

WEEK 2: DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH SALVATION

- Pray brief to start
- Debrief (5 minutes): What has remained with you from the previous topic or the exercises you did during the week? Write down any questions, conversations to have later.

1. Today's Topic: You have been saved

- To be able to live as a disciple, do what Jesus commands, we have to first know what God did for us. It all starts with God's necessary saving activity. And then in response, we obey. What's the problem with starting with what you commanded to do by Jesus and then looking at what God has done for you?
- As we read, circle what you were before you were saved and triangle what God has done for you through Jesus

2. **Ephesians 2:1-10** ¹ *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² 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.* ^{ESV}

Before God saved me, I was:

Dead in my sin (unable to get out of sin), walking in sin; following the ways of this world and Satan

World = unsaved humanity/humanity still in rebellion to God, separated from God, not reconciled to God)

Living in the passions of my flesh, carrying out the sinful desires of my flesh and mind.

Flesh = sinful nature—that part of you that tends toward sin; cf. Romans 7

I was a child of wrath like the rest of humanity that is still separated from God

= Under God's wrath—His just punishment for your sin; note: all are born condemned/under God's wrath—all are born needing salvation

But then God did what? Observe and write

Made me alive together with Christ

= spiritual resurrection (now united to God, now in Christ); vs. dead in sin and separate from Christ

Raised me up with Christ and seated me with Christ in the heavenly places.

You are united to God; present with him in spirit, in the God-realm (heaven), right now!
Saved me

Created me (I am a new creation!) in Christ Jesus for **good works** which God already prepared for me, that I should walk in them.

God did this, God saved me... fill-ins

because He is **rich in mercy** and because of His **great love for me**

by **grace** (unearned favor), and not because of anything **I did**

What is your reaction to this, or takeaway?

- Thankful. This gratitude stirs us to turn to Jesus, to walk with Jesus, to seek and obey Jesus. It all starts with God's loving grace. His tremendously generous act of saving us. This salvation also reveals how good and loving God is.
- Secure. God did it. It's not dependent on me skills, works, actions. It's something He did and I received. Because of what he did, I am united now...and forever with Christ.
- Cf. Colossians 2:6-23

3. **Titus 3:3-7** ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified [put in right-standing with God] by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ^{ESV}

A disciple knows: fill-ins

"I was **saved** by God's mercy, washed and **made new** by God's Spirit."

"I am in **right standing** with God because of His grace."

How does knowing this help you?

4. **Romans 5:8** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

"I am a disciple now because God (Father-Son-Holy Spirit) **loves me.**" fill-in

5. This week: Read and reflect on 1-2 of these passages about God's loving grace toward you (How does it apply to you? What is God telling you through the text?).

Romans 5:6-11 ⁶ ¶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Luke 15 The Parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

Next week: How does a person receive salvation?