

It is by Grace

Sermon Study Notes for 4/21/24

Getting to Know One Another:

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you've experienced profound grace? Share if you feel led
2. When was the last time you had the opportunity to give someone grace. What were the results?

Into the Bible:

Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**

1. What stands out to you about this passage? Are there any repetitions or key themes that you can discern?
2. When Paul says "you" (2:2) and "all of us" (2:3) who is he referring to?
3. Who does Paul argue is "dead in their transgressions," the Jewish Christians in Ephesus or the Greek Christians?
4. How important is grace to the Christian message, and how would you define it?
5. Paul is trying to bring two groups of Christians (Jews and Greeks) together as one church. Yet they have different backgrounds, experiences, politics, customs and values. If we had the best secular minds in a room, what do you imagine they might say is the best way to accomplish this?
6. How would you describe Paul's approach and how, if at all, is it different?
7. Paul refers to the ruler of the kingdom of the air, and elsewhere says he believes we are in a spiritual battle with unseen forces. Do you have the sense that the battle between good and evil extends beyond this physical world, or is all as it appears to be?
8. What do you believe our best weapons are against evil?
9. Read the passage again out loud. What else to you stands out to you about this passage? What is the Spirit revealing to you in this moment?
10. On the following page is a picture of Paul's Chiastic structure which he uses in Ephesians 2:1-10. Chiastic structures build up to a central point like climbing a mountain, and then climb back down using parallel word or phrases to

Paul's Chiastic Structure for Ephesians 2:1-10

A (2:2) YOU WERE DEAD IN YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS AND SINS IN WHICH YOU USED TO **WALK (PERIPATEO)** WHEN YOU FOLLOWED THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD

B (2:5) BY **GRACE (CHARIS)** YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED

C (2:7) THAT IN THE COMING AGES HE MIGHT SHOW THE INCOMPARABLE RICHES OF HIS **GRACE (CHARIS)**, EXPRESSED IN HIS KINDNESS TO US **IN CHRIST JESUS (EN CHRISTOU)**

B (2:8) FOR BY **GRACE (CHARIS)** YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH

A (2:10) CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE SO THAT WE WOULD **WALK (PERIPATEO)** IN THEM.