

Ephesians Devotional Guide – Part 5

Exercise #1

Christians are sometimes criticized for being too preoccupied with their sin and guilt. As you consider Ephesians 2:1-8, how would you respond to this criticism? Why is it helpful to face the facts about ourselves? Use the text to find how facing the facts about ourselves brings benefit to us and to God.

Exercise #2

According to our passage, salvation includes a deliverance from following the “ways of this world” (verse 2). What ways of this world do you still need to leave behind? How do you need to live instead?

Exercise #3

Consider the quote below from the founder of the Salvation Army, General William Booth: *In answer to your inquiry, I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.*

What does Booth mean by “salvation without regeneration”? Is it seen in the church today? How is it manifested? What can be done about it?

Exercise #4

An Old Testament passage that corresponds to Ephesians 2 is Ezekiel 36:24-28. Read those verses and take note of all that God promises to do. Ponder the contrast between a religion of “you shall” with a religion of “I will”. Thank God for the New Covenant and what it means for you. Also pray for these promises to be fulfilled in unbelieving friends.

Exercise #5

Look ahead to next Sunday’s sermon by reading and studying Ephesians 2:8-10. Why does Paul work so hard to make it clear that salvation is by grace, and not by human effort? What is the relationship between salvation and our doing good works? [Make sure you also include verse 10]. What does it mean that we are “God’s workmanship”?