for the week beginning ***1st November***

Bible Study Group Notes

Ephesians 2.1-10

THE BIG PICTURE

In chapter 1, Paul celebrates the blessings God gives us in Christ: adoption, forgiveness and a place in his purposes. He then prays that Christians will grasp the greatness of God's power – the power he showed in raising Jesus from the dead.

Now, in chapter 2, Paul shows what that power has done for us. We were once dead in our sin, following the ways of the world and unable to rescue ourselves. But God, because of his great love and mercy, made us alive with Christ. This rescue is a gift of grace, not something earned by good works. Yet grace has a purpose: God has made his people new in Christ, ready to live the good life he has prepared for us.

INVESTIGATE

Read Ephesians 2.1-10.

1. What does Paul say about the Ephesians' former life in verses 1–2? What does "walk" suggest about their way of life?

2. In verse 2, what influences were shaping that life? What does Paul say about the power at work in those who disobey God?

3. In verse 3, Paul includes himself and his fellow Jews: "we all". What does he say was true of them too?

4. What changes at the beginning of verse 4? Look for the words that describe God and what he does in verses 4–7.

5. What does it mean that God made us alive, raised us up and seated us with Christ? What do these phrases have in common?

6. According to verses 8–9, how are we saved? What place do our own efforts have in earning that salvation?

7. Verse 10 begins with "For". How does it connect with verses 8–9? What has God made us for?

REFLECT & APPLY

Feel free to choose the questions that will be most helpful for your group, allowing time for prayer.

8. Why might it be hard to admit that we need God to rescue us, rather than simply improve us?

9. "But God" marks a dramatic change in the passage. Where do you most need to remember that the Christian life begins with God's mercy?

10. How might knowing that salvation is a gift change the way we respond when we fail—or when someone else does?

11. Verse 10 says that God has prepared good works for us to do. How can we look for these as a response to grace, rather than a way of earning God's favour?

12. How does this passage shape the way we think about people who are not yet following Jesus?

13. Where do you see signs of God bringing new life or prompting good works in our church or community?

PRAY

- Thank God for his great love and mercy, and for making us alive with Christ.
- Confess the ways we try to earn approval or rely on ourselves. Ask God to help us rest in his grace.
- Pray that we would recognise and take up the good things God has prepared for us to do, as individuals and together as his people.

NB The Church Prayer Pointers for November are available in the Hall, via the WhatsApp group, or from the Office.