

Monday, 10 August 2015

Ephesians 2:1-3

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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**—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.*

Me, a son of disobedience? I didn't think so! Sure. I knew the Law; well, I was acquainted with it, but I didn't *know* the Law. It was written on my heart, but mine was a heart of stone. I didn't have faith in, I didn't believe/trust/commit/obey the Word of God as the Guiding Light for all aspects of my life. I was a son of disobedience.

Tuesday, 11 August 2015

Ephesians 2:4-7 [1]

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Dead in my trespasses--God didn't wait until I cleaned up my act, scrubbed my immoral soul and deodorized the foul stench. Impossible tasks. Life came through His rich mercy, His great love; His grace did it all. Alive, I'm alive! Hallelujah!

Wednesday, 12 August 2015

Ephesians 2:4-7 [2]

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might***

show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Why did God do all this trouble? If He spoke a word and all things came into being; why did He not speak the word which would end the existence of all beings? Why would He want to make something as despicable as I and seat me in the purity and holiness of His presence?

Only so He could demonstrate the immeasurable richness of His grace. No other reason. Yes, He loves me, He treasures me, but first and foremost, I am an example of His grace.

Therefore, I am called to demonstrate the same grace, to the extent I can, towards all men, no matter how offensive I personally find them or their actions. I must remember that in God's eyes, there is no difference. When I fail, I must fall to my knees in repentance.

Thursday, 13 August 2015

Ephesians 2:8-10 [1]

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Get the point. John? Even faith is not something I gain through doing, or even that I can do. It is a gift from God, freely given and mine for the asking.

Friday, 14 August 2015

Ephesians 2:8-10 [2]

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our

righteousness is as filthy rags; Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)

Not only does God not allow me to boast in all the great things I do to prove that I am a really good guy, He is disgusted by them. All my efforts to prove that I am worthy of His love, grace, and mercy are foul in His sight.

His grace makes whatever is good in me, good.

Saturday, 15 August 2015

Ephesians 2:8-10 [3]

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.***

On the other hand, there exist some works that He has prepared especially for me so as to demonstrate His love and mercy. Quite likely, they are not the tasks that I would chose; they may not include a great deal of personal glory and recognition. In fact, they may involve serving the most disgusting tasks imaginable. But my marching orders are to love my neighbor and make disciples as I'm doing that.

Lord's Day, 16 August 2015

Psalm 119:29

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

Lord, teach me to see Your Law in all its many expressions. To see it revealed in Creation, in the economy of the Kingdom, even in the kingdom of man; help me to understand it and follow it as my guide to life in all that I do.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



August 10-16, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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