

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS/ January 14, 2018

### “GRACE THAT REALLY IS AMAZING”

#### Ephesians 2:1-10

#### INTO THE BIBLE

1) **Read Ephesians 2:1-10** What were the main points of the sermon?

What does it mean that we were *dead in transgressions and sins*?

- Is this *legally dead* or *spiritually dead*? Or both. Defend your answer from Scripture.
- How bad is the *bad news*? How bad off are we outside of Christ?
- How much *free will* did Judas or Esau have?
- Discuss: How can spiritually dead people choose anything? What must happen if they are to be saved?

2) **Read Ephesians 2:1-3**

- List the things Paul says about sinful human beings who are not saved.
- Why is this kind of language difficult for people to accept in Western culture?

3) **Read Romans 3:9-20**

- List specific indictments that Paul lists against sinful humanity.
- Read 3:11- What does the Bible mean “*No one seeks God*”? Why are we not able to seek God?
- What does this passage declare about the universal condition of mankind?
- Every utopian movement (i.e. Communism, Nazis etc.) in history has degenerated into violence and tyranny because people disregarded the depth and reality of human depravity. How should our public policy be impacted by Scripture at this point? Discuss how worldviews determine how we approach politics and moral issues.

4) **Discuss this quote** from article 10 in the *39 Articles of Faith Book of Common Prayer*:

“The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God. Wherefore, we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God.”

5) **Read Ephesians 2:4-7 & Romans 3:21-24**

- What are these passages telling us about God’s grace? How does this affect your life?
- How does Ephesians 2: 4-7 rest on vs. 1-3? Be specific.
- What does it mean that God is *rich in mercy*? What is mercy? How does it differ from grace?
- List all the things from Ephesians 2:4-7 that God does for His elect.

6) **Read Ephesians 2:8-9**

- What did the Reformers mean by *sola gratia*?
- How is this different from the doctrine of salvation in other world religions? Discuss
- Does God’s grace cover all sin (past, present and future)? Is there any sin not covered by Christ’s blood?
- Briefly discuss the other four *solas* of the Reformation. Why are these so important?

***Sola Scriptura*** (“by Scripture alone”): The Bible alone is our highest authority

***Sola Fide*** (“by faith alone”): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ

***Solus Christus*** (“through Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior and King

***Soli Deo Gloria*** (“glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone

## **“Family Focus” Community Group questions for 1/14/18**

### FAMILY FOCUS

*Parents, we are pleased to include a family-oriented section to the Community Group questions. Our goal is to assist you in taking what you have learned through the sermon and discussed in your group and “bring it home” to your family.*

“Grace That Really Is Amazing!” – Ephesians 2:1-10

Read 2:1-10. There is a great contrast here between who we were before salvation (verses 1-3) and who we are now in Christ, after salvation (verses 4-10).

1. Discuss some of the characteristics of each category and their implications (examples: before salvation we were dead in sins, followed the way of the world, and deserved wrath; after salvation we have been made alive, raised up with Christ, and seated in the heavenly realms).
2. Use this opportunity to share the gospel with your children. Besides this passage, you can use John 3:5-6, 14-18 and Romans 3:10-12, 21-24; 10:8-13.

We encourage groups and families to use the New City Catechism – Question #2 for the week of January 14, 2018 (use the book, download the app, or go to [www.newcitycatechism.com](http://www.newcitycatechism.com))