

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



3. Salvation by God's Grace

Introduction

God's ultimate plan is to bring everything in heaven and on earth together under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. We, the church, are part of His plan! When Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, he began by outlining this plan, and then went on to explain the steps by which God has accomplished this purpose. First of all God has saved us as individuals by His grace.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

- † How were we described before we knew Jesus Christ from God's point of view? v1, 2, 3
- † Even though we were 'dead in transgressions', what did God do for us? v5, 6
- † What does it mean when it says he 'seated us with him in the heavenly realms'? Discuss.
- † We are not saved 'by works' but 'to do good works'. What is the difference?
- † What do you think those 'good works' are that God has prepared for us to do? Look at the following verses to give you some insight into what 'good works' are. John 4:34, John 17:4, John 15:5, Acts 9:36, Acts 10:38
- † Is there anything we need to change in our lives or our thinking so that we fulfill those 'good works' that God has prepared for us?

Conclusion

God has saved and forgiven us because of His great love and mercy. We certainly don't deserve it! He has already planned and prepared a new life for us, using the gifts and abilities He has given us, so that our lives will be fulfilled and He will be glorified. Let's be careful not to waste our lives, but make the most of the time by doing those things that God has prepared for us to do.