



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Community Group Material for week of November 15, 2020

Saved By Participation

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read Eph. 2:8-10

Sermon Summary:

A classic statement in Ephesians says we are 'saved by grace through faith (not by works).' This was the Reformation's clarion call. But let's ask: 'saved from what?' Some focus solely on the legal aspect: Jesus' death saves us from God's wrath; he paid our sins' penalty, so God—the Judge—can acquit and forgive us. But, being saved in Ephesians is much more—it's being saved from spiritual death, from the domination of dark cosmic powers and from our inherited sin-nature. This happens through *union* with Christ—Christ is in us and we are 'in Christ,' and through *participation* 'with Christ'—through faith we were co-enlivened, co-raised, and co-seated together with Christ (Eph. 2:5-6). Let's learn how to apply our union 'in Christ' and our participation 'with Christ'!

Discussion:

?Read Eph. 1:3-14 note each time the phrase “*in Christ*” or “*in him*” occurs.

1.???????In these verses, who does what “in Christ” or “in him”? Does God do some action “in Christ,” or is it humans (us)?

2.???????What does it mean for us to be “*in Christ*”? How do we get to be “*in Christ*”?

3.???????Eph. 1:13 in the NIV reads: “you...were included in Christ?when you heard...the gospel of your salvation...when you believed...”?According to this how do we get to be “*in Christ*”? What other verses help answer this question?

4.???????How has (or should) realizing you are “*in Christ*” and Christ is “*in you*” (Col. 1:29) impact your life?

5.???????Eph. 2:1-4 says we were in a desperate situation, with multiple problems; what were those problems? Enumerate

6.???????In Eph. 2:4-7 what has God done to resolve each of those problems (you’ve identified in Q5)?

7.???????In Eph. 2:5-7 has the phrase “*with Christ*”/“*with him*.” What 3 actions has God done to us when he acted on Christ?

8.???????What is the impact (effect) of each of those 3 actions upon us? How has (or should) each one affected you?

9.???????Eph. 2:8-9 says we are ‘saved by grace through faith (*not by works*); yet Eph. 2:10 talks about “*good works*.” How do you reconcile these 2 statements?

End with Prayer.

- Pray that the realization of our being in Christ would be so real as to change our life.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.