

Essential Christianity
studies in what we believe and who we are as Christians

Study 2: Saved by Grace (not works)

Discuss: If God were to say to you “Why should I let you into my heaven?”, what would you say?

READ Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Is there anything that strikes, surprises, or impresses you? Discuss ...
2. What spiritual state are we in naturally, according to verses 1-3? How does this compare with how most people think they stand before God?
3. What do we learn about what God is like, and how he felt about us when we were his enemies (v. 4)? How does this fit with most people’s view of God?
4. According to verses 4-6, what has God done for us in Jesus?
5. Why did he do this, according to verses 4 and 7? Do you think he acts more out of concern for our wellbeing, or his own glory?
6. What do you understand grace to mean? Can you think of any examples or illustrations of grace (other than what God has done for us in Jesus)? Is it hard to accept grace? If so, why?
7. What sort of works do you think people are inclined to put their trust in, and boast in (verses 8-9)?
8. Have you ever experienced someone saying that they put their trust in their good works? What did you say?
9. What place do good works play in the life of a Christian, according to verses 9 and 10?
10. There’s an old adage that says: “If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.” Do you think this has any relevance to our ability to understand and accept God’s grace?