

## Sermon Discussion – 11 February 2024

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Share an experience from your life where you witnessed or were involved in a rescue. How did it make you feel? Are there any aspects of this rescue story that mirrors the biblical story of salvation?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

Let's face it. One of the main reasons we don't immerse ourselves in the Scriptures is often because we don't necessarily like the picture that it paints of us sometimes. Sure, the Bible can be hard to understand at points, but that's not typically what keeps us from coming back. It's when its message is crystal clear about us. This is one of those weeks that starts with a brutally honest depiction of man, yet ends with a beautiful promise. All this hinges on two great words: *But God (Ephesians 2:4)*.

- Read v. 1-3 again. Paul paints a very bleak, hopeless picture. Pay attention to the words *dead, trespasses, sin, walked, following, disobedience, and wrath*. What other words or phrases stand out that describe our situation?
- What hope do dead things have for coming back to life? What do they need for that to happen?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Discuss the analogy of trespassing and its consequences in relation to sin described in Ephesians 2:1-3. How does this understanding of sin create a sense of urgency for a Saviour?
2. Share personal experiences or observations that highlight the consequences of living outside God's boundaries. How can recognising the need for rescue impact our perspective on salvation?
3. Look at v. 7-8. How should we respond to God showing us the "immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness" we witness in Christ? Why is a correct understanding of grace and faith as gifts from God so foundational to the Christian faith?
4. You might feel there is a tension between salvation by grace and the call to good works in Ephesians 2:10. How does understanding the order of works in relation to grace help clarify this tension? See 1 Corinthians 15:10

5. How does understanding that you've been rescued from God's wrath, rescued by His grace, and rescued for good works impact you in everyday life?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Encourage one another by sharing specific instances where you have experienced God's rescue or have witnessed His grace in action.
- Discuss practical ways the group can support and hold each other accountable in living out the truths discussed regarding salvation, grace, and good works.
- Try memorising Ephesians 2:8-9...  
*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*