

The Good News is Gift News
Ephesians 2:8-10
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Outline of Notes

Introduction

- Give a gift (book & CFA gift card)
 - Gift given without expectation, without cause (not earned)
- "Good news"
 - Good news is only good news if ...
 - if there is bad news that requires the good news.
 - This comes down to your view of the Bible.
 - God's word
 - Only truly OBJECTIVE measure for life.
 - if it's true.
 - if it gets to its object in time.
 - if it is heard and accepted.
- Gift
 - Given by the Giver with love
 - Always has an object
- Preview
 - The gracious gift of faith
 - The gracious gift of rest
 - The gracious gift of service

I. The gracious gift of faith

- a. "FOR it is by grace you have been saved through faith"
- b. Have you received this gift?
- c. What good does it do you if you leave the gift on the table?

II. The gracious gift of rest

- a. "not by works, so that no one can boast"
- b. The good news of not having to (or even being able) to acquire salvation
- c. Rest from trying to earn God's gracious gift
- d. Nobody has the right/ability to tell God that He owes them.

III. The gracious gift of service

- a. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- b. We GET to serve God.
- c. As a way to say "thank you" for the gracious gift of eternal life.
 - i. Isn't it nice that v. 10 comes after vs. 8-9?
 - ii. My testimony
 1. Grew up in a church-going family
 2. But never had a personal relationship with the Living God
 3. Led to the Lord by Chuck and Laura. Chuck disciplined me deeply
 - iii. Witnesses for God
 1. Best witnesses for Christ? Those who bring glory to God

2. Worst witnesses for Christ? Those who don't bring glory to God. (yes, hypocrites!)
- iv. The role of good works
 1. Ultimately, the bring glory to God!
 2. Second, to say "Thank you" to God.
 3. Third, to be a good witness for God.

Conclusion

- Review
 - The gracious gift of faith
 - The gracious gift of rest
 - The gracious gift of service
- Questions
 - What have you done to deserve the gift given to you? Nothing!
 - Have you received the gift offered to you? If not, why not?
 - Judge Christ by Christ, not by Christians
 - If you have received the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, how well are you THANKING Him with your life?
 - What can you do THIS WEEK to say, "Thank you?"
- Enjoy your gift!