

The Surpassing Riches of His Grace

Gen 2:15-17 – Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.**”

1. In what way did Adam die when he ate the forbidden fruit? (Genesis 2:15-17, above). How and when were the Ephesians “dead” in their trespasses and sins? (2:1; Isaiah 59:2)
2. What does it mean to walk “according to the course of this world”, and “according to the prince of the power of the air”? (2:2) Give examples.
3. Describe “the lusts of our flesh” mentioned in verse 3, in view of what James 4:1-4 says.
4. What is the final destination of the “sons of disobedience” (2) and “children of wrath” (3), and why will they be sent there? (John 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:15)
5. What should be the practical outflowing in the life of one who has been “made alive” in Christ? (2:5, 10; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
6. Describe “the heavenlies” that Paul writes about repeatedly (1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12; see also 1 Corinthians 15:47-49). What similarities do you see between what God has done (and will do) for believers (2:5-7) and what He did for Christ (1:20-21)?
7. Describe how this week’s passage fits in with the mission Paul was given on the road to Damascus in Acts 26:16-18.
8. God, who is rich in mercy (2:4), is even richer in His grace (2:7). What is the difference between mercy and grace? How do the riches of His grace surpass the riches of His mercy?
9. What stands out to you about verses 8-9? What is the “gift” of God here? How does faith fit in? Describe the significance of verse 9 as it relates to our future in the heavenlies.
10. What should motivate Christians to walk in the good works God has prepared for us beforehand (2:10)? Share with the group a good work God prepared for you recently.