

WORD SECTION SUMMARY AND Q'S 11/04/10

Read *Ephesians* Chapter 2:1-10

Summary:

1. **We were dead in our transgressions:** Paul sets the tone by giving an accurate biblical diagnosis of the world and the human condition. Society is largely void of moral authority and we were held captive by a prevailing consumer culture that many of us still fail to question as it is so entrenched in our lives. Temptation from the devil, the 'ways of this world' and our own flesh all combine to compound our fallen condition. For example...the pressure created from advertising/famous sports stars recent affairs.
2. **Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath:** There's no mincing in Paul's words, no pulling of punches: the wages of sin=death and eternal damnation in hell. We deserve nothing but God's measured, non humanistic, appropriate wrath for our sinful thoughts, our sinful words and our sinful actions...
3. **But God!** Paul immediately shifts the focus from the depressing state of affairs to the mercy of God through His Son Jesus Christ. That even in our state of sin, our 'deadness,' He raised us up, forgave our sins, gave us a new, whole, purposeful life with a new identity and a new nature. Not only that, but He seated us in the heavenly realms with Christ Jesus-by repenting, asking for forgiveness of our sins and accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour; we have a sealed place in the Heavenly realms *with* Christ! But, our home for now is on earth, living for Him, being His ambassadors in our communities!
4. **It is by grace that you have been saved, for His glory:** Our salvation is not because of us, or of who we are, nor because we've earned it or because we are worthy. No. It's because God has poured out His rich, lavish love on us: it covers a multitude of sins, it paves the way for us to have relationship with God the father and this, mind boggling grace seals our place in Heaven. It is so none of us can say "I pleased God, I earned it." It is solely for us to focus on God and worship Him forever, thankful and grateful for our free, unearned, unmerited gift of salvation!
5. **We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works:** God has demonstrated His goodness to us, so the natural outworking of that in our lives is to go out and do good things. Let our goodness be evident to all, not in an arrogant way, but just go out and do good! Our goodness will be like a light on a stand, it WILL shine before all men and God will get the glory.

Questions:

1. Was there anything that was shared on Sunday that needs clarifying?
 2. What three evil forces used to determine the way we used to live? Discuss briefly some of their impact on your lives?
 3. a). What does it mean to "follow" something or someone? What and whom does a person follow when they are not following Christ?
b). How does this encourage you to see the contrast between your past life and your new life in Christ?
 4. What seems to have been the purpose of God in saving sinners?
 5. If we aren't saved by works, what is the place of good works in the Christian life?
 6. What hinders you from doing the good works God prepared for you to do?
 7. What one good thing could you do in a current (work, life, uni) situation that would have a significant witness-impact on those around you?
- Prayer?: Give thanks to God for His resurrection miracle in your own life