

Back from the Dead

Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction

I Our Condition Apart From Christ

- A. Dead - Isa 59:1-2; Rom 6:23
 - 1. In our transgressions =
 - 2. In our sins =
- B. Living after the pattern of:
 - 1. This world - Rom 12:1-2; Eph 4:17-19; I Jn 2:15-17
 - 2. The enemy - 1 Pet 5:8.
 - a. Ruler of the kingdom of the air - Eph 6:12
 - b. Spirit at work in the disobedient
 - 3. The flesh - Rom 3:23; Isa 53:6
 - a. Gratifying it - Rom 8:5-8; Gal 5:17-21
 - b. Following its desires and thoughts
- C. Objects of God's wrath - Rom 2:5; Eph 5:6

II God's Miraculous Intervention

- A. He reveals His motivation
 - 1. His great love for us - Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:7-10
 - 2. His rich mercy - 2 Pet 3:9
- B. He restores life to the dead
 - 1. While still sinners - Co 2:13; Rom 5:8
 - a. We are saved by grace

III Our New Position In Christ

- A. The place of our exalted position
 - 1. Raised up with Christ - Eph 1:20; Rom 8:11
 - 2. Seated with Him in the heavenly realms - Col 3:1-3
- B. The purpose of our exalted position
 - 1. To appreciate the incomparable riches of His grace
 - 2. To appreciate His kindness to us in Christ Jesus

IV The Value Of Works

- A. We are powerless to merit salvation

- 1. We are not saved by:
 - a. Self effort - Eph 2:8-9
 - b. Works of merit - 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5
- 2. We are saved by:
 - a. Grace through faith - Gal 2:16
 - b. Leading to humility and praise - 1 Cor 1:29-31
- B. We are the product of God's workmanship
 - 1. He "made us alive"
 - 2. He "raised us up"
 - 3. He "made us sit together in the heavenly places"
- C. We are created to do good works - Col 1:10; Tit 3:8
 - 1. Prepared and predestined by God - Eph 1:11

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Describe the life of a person who is dead in their sins. How can a person be "dead" and "sinning" at the same time? Share briefly how your life before Christ illustrates this.
2. There are three basic areas of ungodly influence: The devil, the world and the flesh. Give an illustration of each from your own life. How did you overcome it?
3. List the various motives people have for doing nice things for others. According to Paul, what is motivating God's offer of salvation to us. How can you apply His example in your life this week?
4. Paul emphasizes that salvation is God's work -- not the result of our good works. What role, then, do good works have in the life of the Christian (refer to James 1:18)?
5. Paul describes your life as God's "poem". What new "lines" has He been writing in your life recently?
6. What good works do you think God may be preparing in advance for you to do this week? Ask Him for wisdom and diligence in carrying out His work.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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