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The Gift (Paul's View on Grace Series #1)

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Ephesians 2:1-10 ¹As for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath. ⁴But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages He might display the surpassing riches of His grace, demonstrated by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life. (BSB)

There is a huge controversial theological issue that must be settled before we can begin our lesson today. God is **Sovereign** but we will still be held **Accountable** for both our actions and our inactions.

A – All of mankind will be held responsible for their **choices**. V.1-3

S – Grace is provided without any **merit** on our part. V.4-7

A – Our faith must be put into the saving grace offered. Every human has a small capacity to put their **trust** into others. God gives us greater faith once we surrender our lives to Him and act upon what we profess. V.8-9

S – Our life is in the sovereign hands of our living God. He has **work** for us to do.

Why is this passage so important, how should it affect us?

- ❖ We need to take **small steps** of faith and **realign** our priorities with the work that He has prepared for us to do.
- ❖ We must constantly **rest** in His ability to work through us.
- ❖ We must live free of the **burden** that it all depends on our obedience.
- ❖ We must look for our divine **appointments** that God brings our way.
- ❖ The Grace that we have access to is **unlimited**. We must extend it to others, to God, and to ourselves. Grace can be missed and it will cause **bitter roots** to grow.