

Spiritual Reality
Ephesians 2:4-10

I. Introduction

- A. I like something I've noticed in the Asbury Revival:
 - 1. When they read the word of God they say "It's the word of God" and the crowd responds, "And we believe it."
 - 2. The word of God is all we have for instruction.
 - 3. We have all the instruction we need
- B. A simple declaration about the authority of scripture!
- C. Let's believe what we read!

II. Text

- A. Verse 4: rich in mercy
- B. Verse 5:
 - 1. Spiritual reality: once dead, brought to life by the power of God!
 - 2. To be born once is to die twice, to be born twice is to die once.
- C. Verse 6:
 - 1. Saving us was not the end of the story
 - 2. We are raised up! With Christ!
- D. Verse 7:
 - 1. In the coming ages...that's where we are
 - 2. Same kindness, same grace, same power at work today!
- E. Verse 8: Salvation is a gift from God, by His grace!
- F. Verse 9:
 - 1. Let our boasting be in Christ!
 - 2. A cool thing that a pastor friend said about the Asbury revival: The only name mentioned from the stage is the name of Jesus!
- G. Verse 10: Predetermined plan of God to save us for His purposes!

III. Points

- A. The Reality of God's Grace
 - 1. Because God:
 - a) Is rich in mercy
 - b) Has a great love for us
 - 2. He demonstrated this truth to us:
 - a) Though we were dead in trespasses
 - b) He made us alive with Christ
 - c) Raised us up, seated in the heavenly places
 - 3. Intended result: to show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness towards us
 - 4. Without God's grace we are still in our trespasses and sins...DEAD
 - 5. With God's Grace, we are alive forevermore!
- B. The Reality of Faith
 - 1. Faith is being certain of that which is unseen.
 - 2. We are called to Faith:
 - a) Matthew 6:25-34 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?[g] 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more

clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- b) Jesus is calling us to believe God rather than walk in fear and anxiety
 - c) That is the aspect of our spiritual journey over the last several years that has been most under attack.
3. We walk in faith
- a) Faith is a daily walk, not a once and done thing.
 - b) 2 Cor 5:6-7 6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.
4. We are blessed by faith
- a) John 20:29: Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
 - b) Faith is a blessing, we receive that blessing!
5. We grow in faith
- a) 2 Peter 1:5-11 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,[e] and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities[f] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers,[g] be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - b) Faith is intended to GROW in us! Believe God more as you walk with Him.
- C. The Reality of the Work
- 1. You are created to do good works!
 - 2. You are not saved by works, but works are the result of your salvation.
 - 3. We are saved for a purpose, and all of us come together to complete a team that fulfills the work!
 - 4. God prepared the work of ministry beforehand for us!
 - a) We were a part of the predetermined plan to reach all humanity.
 - b) Our calling and direction from God was predetermined!
 - c) This is a great reminder
 - (1) that we were not saved by accident
 - (2) That we were on the heart of God before we were born.
 - (3) That the mission of the church needs our response to God
 - 5. The Reality of the work is our response to God is worship!
- IV. Close

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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 a result of works, so that no one

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