**Jesus to the Rescue!**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

Session 4

On Jan. 15, 2009, flight 1549 was cleared for takeoff for a routine flight from LaGuardia airport in New York City to Charlotte, North Carolina. Three minutes later, the airplane hit a flock of geese at 2,818 feet and lost engine power. As altitude decreased, pilot Capt. Chesley B. Sullenberger, tried turning the flight back toward LaGuardia, but they were already too low. Six minutes after takeoff, the plane, which was traveling at 150 mph, crash-landed in the Hudson River. Everyone on board -- 150 passengers, three flight attendants and the pilots -- survived. This heroic act has been called the most successful rescue attempt in aviation history.

As great a story as this is, the story of Jesus is even greater! Jesus Christ has successfully rescued all of mankind from certain death and destruction for all eternity by sacrificing his very life for the forgiveness of sin so that all of mankind might repent and come to Jesus.

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but **everyone to come to repentance**. 2 Peter 3:9

Praise the Lord for Jesus. He alone has rescued us from what we use to be. As you look over this passage begin to identify what He rescued you from and also what He rescued you to become for His glory.

**Our position before Christ.**

* **Spiritually dead in our sin vs. 1**

A person may be alive physically but not aware they are dead spiritually. They are a walking dead person who is separated from God, and a life alive to God. It sounds strange, but we were all born dead. Though we are alive physically, Paul tells us we are dead spiritually in our sins. We have inherited a sin nature that goes all the way back to the garden when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying what the Lord had instructed – See Genesis 3:1-13

*A spiritually dead person does not respond to the things of God,*

*understand the things of God or accepts the things of God.*

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians. 2:14.

The person without Christ is walking in the darkness of their trespasses and sins. What does this mean?

Trespass – to slip, fall or stumble, to go the wrong direction.

Sins – means to miss the mark of the righteousness of God.

* **Headed down a path of destruction vs. 2-3**

 **QUESTION**: Look at verses 2-3. Who did we follow, and what did we follow before we came to know Christ?

 **QUESTION**: What does it mean when it says, “by nature we were children of wrath”?

**Our lives after Christ**

* vs. 4– but (contrast) God.

God intervened. He stood between us and our sin and became the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

* **Rescued by love** **vs. 4** We went from being an object of wrath to an object of His great love. Your salvation is not accomplished by your own works, strength or merit, but solely on the basis of Christ redemptive work. God poured out the riches of His grace on you and me for all eternity.

*It was at Calvary that God displayed His hatred for sin*

*and His love for sinners. Romans 5:8; John 3:16*

* **Rescued into life vs**. **5-6** The same power that raised Christ is the same power that raised you to newness of life. We have been already raised spiritually if we have received Christ, now we await being raised physically. We have also been reconciled (made right or come into agreement) with God through Christ.
* **Rescued with a Purpose vs. 7-10**

Why do you think many religions have a work-based mentality? What is the problem with this?

We play no role in salvation. We are not saved by doing good works; but once we are saved, we do good works as a testimony of God’s transforming power in our lives. We are created to do good works. This is our purpose for which He has rescued us.

*Salvation cannot be “of works” because the work of salvation*

*has already been competed on the cross.*

**QUESTION**: Look at verse 7. Practically how are you showing others God’s incredible grace and kindness through Jesus Christ?

**QUESTION**: What does Paul mean when he says, we are God’s workmanship?

**Yes or No** – After looking at verse 10, is it possible to miss some of the many works God has in store for us, because we set our sights on the things of the world rather than on our Savior?

What have you seen God do this year in your life which indicates God is directly at work in your life?

Take time either on your own or in your group to thank Jesus for rescuing you. Pray for each other that God would carry out His purpose in our lives.

OUR POSITION BEFORE CHRIST OUR POSITION AFTER CHRIST

 DEATH LIFE

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST



A NEW CREATION – GOD’S WORKMANSHIP

