

Week of August 13 - God's Workmanship Small Group Lesson 5

Connect

In December 1772, John Newton wrote "Amazing Grace," the song begins:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost,
but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

How do you understand these lyrics in general? What does he *now see*?

Verses - Ephesians 2:1-10 (CSB)

[1]And you were dead in your trespasses and sins [2] in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. [3]We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. [4]But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, [5] made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! [6]He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, [7]so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8]For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift– [9]not from works, so that no one can boast. [10]For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Study

1. Paul speaks of being dead (including himself) before they became alive (v.1, 5).
   a. What is meant by "dead"? (Ephesians 4:18; Matthew 8:22)
   b. What is meant by “alive”? (John 5:21, 24)
   c. Does Paul mean to suggest that after becoming alive as Christians, the behavior of these people is perfect? (John 8:11; 1 John 1:9, 2:1; James 5:16)

2. How do we know that God is rich in grace? When will His grace be made complete? (v7a; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:21)
   a. Why would God still save us despite our inability to be perfect?

APPLY: According to verse 10, what do we become when we are saved, and for what purpose? How does this affect both your view of yourself and your relationship with both God and others? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:24; Matthew 5:16)

DISCUSS: In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul appears to be saying that the Christians to whom he is writing have already passed from death to life. In what sense were they dead before? In what sense have they become alive by the time of Paul’s writing? (Ephesians 4:25-32)

Share

By God’s grace, Christians are made “alive” with Christ. But we nevertheless still sin. Describe the ways in which you have overcome or struggled with sin since becoming a Christian. Describe other ways in which you have changed for the better (or worse) since becoming a Christian.

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray we will understand more deeply we are alive through the hope of eternal life by His love and mercy, despite our sins, and His Spirit dwelling in us.
- Pray that God will fill us with gratitude and love for Him, and with a desire to
- obey and honor him.
- And pray that the Spirit will lead us to do the works which God has prepared for us to do and help us to do these works humbly and joyfully.