

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



3. God's Plan of Salvation

(Member's Notes)

Introduction

God has a wonderful inheritance for his people. We looked at the riches of this inheritance in our previous studies. Paul continues his letter by explaining these riches in greater detail and shows us that everything God has done is because of his grace.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

In these verses Paul contrasts our old life with the new life we have received.

- † List the 6 things Paul says about our old life in verses 1-3, 5.
- † What does it mean to 'follow the ruler of the Kingdom of the air?' v2
- † What are the desires of our sinful bodies according to Galatians 5:19-21?
- † Even though we were dead in transgressions, what did God do for us and why? v4-7
- † What does it mean to sit with him in heavenly places? Also see Colossians 3:1-4. How can we experience this in our daily lives?
- † We are not saved 'by good works' but 'to do good works'. What is the difference?
- † What do most people think 'good works' are? Discuss.

Certainly good works in the Bible refers to helping the poor. An example of this is Tabitha who spent her time doing good and helping the poor. (Acts 9:36) However when it speaks of good works in the Bible it has an added meaning.

- † What can we learn about good works from the life of Jesus? See John 4:34, John 17:4, Acts 10:38
- † How can a person fulfil the 'good works' God has prepared for them? John 15:5, Hebrews 10:24
- † Why is it so important we produce the fruit of good works in our lives? 1 Peter 2:12, Matthew 5:16

Conclusion

We cannot earn our salvation by doing good things. It is only because of God's grace and our response of faith that enables us to receive this gift of salvation. However when we do, good works will follow, as our desire will be to do God's will. The important thing is: stay connected to Jesus!