

Ephesians 2:1-10 Bible study questions

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

1) A lot of the reasons why this world is messed up is because people are messed up and do bad things. Either from the news, or what you have seen around you, or your own experience, what are some *specific* examples of people "following the course of the world...carrying out the desires of the body and mind", or of people "living the passions of our flesh"? Are there any common traits to all of these?

Read verses 4-7

2) We still eat, sleep, and breathe as before, so how are Christians alive in a way they weren't before? Why talk about life and death, not just right/wrong or obedience/disobedience? Imagine someone who is not a Christian is having a hard time understanding that they are "dead." Do you think there is any way that people can have an awareness of their deadness described in verse 1? If so, how do you think they experience it? How might you help someone become aware of this?

Read verses 8-10

3) Having faith is the key aspect of being saved by God's grace--it is "through faith." What does it mean to have faith? Or another way of looking at it--what are some misconceptions of the word "faith" that people may sometimes have?

4) People may not come out and verbally declare "I believe salvation is by works" verbatim. What are examples of what people say, think, or do that *reveals* they think salvation is by works?

5) If God prepared works in advance, why plan them out (i.e. prepare for any good work)? Why not just do it since He already planned it? What confidence then can we take from verse 10?

Time permitting:

6) Why does Paul include this section? What role does it play in book so far? If you had to pick one verse from chapter one that most strongly ties to chapter 2, what would it be? Why? How does it help you to understand 2:1-10?

7) These verses, especially 8-9 are verses we share a lot with people who aren't Christian. Why do you think Paul wrote them to a group of people who already was Christian?