

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **November 26, 2017** sermon, "But God, Being Rich in Mercy." Please read the sermon passage (Ephesians 2:1-10) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE CHRISTIAN'S . . .

1. Prior state before God (1-3)
 - a. You were dead. This both dramatic and personal.
 - i. Spiritual death is separation of the soul from God.
 - ii. Physical death is separation of the soul from the body.
 - iii. Eternal death is separation of the soul from God (or 'spiritual death') forever.
 - b. Old identity: in our trespasses (we crossed the line) and sin (we missed the mark).
 - c. Old path: we followed the course of this world and the "prince" of this world.
 - d. This made us all, "Children of wrath."
2. Present state before God (4-10)
 - a. But God, being "rich in mercy . . ."
 - i. Psalm 3:3; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:38
 - ii. We have received his mercy because of his great love.
 - b. He has (count it as already done!) made us alive with Christ Jesus.
 - c. He has (count it as already done!) raised us up with Christ Jesus.
 - d. He has (count it as already done!) seated us with Christ Jesus.
 - i. God is not interested in renovating or merely updating your life.
 - ii. God is interested in making the dead alive. And this completely by grace.
 - e. We must come to God with our hands empty. "Merit and grace are polar opposites."
 - f. The result of this new life is good works, which God has prepared for us to do. (10)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Note the differences between the three different "deaths" described in the Bible. When did you pass you pass from "spiritual death" to "spiritual life"? How can you use, "Born once, die twice; born twice, die once," in your conversations with unbelievers?
2. Based on #2, above: The reason we do not receive the judgment and wrath we deserve is that God loves us, and has satisfied his own wrath in Jesus. Discuss this statement: "We receive mercy because of God's great love."
3. Based on #2, above: It is easy to think that God simply wants a "better version" or "updated version" of ourselves. But that mindset only produces human effort. In what ways have you fallen victim to the idea that most of the Christian life is about increased efforts? Why does that mindset fail?
4. Based on #2, above: True conversion to Jesus Christ changes our standing or identity. We used to follow the world, but now we stand with Jesus. And when we are standing with Jesus we do good works. Discuss this: "Our identity shapes our behavior."