

DEAD MEN WALKING EPHESIANS - PART 3

Introduction – In chapter one of the Ephesian letter, Paul demonstrates that God's predestined purpose for us is Christ and community centered. We need spiritual enlightenment in order to see our resurrection hope in the present and the future.

A. What we really deserve – Ephesians 2:1-3

1. Our spiritual death was caused by sin (falling short of our moral responsibility) and transgressions (ignoring moral boundaries in our behavior).
2. Disobedience is evidence that our real ruler is Satan.
3. By obeying our animal natures (*sarx* in Greek), desires, and thoughts we deserve God's wrath on Judgment Day.
4. Who would you have become without the influence of Christ in your life?

B. The God of Grace – Ephesians 2:4-7

1. The Old Testament is the story of God's *hesed* (Hebrew for "great love and rich in mercy") in contrast to our consistent rebellion as human beings.
2. God's resurrection power not only made Jesus alive again, but it can raise us from spiritual death and seat us with Christ in the heavenly realm.

Romans 5:17

2 Timothy 2:11-12

3. There is a coming Age in which the incomparable riches of God's grace will be revealed for all to see.

C. Recreation – Ephesians 2:8-10

1. Our salvation by God is a grace gift, not something we can earn with our boastful efforts.
2. Our part is to trust in God's saving action for us in Christ.
3. In the beginning we were created in the image of God. Sin has distorted this image.
4. In Christ we are a re-creation, God's handiwork.

5. God prepared in advance of Creation the good works he wanted us to do and now we have returned to His ways.

Conclusion – God’s predestined plan was to create a covenant community of grace. God has not only rescued us from spiritual death but has restored us as rulers of His new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions

1. What do most people think they deserve from God?
2. Why can our works not save us?
3. What role has God restored for us to be?