



CONNECTIONS

Sermon notes October 29, 2017

Keyverse

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace Alone

Grace isn't God taking "good people" and making them better. It's God taking spiritually dead people like us - people deserving His wrath - and making us alive in Christ. Pastor Dan

1. When you were 24, how would you have answered the question *What do you believe this personal God thinks of you?* How do you think your belief about God back then influenced your view of church, the Bible, Christians, and life in general?

2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and discuss the questions below:
 - How do verses 1-3 describe our spiritual condition and our standing before God? Did you realize this was your spiritual situation before you met Jesus? Did you feel it?

 - What words in verses 4-10 point to what "grace" means (example - *rich in mercy* in verse 4)? Which "grace words" strike you most?

 - What does it mean to be "saved" according to these verses? Would you describe yourself as a "saved" person? What's the alternative?

 - So can we help ourselves spiritually by doing good works, or not? If not, should we *not* try to do anything good then? What do these verses teach about the role of good deeds in our relationship with God?

3. Think of a friend or family member who would identify more with the first or second response below. How could God use you to help them understand *grace alone*—the third response? Pray for boldness and clear explanation (Colossians 4:3-6) as you close your study time as a group.
 - "I can't do it." (saved without grace)
 - "I don't need it." (grace without saved)
 - "I must have it." (saved and grace together)