

Ephesians: What's God Saying to You? What are You Going to Do About It?

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I. Introduction

If you want a successful life of meaning and purpose, you must know who you are, why you're here and how to fulfill that purpose, i.e., how to do what you were put on this earth to do. To discover all these things you have two choices: figure it out on your own (through yours or someone else's wisdom) or ask God, the One who made you and everything else in this world, including your life's purpose (Psalm 139:16).

II. Ephesians: What is God Saying to You and What are You Going to Do About It?

If you asked God who you are, why you're here and how you're supposed to fulfill your purpose, He'd tell you that you were always meant to be part of Him and rule alongside Him. He'd tell you that no matter how bad things got, or how bad you failed, He'd always rescue you and make things right. In the end, you, with His help, would be victorious over this chaotic world and its evil ruler (Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 5:19).

This message is contained in many of the books of the Bible, one of them is Ephesians. In chapter one God essentially says to you,

"Do you know how many blessings I've given you in My Son? Before I ever created the world, My plan included adopting you into My family by making you part of My Son so that you could have an awesome, godly existence. And if you're wondering how I can be so gracious to such a sinful person as you, My Son gave up His life to pay for ALL your sins. That's how deep My grace runs. In fact, one day I'm going to place everything, in heaven and earth, under My Son's authority and since you're part of Him, you will reign with Him! The moment you simply believed in My Son's salvation, My Holy Spirit placed His seal on you; He is My promise and guarantee that you will reign with My Son. My desire is for you to fully understand My plan for you: how you will reign with My Son, how My unimaginable power—the same one I used to raise My Son from the dead and make Him Ruler of ALL now and forever—how that same awesome power is at your beck and call, and finally how My Son, who is the source and fullness of ALL things, is and will always be your source and fullness."

In the rest of Ephesians, God elaborates on these essential truths about who we are, why we're here and how we can fulfill our purpose. In Chapter 2 God says,

Chapter 2

2:1-3, before the Lord entered our lives, we were dead. So dead we were the walking dead who lived by the broken and wicked philosophy of this world. We marched to Satan's tune, the spirit who's alive and active in every rebellious person, who give themselves over without any restraint to every sinful thought and action their minds can conceive. This was our life without God, this is who we used to be, why we were here, and the purpose we fulfilled.

When I was 14 years old, I saw a film titled *American Gigolo* starring Richard Gere. Mr. Gere played Julian, a gigolo who looked and dressed like a model. He made a lot of money having sex with women and he knew how to get any woman he wanted. I aspired to be like him; I wished I could dress so impeccably and be so irresistible to women and get paid large amounts of money to have sex with women. In the film, Julian got framed for murder. But murder or no murder, I still wanted to be him. Why would this tragic life seem so glamorous, so enticing? There's a philosophy that drives this world and it promises endless pleasure and fulfillment, but in the end it only brings death. That's the only thing Satan, the one behind the chaos and wickedness of this world, can deliver, death wrapped in an attractive, enticing bow.

2:4-7, but because God's love for us is so great, His mercy so endless, while we were dead in our sin, He permanently united us to His Son. That is, He made us alive together-with, raised us up together-with, and seated us in the heavenly places together-with His Son Jesus Christ. Thus showing all future generations just how marvelous His grace is towards us in Christ Jesus. What is the Lord saying to you about who you are, why you're here and how you'll be able to fulfill that purpose? Notice that there isn't supposed to be any daylight between you and Jesus; you're even seated together-with Him in heaven (1:20). So no matter where you go or how bad things get, you and He are always together; wherever you go, He is there!

2:8-9, this salvation granted to you by God through the death of His Son Jesus Christ cost you nothing. It was God's grace that saved you through a simple act of faith. You didn't have to work for it before, during, or after He saved you; it was God's gift to you for simply believing in His Son. Thus, you didn't earn it, you sure didn't deserve it, and so you certainly can't boast about it. If you don't yet know Jesus, He's offering you a brand new life free of charge. If you do know Him, are you living your new life or are you stuck in the old, hopeless life you had before Jesus found you?

2:10, the purpose for which God saved you so graciously without any work on your part and permanently united you to His Son Jesus Christ is so that you would live and breathe inside Him and thus do the good works that God previously set aside for you. Thus, your purpose is to live the life God has for you in His Son, to be guided by His Spirit and voice as you fulfill the work God has laid before you.

How do you see yourself? Do you still see yourself the way you saw yourself before Jesus found you? Like you don't measure up, like there's something wrong with you, like what you're capable of is always falling short? You've been given a brand new life with a purpose and everything you need to fulfill it.....what is God saying to you and what are you going to do about it?

III. Conclusion

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.