



Saved by Grace

Part 1 of Vital characteristics of a True Christian

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Over the coming 4 Sundays we are going to be revisiting some important characteristics of true Christians. This first one is that true Christians are saved by grace and our text is for Ephesians 2:1-9.

To be “saved” is a *radical* term. One is only saved when they are desperately in need and without the intervention of someone on their behalf, they will perish. We desperately need spiritual salvation and a *true Christian* realizes this.

1. Our Condition *Before Being Saved* – Eph. 2:1-3

A. We were *dead* (vs. 1) c.f. Romans 6:23

B. We were *disobedient* (vs. 2)

Three things that encourage our disobedience:

- I. The “world” – this is the world *system* which tries to confirm us into their attitudes and values. Jesus and His followers are not of this world.
- II. Satan – Satan’s no. 1 weapon is his lies
- III. Our “flesh” – this is our *sin nature* we are born with (sons of disobedience, or Adam)

C. We were *depraved* – Eph. 2:3a

- This doesn't mean that lost people can do no good
- It means we cannot perform to God’s standards of holiness and righteousness

D. We were *doomed* – Eph. 2:3b

- The Judge has passed a verdict and handed down a sentence
- His execution of the sentencing is stayed because of His great mercy

2. What God Has Done for Us – Eph. 2:4-9

- A. He loved us (vs. 4)
- B. He made us alive (vs. 5)
- C. He raised us up (vs. 6)
- D. He keeps us (vs. 7-9)

Questions:

1. Why do you think people have a hard time understanding or accepting the idea that they are actually *depraved*? Can depraved people do *anything* good?

2. In what way are we *dead* and how has God made us *alive*?

3. God has done so much more than just save us from hell. What has He also done for us for which we will glorify Him for the ages to come? If that is His purpose for us, what does that say about our security in Him?

Prayer: "Thank you, Lord, for making me alive through Christ Jesus the Lord! Even while I was dead, unable to respond, and a sinner, you loved me and died for me. Thank You for lifting me up and making me to sit in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Thank You for keeping me eternally secure so that I can also bring glory to You for the salvation that came from Your Son, Jesus. Help me to live in the new life that You have given and made possible for me. Thanks, in Jesus' name, amen."