

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Spiritual CPR”

Pastor Jim Miller

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, May 20, 2007

Read 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 sinful nature[a] and following its desires and thoughts.

Like the rest, we were by nature objects 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 not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Getting Started:

1. Have you ever had the wind knocked out of you? How did it feel?

Discussion Questions:

2. In this passage, who did what to whom? How was it done?
3. If you memorized no passage from the Bible but this one, you would be doing pretty well. It contains the heart of the message of the gospel. Using the contents from this passage, how would you prepare an evangelistic statement to explain (or summarize) the essence of the gospel in three or four lines to a non-believer? * *
4. Many people believe that life is just about striving to be a good person. Why do you think it is such a popular belief? How does this belief counter the gospel message?
5. Pastor Jim mentioned in his sermon, “Trusting in anything less than the one true God is death.” What does he mean? Have you seen any examples of this being true in your own life?
6. Despite the “ooze and decay” of a sinful world, Jesus views us all as precious and wants to “rescue” us. What does this teach us about his character?

7. What is the relationship between faith and works?
8. What does it mean to be God's workmanship?
9. In view of the phrase "used to live" (2:2) being in past tense, how might we expect Christian's lives to be different from non-Christians? How might you make your life different?

**** an example answer for question #3:**

"Though we were dead in our sins, lost, hopeless, we were made alive by Jesus Christ, not because of anything we did, but because out of love, God chose us by grace through faith."

