

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes May 24, 2006

Ephesians 2:8-10 with guest, Rosalind Moss

8: For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God —

9: not because of works, lest any man should boast.

10: For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.

Discussion Notes:

- Last 3 weeks discussing the Beatitudes:
 - Steps to discipleship (to intimacy with Jesus Christ)
 - All the steps involve choosing to become holy & perfect...
 - PROBLEM: Failure! Why? What am I doing wrong?
 - So what's the answer?
 - Common Protestant answer: *sola gracia & sola fide*
 - The Beatitudes no longer apply because they require works!
 - Instead, we are “saved by grace through faith”, not by works!
 - Point to today's passage: Ephesians 2:8-10
 - Many Protestant commentators' consider this:
“Paul's gospel in a nutshell.”
- Our guest, Rosalind Moss, providentially chose this passage.
 - Of Jewish heritage, and a former Evangelical Protestant minister
 - Staunch defender of the Protestant position.
- The Context:
 - Why did Paul wrote Ephesians?
 - Apostle Paul writing to Gentile Christians:
 - “In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it...” (1:13-14)
 - They heard ... believed in him ... were sealed with the Holy Spirit.
 - Their new changed lives were shown in their faith AND love.
 - “...I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints...” (1:15)
 - They experienced their salvation NOW:
 - “And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...” (2:1,2)
 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in

the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (2:4-7)

- If this, therefore, is a present reality (guaranteed?), why must we be holy, righteous? Works?!
- So how do we understand / interpret today’s text?

8: For by grace you have been saved through faith;

- What is grace?
- What does Paul mean by salvation?
 - And in the past tense?
- Why did Paul add “through faith” here when he left it out previously (2:5)?

and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God —

9: not because of works, lest any man should boast.

- Why was it necessary for Paul to emphasize this?
- What does he mean by “works”?
- Does this support “sola fide”?

**10: For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.**

- How does this fit with his earlier mention of being chosen and destined (1:4-5)?
 - Are these “good works” necessary for our salvation?
- Does this support a “personal relationship with Jesus” –“me and Jesus” idea of salvation?
 - So how do we fit “saved by grace through faith” with the Beatitudes?