

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

April 2013

## *Ephesians: God's Plan For His Church*

### **Lesson #3: Made Alive In Christ: Ephesians 2:1-10**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- When were you shown mercy when you should have been punished?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

*Note: Paul seems to be dealing a lot with death – both physical and spiritual. Christ's resurrection and subsequent "sightings" (1 Cor 15:5-8) shows His victory over **physical** death. It also begs the question of, "Why did He have to die?" This points to man's helplessness and His victory over **spiritual** death. Spiritual death is a result of sins of omission (passive failure) as well as sins of commission (active wrongdoing). Paul coins the word "alive" to describe that Christians share Christ's resurrection, ascension and enthronement.*

1. How does Paul describe our spiritual condition? (v 1) Col 1:21
2. What three characteristics mark the condition of a person without Christ? (vv 2-3)
3. How are Jew and Gentile alike? (v 3)
4. Why did God make those who were 'dead' alive like Christ?
5. What describes God's action in making us alive? (v 5) Rom 6:1-10
6. What position has God given Christians in Christ by His divine power (v 6)? How does this compare to our position prior to becoming Christians?
7. What is the means and source of salvation? (v 8)

*Note: The tense of the verb "saved" suggests completed action with emphasis on its present effect.*

8. Would you say that salvation comes about *because* of faith or *by grace through* faith? Explain.
9. If salvation is available to everyone why is faith required?
10. How do we reconcile verses 8-9 with the good works of James 2:14, 17, 26?

*Note: Grace is God's unmerited favor or gift to us. Mercy is not giving us what we deserve. Since God is also just, the penalty for sin must always be paid.*

11. Why is the doctrine of salvation by grace so difficult for some people to believe?
12. How is God's creative workmanship operating in your own life?

#### **APPLICATION**

- With whom can you share the good news of God's grace and mercy this week? How?

*In the second year of the War Between the States, an informer in the prison camp at Palmyra disappeared. The Commander in charge ordered that 10 men would be shot in reprisal. One of those men was William T. Humphrey, a husband and father of a number of children. Hearing that Humphrey was under the sentence of death, a young man named Hiram Smith came forward, explaining that he was unmarried and without a family. He asked permission to take the place of Humphrey, stating that perhaps it would be better for a single man to die than a man with a family. If you go to the cemetery of the Mount Pleasant Church in the town of Mount Salem, you will find a stone that has been erected with the following inscription: "This monument is dedicated to the memory of Hiram Smith. The hero who sleeps beneath the sod here was shot in Palmyra, October 17, 1862 as a substitute for William T. Humphrey, my father." That is what Christ has done for us. He has become our substitute. And as a result, we have become an eternal monument to the riches of His mercy and to the overabundance of His grace.*

*John Stevenson, Sermoncentral.com*