

Lesson 24

Living in Awe of God's Grace

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us - Eph 2:4

"One of the beautiful paradoxes in God's wisdom is sovereign grace. The same grace that is unmerited is also unstoppable." Tony Reinke in John Newton on the Christian Life

Sovereign grace has power alone To subdue a heart of stone; And the moment grace is felt, The hardest heart will melt. John Newton

Review: Last lesson we dove deep into Ephesians 2:1-3 and learned what Paul meant when he said unsaved man is "dead" in his sins and how that "death" correlates to being "separated" or alienated from God (Col 1:21). We saw that *being dead in sins speaks directly to the heart condition of man* and thus every aspect of man is utterly incapacitated and corrupted wanting nothing to do with God and His ways. Furthermore, we learned that Paul proves this point of man's hopelessness by describing how a dead man lives and who a dead man follows as a slave of sin, the world, and even of Satan. I love the clarity of this quote by Calvin concerning how we are often deceived by our own depravity...

"The human heart has so many crannies where vanity hides, so many holes where falsehood lurks, is so decked out with deceiving hypocrisy, that it often dupes itself."

John Calvin, *Institute of the Christian Religion*, J.T. McNeill (1960), 3.2.10.

1. Review the end of Lesson 23 concerning our definition of man's depravity and what that concept has to do with training yourself to godliness.

Read the glorious passage in Rom 6:1-14 and explain the most encouraging connection in all of this for a true believer as he pursues gospel driven godliness?

From this passage, see if you can find at least 5 life changing truths or promises as a result of the gospel that direct and encourage the believer's pursuit of God given godliness. We will no doubt return to this passage later in our study of godliness!

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

2. Now, let us return to Ephesians and see if we can grow even further in living in awe of God's sovereign grace. Read Ephesians 2:4-5 and contemplate the colossal shift that is happening between the previous three verses (2:1-3) and verses 4-5.

What are the first two words of verse 4? Look up and define for me the conjunction "but" so that you can better explain what it is being highlighted in this passage.

As verse 4 begins with "But God", verses 1-3 are really all about who? It could even begin with the phrase "But _____."

Read Gen 50:20, Ps 49:15, Acts 13:30, Rom 5:8, and 1 Cor 1:27, 3:6-7, and explain how they connect with, and better help you understand, what is being highlighted by the "But God" of Eph 2:4.

Can you identify the similarities between Eph 2:1-6 and Titus 3:3-7? What words are repeated and what concepts are clearly interwoven through these two passages?

From the above verses, identify the following:

Situation of man -

Motivation of God -

Foundation of salvation -

Transformation and destination of the believer -

3. Continue reading Ephesians 2:4-6 and explain what is being contrasted in this passage even as you read on through verse 10. How many points of contrast can you identify when you compare verses 1-3 with 4-6? Explain both who man is and what man does in verses 1-3 and now compare/contrast that with who God is and what God does in verses 4-6.

Fill in the following blanks:

While man is in death, God brings _____;

While man is in bondage, God brings _____;

While man is helpless, God brings _____;

While man deserves wrath, God delivers _____!

What does all this have to do with training yourself to godliness (1 Tim 4:7)?

In future lessons, we will train ourselves in understanding the mercy of God...the characteristic of God from which His sovereign grace flows. Next week, however, we will pause our look at What God Has Done, by looking at *How God Has Done It*...through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Do you live your life every day in awe of God's sovereign grace?

Memory Verse: Gal 2:20