

## THE GOSPEL IN A PARAGRAPH

Introduction – Religious people come in all types. Some are self-righteous, while others are bored and apathetic. Jesus people stand in stark contrast to religious people. They have been transformed by the gospel message.

### A. Ephesians 2:1-3

1. Transgressions are clear violations of God's boundaries for moral behavior while sin is falling short of it. Both kill us spiritually.
2. The ruler of the kingdom of the air is at work in the disobedient.
3. All of us have been rebels, gratifying the cravings of our selfish nature.
4. The justice of God made us all the objects of God's wrath.

### B. Ephesians 2:4-7

1. But... because of God's great love and rich mercy.
2. God made us alive by our union with Christ who died for us and was raised to life by God.
3. None of us deserves God's forgiveness and inclusion in his future kingdom rule. It is all grace.
4. In the new age, we will become rulers, princes and princesses, with our brother Jesus.

### C. Ephesians 2:8-10

1. We have nothing to boast about our salvation for it is a gift of grace received by faith.
2. We as a community of faith are the result of God's workmanship.
3. We have been recreated in Christ for the purpose of doing good works.
4. All this is the plan of God that restores us to our original intent.

Conclusion – This is the gospel in a paragraph. We are being transformed by grace from rebels to the redeemed. This eliminates self-righteousness, boredom, and apathy.

## Discussion Questions

1. How do we keep ourselves from being self-righteous, bored, or apathetic?
2. How do grace, faith, and works correctly connect together?
3. How has your life changed because of God's grace?