk into each day

Legalism asks the question: what can I do to make God love/approve of me more?

Worship asks the question: God loves me completely, now how can I respond faithfully?

Going forward this week

How can you let yourself be captivated with who God actually is?

How can you respond in worship?