

Week 3, Ephesians: Chapter 2, Part 1 (Vs 1-10)

Paul paints a picture of our **glorious** God and our **great** salvation.
The picture that he paints has three major pieces...

The state of humanity _____ salvation. (v 1-3)

- Paul begins _____ our former manner of life.
- Paul says that our former condition was _____ & sinful, and was based primarily on our passionate _____ and inclinations.
- Paul says that our sinful condition flowed from our former position, which was under the wrath of God and under the power of the _____.
- Paul says that we were just like everyone else, born into sin and controlled by our master, Satan... and our _____ was _____.

The grace of God shown to humanity _____ salvation. (v 4-6)

- Paul begins to contrast our old life with our new life!
- Paul says that God, in his love, gave us a new life, a new position when he _____ us through Christ.
- Paul says that our new position is unto _____ and life... and the believer is now _____ in the heavenly realms because they are united with Christ.

The glory of God eternally on display _____ salvation. (v 7)

- Paul now gives a startling reason for this incredible mercy _____ to us in salvation...
- Paul says that God did all of this for us so that in eternity future God could use his mercy shown to us as a glorious _____ of his incredible kindness.

This may be a new concept for some...

We are uncomfortable with the thought of God being God centered... We think that if God is primarily for God, and his glory... he must somehow not be for us... Furthermore, we think that if God is primarily for God that God is somehow selfish and self-centered. We know that it is wrong for us to be self-centered... and therefore project that it must be wrong for God.

First, if God is the **greatest & most** _____ **being** in all the universe, and if he is the ultimate reality in all the universe... then whoever is not first and foremost for God is an idolater, including God.

Meaning, if God was not first and foremost for himself and his glory... he would be putting something else in the place of what is supremely glorious, supremely worthy... and God would cease to be God... as he would be putting something of lesser worth in the place of supreme worth.

Therefore, when God is first and foremost for himself and his glory, he actually is _____ what is supremely worthy and is upholding what is right and true... therefore being by very nature what is means to be God. (Righteous)

Second, if God is the **greatest** _____ **in all the universe** and is the highest experience of love, kindness, joy, satisfaction... .. then whoever is pointing someone towards some other end is unloving, unkind... including God.

Meaning, if God is the greatest good in all the universe and the highest experience of love, joy and satisfaction... then the most loving thing would be to aim everything towards that being, that end.

Therefore, when God is first and foremost for himself and his glory, and when in all the does he is aiming people to himself and to the worship of his glory etc. he is actually being the most loving being in all the universe because he is aiming us towards what is absolutely best for us.

- God is the **only** being in all the universe that can be 'self-centered' and not be egotistical.
- God is the **only** being who can be 'self-centered' and also be 'others-centered'.
- God is the **only** being who can be 'others-centered' by bringing others to center on himself.

The absolute best thing for humanity, the absolute highest good for humanity and the absolutely most loving thing for them... is that they know this God... for he is the greatest good, the highest 'best' thing for all humans.

Therefore, when God does something to 'display his glory' or to 'magnify his glory' in the lives of humans, in order that he might be glorified more by them... .. he is not selfishly self-centered... he is lovingly working towards our highest good... and therefore displaying also the pinnacle of perfect love.

-(v8-10) Paul says that God saved us in this manner; by his grace, through faith, in Christ... as a free gift... and not by works in order that he alone would get the _____.

-(v8-10) Paul says that God also gets glory through this process by making dead sinful people new & alive and enabling them to do God honoring things... In this way, we become the painting of God... we become the tapestry that he is using to paint his glory across the universe for eternity.

God in his infinite wisdom planned to show mercy to humanity in such a way that he might paint a picture of his mercy, grace and power through those who believe... and that He would be admired and glorified by it for all of eternity. Believers have now become the masterpiece of God. And their obedience in these preplanned good deeds continue to add to the eternal picture that God is displaying in eternity future.

This means that all of our thoughts, attitudes and actions matter... This means that living out our new position, in our fallen condition matters... This means that every thought, attitude and every action we have is eternal and weighty. This means that everything we do is either adding to the tapestry of God's eternal glory or it is adding to the tapestry of self, misery, death and destruction.