

REFORMATION: FIVE HUNDRED

GROUP CURRICULUM

TITLE

GRACE ALONE (Ephesians 2:1-9)

DATE

OCTOBER 22, 2017

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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1. Leading into our passage in **Ephesians 2**, the apostle Paul has been laying out some powerful truths. In bullet form, briefly take some time to list some of these truths.
2. In the space below, write out a very basic sentence of the main truth we learned from this weekend's message.

3. As he viewed it, Martin Luther entered the monastery to build righteousness in the eyes of God through his own efforts. In what ways are we like this today? Recounting this later, Luther noted that during this time he was frequently angry with God. Why does that make sense?
4. "Sinners are attractive because they are loved by God, they are not loved because they are attractive." What does this statement mean?
5. **Ephesians 2:1-3** begins the discussion of the Gospel message. Why is it so important to begin with the truths contained in these verses?
6. Rick has been a Christian for 30 years, but lately this concept of grace has become boring to him. If you were his friend, how would you encourage Rick?
7. Read Colossians 2:13-15. Why is this summary statement of the teaching of Luther days so wrong:

"God will not deny grace to those who do their best"
8. Take some time to pray and consider the application points from the end of the message:
 - What do I deserve?
 - What have I received?

*Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

Augustus Toplady, Rock of Ages