

Ephesians 2:1-5 - EXPLORING OUR ROOTS

Intro - PBS has a show called *Finding Your Roots* hosted by HLGJ. In the show he helps famous people find hidden elements buried in their heritage. As these privileged people explore their past they are inevitably confronted with a surprise (+ or - / heroic or horrific). Then the host will say something like, "*How do you feel knowing that your family was...involved in...subjected to...?*" Ephesians 2 begins by exploring the roots of the Christian. The church is a privileged people - Chapter 1 outlines the believer's spiritual blessings.....but Eph. 2 explores our bad beginnings. The whole human family is descended from bad blood. Our origins are from the earth (dirt); but our heritage is from hell. When Adam fell it rendered all his progeny defective, corrupt, sinful, and depraved. Our family tree is the one which produced forbidden fruit; and when we tasted Satan's lies then our branches became intertwined with him. On the PBS show the guests are often shocked by who is in their family tree/history. You may be surprised by what you hear of your heritage today and who you are related to. But the point of this text is to show the privileged Christian where he came from so that he might praise God for His glorious rescue. Grace is measured from the distance it travels and the depth it reaches. And God's grace reached from light to darkness - it reached from life to death - it reached from heaven to hellions

OUR FALLEN CONDITION

- Eph. 2:1 "*And you were...*"
 - The previous chapter was about who we are in Christ.
 - Now we are confronted with who we were before Christ.
- Our former condition was one of a corpse. 2:1 - "*...you were dead in trespasses and sins.*"
 - Sin introduced the element of death into our existence.
 - Rom. 6:23a Gen. 2:17
 - Adam and Eve died the day they sinned.
 - Sin brought physical death eventually....but spiritual death immediately
 - We are losing life in our bodies; but we lack life in our spirits.
 - Sin deadened us to the things of God.
 - Sin rendered us unresponsive 1 Cor. 2:14
 - Humanity is not in a dangerous condition...we are in a dead condition
 - We didn't evolve from cave men but did descend from a "corpse man."
- We were the walking dead
 - 2:1-2a "*...dead....in which you formerly walked...*"
 - This "death" is a life that is absent any spiritual life.
 - We are alive but we lack an essential dimension to true spiritual life.
 - To be born a sinners means being born into a "Zombie life" the living dead
 - How does make you feel to be a descendant of "zombies"...the walking dead?
 - Don't worry, it only gets worse as we explore our roots.

OUR FAMILY TRADITION

- 2:2 We lack a godly spiritual life ^(dead),but we are under an ungodly spiritual influence.
 - *"course of this world"* we are infected with our worldly atmosphere
 - There is a serpent in our family tree that controls our atmosphere
 - John 8:44 1 John 5:19 2 Tim. 2:26 2 Cor. 4:4
- People are not neutral.
 - We do not come into the world and decide which side we will be on
 - We are born into the Devil's camp. Our heritage is from hell.
 - 2:2 - *"sons of disobedience"* 2:3 - *"children of wrath"*
- Our actions show our ancestors.
 - 2:3
 - 1 John 2:16 1 John 3:10 John 8:44
 - *"They ask me. ""Hank, why do you drink, why do you...old family tradition.""*
 - Our heritage is from hell and hellions.
- How does it make you feel to find out these things about your tradition/condition?
 - The point of the text is to compare our past condition to present salvation.

GOD'S GRACIOUS REGENERATION

- 2:4 *"But God..."*
 - If it wasn't for God's intervention, we would never escape condemnation.
 - Eph. 2:12
- God is rich in mercy and great in love.
 - Ex. 34:6
 - God doesn't have to be merciful (Rom. 9:15).... but He is and has a lot of it
 - God's love is boundless - Eph. 3:18-19
 - For God to save Satan's kids is a kindness beyond compare
 - Ezekiel 16:1-6
- God's love and mercy worked a miracle for Satan's kids who were dead in sin.
 - 2:5
 - Ezekiel 37:3-10
 - Salvation is a resurrection
 - Eph. 1:19-20
- Regeneration = new life new family....new nature
 - John 3:1-7
 - God graciously gives the dead in sin new life in Christ. Ezekiel 36:26-27
- The distance grace goes.
 - Grace is measured from the distance it travels and depth it reaches.
 - As we have explored our roots....contrast the height of where grace brought you from depth of where grace caught you.
 - It reached from Light to darkness...Life to death...Heaven to hellions
 - The church comes from bad blood but has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus
 - We were the "walking dead" but God said to us "Live!"
 - *"Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now it see."*