

MODULE 6 REDEMPTION



INTRODUCTION

Describe a time when you were the recipient of someone's unconditional mercy?

Tonight we are going to explore what it means to live out of a rich experience of God's mercy.

EXAMINING THE PIECES

Read 2:1-3

What terms does Paul use to describe our life prior to Christ?

What influences shaped our life in this condition? [Be sure they see the three influences Paul identifies: (1) the world, (2) the prince of power of the air—the Devil, and (3) our flesh.]

What does Paul mean when he says that unbelievers are “dead in trespasses and sins” and that they are “children of wrath”?

Why do you think Paul offers such a detailed description of their lives prior to Christ? Why was it important that they understand this?

Read 2:4-9

What has God done on our behalf to overcome the problem described in 2:1-3?

What does Paul mean when he says that we have been raised and seated with Christ?

According to 2:4-7, what motivated God to rescue us from the consequences of our sin? To what end did God raise us to new life? What does this reveal about God's character?

What did we do to earn all this?

Why does Paul believe it is important that Christians understand there is nothing they can do to earn God's mercy?

What's the point?

Ephesians 2:1-10 is one of the most thorough, yet succinct, descriptions of the grandeur of what has happened in the great drama of redemption for all those who have believed.

Paul was writing this letter to believers, so in a very real way, they (and therefore, we) needed to be reminded afresh of the power of the gospel.

As we look at this passage, we will be reminded of where we have come from and to be challenged by the rich mercy and grace of God to put away our tendency to either fall back into sin or drift toward performance righteousness.

What's the problem?

Within each of us there is one main problem, but manifested two distinct ways. The problem is that we are forever prone toward independence from God. The ways this is manifested is by license and legalism. License willingly runs from God in rebellion and fleshly pursuits. It is oftentimes pretty easy to spot. Legalism, on the other hand, is also a form of independence that is usually pretty hard to spot. It usually does all the right religious things, but for all of the wrong reasons. Legalism performs for God and others, seeking acceptance and love through what we do. And because of that, it comes with a deadly poison that very subtly boasts in how “lovable” we are, causing us to miss the grace of the gospel.

EXAMINING THE PIECES CON'T

Read 2:10

How is v. 10 contrasted with v. 1-3?

What does it mean to be God's workmanship?

How would you put v. 10 in your own words?

SO WHAT?

This passage brings to the surface two very real ways that we tend to live apart from God - (1) in outright rebellion against him or (2) in a way that does the good Christian things but inwardly boasts of how much we deserve to be loved. In what ways have you seen both of these tendencies show up in your own life?

How are both of these tendencies a product of forgetting how lavish God's grace is toward us?

What would your life look like if you walked daily in God's lavish grace toward you?

In what ways can you begin to more regularly experience and appreciate that grace?

What's the solution?

As we see the richness of the lavish love of God toward us, even when we were in rebellion toward him, our independence is melted away and license and legalism turn into genuine love for Him. So, the solution is to be reminded of the overwhelming grace of God toward us.

What's our response?

God desires us to move from independence to dependence...to move from living in either rebellion or legalism to walking in grace as His workmanship. He is calling us to be reminded of and revel in His lavish grace toward us - grace that redeems stubborn hearts.