



Sermon: **How Can I Be Saved? (Ephesians 2:1-10)**

Date: **November 5, 2017**

Tuesday, October 13, 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On this day in 1517, Martin Luther famously nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. The door served as a bulletin board for various announcements related to the church and the community. Luther's theses were a call for the church to leave its superstitions and extra-biblical traditions behind and embrace the simplicity of the biblical gospel. This event sparked debate over the gospel of Jesus Christ which lead to widespread revival throughout Europe. The reformers recovered the biblical gospel and returned to the Scriptures as their ultimate authority and source for truth. From the reformation emerged five Latin phrases known as the "Five Solas of the Reformation" which summarize the Reformer's theological convictions about the gospel message. This week we will study the sola known as "Grace Alone" (*Sola Gratia*). This sola answers the question: "How can I be saved?"

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Ephesians 2:1-10 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a) Briefly summarize the historical context of the Reformation. What was wrong with the Roman Catholic Church? Why did it need reforming?
 - b) What did Pastor Jacob mean when he said that the reformation was a recovery of the gospel?
 - c) How do we benefit from the Reformation today? Why is it important that we study and remember what took place?
 - d) If someone asked you the question, "How can I be saved?", how would you answer them?
 - e) What did the Roman Catholic Church teach about purgatory? What is wrong with this teaching?
 - f) How does Ephesians 2:1-3 describe those who have not been made alive in Jesus Christ?
 - g) Why are we hopelessly unable to save ourselves? Who then is responsible for making us alive together with Christ (v. 4)?



- h) According to verses 4-5, what attributes of God lead him to extend salvation to us? What does this tell us about God's disposition toward us?
- i) What does the phrase "by grace you have been saved," (v. 5) mean? How would you define "grace" in this context?
- j) According to verses 8-10, what role do our works play in salvation? What role do they play in sanctification? What is the purpose for which God has saved us (see verse 10)?
- k) How does the knowledge that God is the One completely responsible for your salvation give you confidence in the Christian life? How does it influence your love and affection for him?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is it important to remember what took place at the Reformation? How do we benefit as Christians and as a church from the Reformation today?
3. How does Ephesians 2:1-3 describe our condition before Christ? Why is it important to remember who we once were before God saved us?
4. If someone asked you the question, "How can I be saved?", how would you use Ephesians 2:1-10 to answer them? What other Scriptures might you use to help answer that question?
5. How does the truth that salvation is all of God and his grace instill a greater confidence in God? How does it affect your worship of him?