

SOME PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE

THE GOSPEL

Ephesians 2:1-10

The Church and the World: Are We Any Different?

Ephesians 2:1-3

- ❑ We were just like everyone else before our salvation. *Luke 18:9-14*
- ❑ We were dead with no hope. *Ephesians 2:12*
- ❑ We served Satan by pursuing our own desires. We were traitors against the one true God and chose whatever pleased us most at the time. *Romans 8:5-8*
- ❑ Our actions only indicated our deep hatred of God and His law. Our sins were only outward manifestations of our true problem—a bad heart. *Mark 7:14-23, Ezekiel 36:24-27*
- ❑ We deserve nothing but the full wrath of our holy God. Nothing at all in us made us attractive to Him.

“No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks.”

A quote by Mary Wollstonecraft quoted in *A Simple Plan* by Scott Smith

The Church Defined

Ephesians 2:4-10

God Acted...

- ❑ While we still rejected Him.
- ❑ Without us giving anything to Him.
- ❑ By sending His Son to take our sins from us.

God's Grace...

- ❑ Was not earned.
- ❑ Produced faith in our lives. Faith is given to us as part of the gift. *2 Peter 1:1*
- ❑ Was given to display God's riches of grace in us. We are His display cases. *1 Timothy 1:15-16*
- ❑ Accomplished our salvation.

What God Did To Us

- ❑ He took our sins away (or covered them). This includes those from the past, the present and even those you haven't thought of yet. *Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 103:2-12, Hebrews 10:14*
- ❑ He guaranteed our presence in His perfect Kingdom—Heaven. *Romans 8:28-30*
- ❑ He changed our desires so we do His work. This is the new heart.

Summary

Jesus Christ takes our sin and pays for it so that we can have a right standing before a holy God. When we understand our sinfulness and His sacrifice, we will treasure Jesus more than anything else in life. He is our joy and what we live for. *Philippians 1:21*

Implications and Applications

1. You and I are no better than anyone else, including unbelievers. How should we treat others?
2. I am never more acceptable to God than I am right now. To quote Matt Chandler, *“God loves me, not some future version of me”* In other words, God is not waiting to love you when you have figured this Christian life out. Why would this be important?
3. Do I live like I treasure Christ more than anything else in the world?
4. Do I live like I am already accepted and am free to follow Christ completely?