



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

March 10, 2024: 4th Sunday in Lent

Series: Rethinking the Solution to Sin

Theme: The All-In-One Curing Miraculous Grace of God

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. What has been your experience with “miraculous cure-alls”? Has anything ever worked like it promised?
2. It is good for us to understand that people are suspicious of “miraculous cure-alls.” How does this understanding prepare us for witnessing and sharing the cure?
3. How does the Apostle Paul make sure that both Gentiles and Jews, converts and long-time believers are aware of the sorry state of their spiritual plight by nature?
4. If you get the teaching of “original sin” or “total depravity” wrong, the rest of your theology is bound to be wrong. Why so?
5. The confession at the beginning of the service may feel like a downer. When you add the absolution, it may feel like a roller coaster. For what reasons is it important for us to do this part each week? Additionally, how can you work to keep it from becoming a “rote ritual”?
6. God's love, mercy, and grace are what cause him to cure us. They are similar words, but how do distinguish one from another?
7. God made us alive and raised us up with Jesus in the heavenly realms. Why is it so hard to grasp this second part during this life?
8. What are two of the purposes for which God made us alive that Paul talks about in this section?
9. How does God's miraculous all curing grace cure us from other suggested life-threatening cures like work-righteousness, election in view of faith, and decision theology?