

# Ephesians

## # 8

# Saving Faith

## Ephesians 2 : 4 - 10

**4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*Ephesians 2*

### **But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy...**

On Sunday we saw the extent of our corruption from God's original plan...now we are going to see the extent of God's love and power as he redeems our state.

*Q: Read Ephesians 2 : 1 - 3 again. Do you feel it described your condition before Christ? What about if you were raised in a believing home and always lived a good life - does it still describe it?*

### **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...**

*Saving faith is required to be regenerated - but due to our spiritually dead state we cannot muster an ounce of saving faith [we might muster some understanding - but not saving faith] - then how do we get this saving faith required to believe?*

*Q: How has your understanding of "saving faith" versus "understanding faith" changed over the last few weeks? How would you describe "saving faith" to someone who is new to the things of God?*

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### **6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,**

*Q: What does it mean for us if we are seated with Christ next to the Father?*

### **7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

### **8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.**

*Q: Why do we sometimes have a self-righteous attitude that thinks, that on some level, we were responsible for our salvation? How do we counter this?*

### **10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

*Q: What should the knowledge that God has plans for us do to our spiritual walk?*