

Student's Name: _____

Sermon Notes for October 29, 2023

“Grace—the Gift that Keeps on Giving”

Sermon Text: **Ephesians 2:1-10**; Old Testament Text: **Psalms 138:1-8**; Gospel Text: **John 1:14-18**.

Eph. 2:1-10 (NIV): As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Read **Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)** above while listening to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Ephesians 2:1-2** above. Why do you think Paul goes to such great lengths to remind the Ephesians of what they were before they accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?
2. Read **Ephesians 2:3** above. Why do you think Paul is so careful to explain that everyone (even himself) was dead in their sins and transgressions and were prisoners to their sinful cravings and desires?
3. Read **Ephesians 2:4-5** above. What two things motivated God to *make us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions*?

What does Paul tell us saved us?

4. Read **Ephesians 2:6-7** above. How can we be *seated with God in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus* when we are clearly still residents of earth? (Hint: Read **Philippians 3:20-21** on pp. 1249-1250.)

To what is Paul referring when he alludes to *the coming ages* in v.7?

Why should we be excited about receiving *the incomparable riches of God's grace*?

Why does Pr. Dave say grace is the gift that keeps on giving?

5. Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** above. According to this scripture passage, why did God choose to save us with a gift?

What one thing is required of us to accept and receive the gift?

6. Read **Ephesians 2:10** above. Do our good works save us?

Why, then, should we be excited about doing good works?

If *God prepared these good works for us in advance*, what can we be sure about these works?

7. What will you remember most from this message?