

Working With Approval

Bible Study: Ephesians 2:1-10

We cannot save ourselves no matter how hard we try. We are dead in our transgressions (v5). But Jesus' death took our sins and paid for them so that we could rise with him to new life (v6) in forgiven relationship with God. I am forgiven and accepted as a free gift of God's grace.

In response, we work as people pre-approved and God gives us purpose in work as his approved workers.

V1-2

- If we don't follow God's ways, what are we following?

V3

- What does rejecting God do to our relationship with him?
- What are the consequences of our rejection?

V4-6

- What is the work Jesus does for us and what has he earned for us?
- When we accept the forgiveness Jesus Christ paid for, how is our relationship with God transformed?
- What does it mean to be raised with Christ in daily life?

V7

- If grace is an undeserved free gift, how do we obtain it?
- Having been approved by grace what are we then given?

v8-9

- If we are already approved of by God then our work doesn't earn God's favour. How does that change our motivation for work?

V10

- How does it feel to be described as God's handiwork that he has good purposes for?
- Handiwork can also be translated masterpiece. In what ways are you God's masterpiece and how does that change your view of work?
- What is the significance to you and your daily work that God has prepared good works in advance for you to do?

EPHESIANS Chapter 2

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in 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.

3 All 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.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.