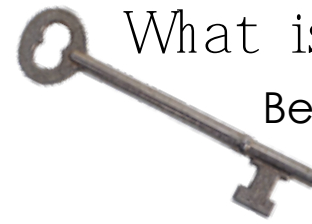


How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



What is the Gospel?

Becoming Kingdom People

Danny Hall • October 21, 2012

Ephesians 2:1-10

Life without God

Life with God

If you would like to become a part of a small group please contact
the church office at 925-846-6622 or info@vcclive.org.



What is the Gospel?

Becoming Kingdom People

Ephesians 2:1-10

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

Colossians 1:13-14 reminds us that followers of Jesus are rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into Jesus' Kingdom. But how do we enter into this Kingdom? In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul outlines in a clear and succinct manner the beautiful story of what God has done to open the way into his Kingdom. He describes us as dead in our transgressions and sins, but made alive in Christ. Our deadness is described by our slavery to the world, Satan, and our own broken flesh. Trapped in the grip of these forces, we were helpless. Out of a heart of mercy and love, God graciously rescues us in Christ. Our deliverance is by his grace alone and when we receive this gift by faith we are not only delivered from the grip of these forces, we become people of His Kingdom. As Kingdom people, God masterfully crafts us for a significant role in His Kingdom, becoming all that God created us to be.

Engaging with each other

1. When was the last time you were surprised by an unexpected gift? How did you feel? How did you respond?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Paul talks about three forces that describe our "deadness." They are the "ways of this world," "the ruler of the kingdom of the air," and the "cravings of our sinful nature." What are some of the ways that these might be experienced? What are the consequences?
2. In what sense do you think we are "made alive" in Christ?

3. In verses 4-7 Paul uses four words/phrases to describe God's disposition toward us. What are they and what kind of picture do they paint of God?
4. People often use verses 8-9 to describe our salvation. If we include verse 10 in this description how does it change our understanding of the scope and intent of our salvation?

Engaging with our lives

1. The word workmanship is a word that was often used to describe a work of art or craftsmanship. What does that imply about you?
2. Another translation of verse 10 says "for we are God's masterpiece," (New Living Translation) How might seeing yourself as a unique masterpiece created by God himself change the way you live?
3. The terms "masterpiece" or "workmanship" entail both a sense of beauty in form as well as effectiveness in function. What are some physical examples in our lives today (e.g. a car)? How does this analogy affect your understanding of God's Kingdom and your part in it?