

Study Questions - Week 5

Read 2:1-10.

- Can you summarize in 10 words or less what this is saying?
- A very unique title for this section would be “When God ‘Butted’ In”. How does this capture the flow of the section. (Hint: look at the first word in verse 4 in the ESV and NIV versions and how it contrasts with vv 1-3).
- It has been duly noted that “Ephesians 2 is AMAZING!” Can you make a simple outline using the word “Amazing”. Use the following verse breakdown.

vv 1-3: Amazing _____

vv4-7: Amazing _____

vv8-9: Amazing _____ (Hint: think of a song)

v10: Amazing _____

Read verses 1-3.

- These verses are referring to our fallen state. How comprehensive is it?
- Are we sinners because we sin or do we sin because we are sinners?
- If the unsaved are this depraved why can they still do good?

Read verses 4-10.

- What 3 words other than “and”, “but” and “the” occur repeatedly?
- Someone defined “Grace” as “Great Redemption at Christ’s Expense”. Read into that every time you see the word “Grace”
- Someone defined “Faith” as “Forsaking All I Trust Him”. Read into that every time you see the word “Faith”. Why is the “Faith Way” the only way to salvation?
- Are we made alive (i.e. regenerated) first by God and then we believe? Or is it the other way around? (This is not a trick question but be careful)! Is it Biblically more correct to say “God gave me the faith to believe” or “I believe which makes me spiritually alive to God”?
- How true is it to say my acceptance with the Father is the acceptance Jesus Christ has with the Father?
- Grace, Faith and Christ are the key words of verses 4-10. Finish the following by supplying the correct word: By _____ Alone; Thru _____ Alone; In and Because of _____ Alone.

EPHESIANS

A GOD
CENTERED
GOSPEL

A Prayer for the God Centered

(This is the 5th in a series of messages entitled *The God Centered Gospel*)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Chapter 1:3-14 teaches us that God has a plan to make us His treasure, a people for His own possession. Starting with verse 15 we are told **why** God treasures us. We are "*his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all*" (v 23). In what must be the most amazing statement thus far, Paul is saying that Christ will fill the universe with His glory by showing the universe His Body which is the church. That is God's promise and plan - **filling up the universe with the glory of His Son in you and thru you**. So this passage isn't speaking about what we have in Christ but about what **Christ has in us**. Knowing this we should live as His special people dedicated to a special purpose confident always that we are backed by His special power. Caution: Pray this only if you are sincere about being God centered, if your reference point in life is - **"What does God get out of this?"** Otherwise, the man centered approach which prays **"What's in this for me?"** will go unanswered and bring much disappointment to the pray-er!

Idea

God aims to fill the universe with the glory of His Son, Jesus, by making the church the showcase of His perfections. But willpower alone won't be enough to fulfill our destinies. Endless energy, boundless strength the only kind that issues from Jesus dares us to imagine how we can fill the universe with Christ.

Lessons

I. ONE SUPREME QUEST - How Well Do You _____ God? (vv 15-17)

- A. It is central to _____ for His purpose
- B. It is central to _____ His perfections
 - Knowing God brings _____ (Job 22:21)
 - Knowing God makes us _____ (Daniel 11:32)
 - Knowing God leads to _____ (John 8:32)

II. ONE SUPREME _____ - _____ Are You Here? (v 18)

- A. Until God called you what _____ could you possibly have?
- B. Even the most extravagant _____ - conformity to Christ is real
- C. That is God's _____ - filling up the universe with the glory of His Son in you and thru you

III. ONE SUPREME _____ - Is God _____? (vv 19-23)

- A. We measure God's power alive within us by His _____
- B. Therefore, we have enough power to forward the _____ of _____

"You begin to die the moment your memories are greater than your dreams" Howard Hendricks