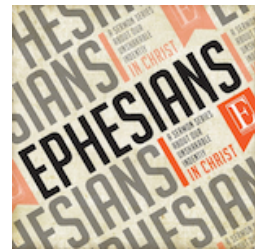


# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 5/7-8/13

## "EPHESIANS: SAVED" - EKKLESIA



### SCRIPTURE

**Ephesians 2:1-10** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### BIG IDEA

Your own works cannot save you; only Jesus' works save. Salvation means saved from the pleasure and penalty of sin in the past, from the power of sin in the present, and from the presence of sin forever in the future. Those who are in Christ are saved from spiritual and physical death, sin, worldly living, Satan and demons, a sinful nature, and God's wrath. We're saved by God's grace, then empowered by God to do good works.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Q.1** Was there anything from *Sunday's Sermon* or the *Big Idea* that had an affect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?

**Q.2** What stands out to you in **Ephesians 2:1-10** and why?

Imagine you received a letter from a collection agency that read, "Your debt has been paid in full." The intensity of joyfulness in your response would greatly depend on the amount of debt that was paid off on your behalf. In Christ, you have been saved from spiritual deadness, sin, worldly living, a sin nature, and the wrath of God.

**Q.3** Does knowing the depths of what you've been saved from intensify your response to the gospel? Explain your answer.

**Q.4** How does our culture typically understand *salvation*? What about the church in our context? How does this view differ from the way that Paul explains *salvation* in Ephesians 2:4-5?

**Q.5** Discuss any of these 7 things about Good Works that stand out to you or specifically speak to you.

#### 7 THINGS ABOUT GOOD WORKS

1. All works by God's grace, for God's glory are good works.
2. A lot of Jesus' good works were as a carpenter.
3. There is not such thing as sacred or secular work.
4. Discover the good works God has set out for you.
5. You may not need "new works." You may need to infuse grace into your current works.

6. We are not saved by our works, but for them.
7. God does not need our works, but our neighbor does.

\*7 things about Good Works were borrowed from the teaching of Mark Driscoll

## **GOOD WORD**

We are saved to be exalted to the position of Jesus, to enjoy God's immeasurable riches and grace, to boast in the grace of God, and to do good works that God has set out for us to do.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

"You were [saved]... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EKKLESIA COVENANT MEMBERSHIP**

We have opened up the door for people to become Covenant Members of Ekklesia Muskogee. We invite you to get a copy of the [Ekklesia Membership Covenant](#) and the [Ekklesia Doctrinal Statement](#), read and pray over them, then arrange a meeting with a Pastor to discuss, pray, and sign the Covenant together.