

Bible Study for March 8-14, 2021

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

Notes:

While the congregation in Ephesus was one of the least problematic for Paul, they still had their difficulties, the chief one being a division between Jews and Gentiles. While the Jewish members believed in Christ, they were also adamant that the laws of the Old Testament must be followed to the letter in order to achieve salvation, a point the Gentiles of the congregation disagreed on. In these verses Paul sets the record straight; while the law has a purpose, we also need to realize that we are going to fail in some way, and God's loving grace is the only way we can be saved. We are saved not by what we do, but by grace through faith. Because of that, our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

In some aspects we should thank those who caused Paul enough grief to write these verses down. Ephesians 2:8-9 were extremely instrumental to Martin Luther's understanding of why we cannot achieve salvation on works alone.

Questions to Ponder:

In your very first job, how much were you paid? Do you feel it was a fair price for your work?

If you could charge for it, what do you think would be a fair price for someone telling you a lie?

What was one of the best gifts you received as a child? What made it so special for you?

According to these verses, why would God give us the gift of salvation rather than charging us for it by following laws to the letter?

What might make you feel that you have to somehow "earn" your way into heaven?

Do you think you've come to fully realize just how great a gift God has given us through Christ?

What should compel us to do good things for others?