

## God's Motivation for Serving Him & Others

Ephesians 2:1-10 NASB

Introduction:

The story of Charles Atlas is a story of "before" and "after." Our story is similar but has eternal implications. Our story is about our helplessness before we were saved by God's grace and our salvation and life's purpose after we obeyed Him.

- I. BEFORE CHRIST – our condition – BAD NEWS (Ephesians 2:1-3)
  - A.
  - B. Living like worldly lost people
  - C. Ruled by Satan
  - D. Fulfilling the lusts of the flesh
  - E. Children of wrath
  
- II. BUT SOMETHING(ONE) GOOD HAPPENED (Ephesians 2:4-7)
  - A. But God who is rich in mercy...
  - B. Compare this with Romans 5:6-11
  - C. What is grace?
  - D. Christ did for us what we could never ever do for ourselves
  
- III. AFTER WE CAME TO CHRIST – VERY GOOD NEWS (Ephesians 2:8-10)
  - A. Saved by grace through faith (v.8)
  - B. No boasting (v.9) – why not?
  - C. Saved FROM something FOR something: WE are God's workmanship for good deeds; we are literally God's masterpiece to good deeds
    1. We are recreated in Christ to do good deeds
    2. Psalm 139:14-15 and how we normally look at it: we are not only a physical marvel---more importantly we are a spiritual marvel! Gifts, personality, passions, skills, etc.
    3. God's motivations for our serving Him and others are 3 in number:
      - a. He wants His rich grace known in future generations (v.7)
      - b. Normal people will respond in thanksgiving, praise and faith (vs.8-9)
      - c. That's what our original purpose was and is today (v.10) OUR PURPOSE!

Conclusion: Why is Travis Irwin here?                      Introducing inventories/profiles

Christ has no hands but our hands....

Invitation