



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Monday, 6/27/2022

Scripture: Ephesians

TITLE: Ephesians – Saved for a Purpose

There was an Englishman named Julian Ellis Morris who liked to dress like a beggar and go door to door selling razor blades and soap. At the end of the day, he would return to his mansion to change and depart for an expensive dinner out on the town.

That story sounds ridiculous, but it is true. He could have lived like a king any moment of any day but lived like a pauper most of the time when he should have been living like a king.

Many Christians today live like Julian Morris. We live in spiritual poverty...stuck in our spiritual walk when we have access to unlimited spiritual resources. If you struggle with this, then you should read the book of Ephesians.

The book of Ephesians is one of my favorite books in the whole Bible. It both picks me up when I need encouragement and kicks me in the butt when I need to get moving spiritually.

The Book of Ephesians is one of the prison epistles of Paul. What does that mean? It means that Paul wrote this letter while in prison. The city of Ephesus was a commercial hub full of business and religion. The small home church grew into a large church which would be pastored by Paul for about 3 years.

Why did Paul write this letter from prison in Rome? It was to spur on these Christians to stop living like spiritual beggars. They were rich in Christ so they should act like it.

The book can be neatly divided into two parts. Theology and practice. The first 3 chapters establish the incredible beauty of God's grace upon Christians while chapters 4 through 6 provide the application.

What's the main thing from the Book of Ephesians? It's you were saved for a purpose. Many people view salvation as a one-way ticket to heaven. And, yes, it is a non-refundable one-way ticket to heaven, but it is so much more.

Ephesians 1 declares that God planned our salvation before time began. This salvation according to Ephesians 2 is beyond scandalous. Paul says that we are totally, spiritually dead. But by Grace through faith God saves us and transforms us into living masterpieces for good works.

And then Paul says this in Ephesians 4:1-3 (CSB):

“Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Paul would continually remind his readers that we were saved for a purpose. We are God's masterpiece. We are God's spiritual children so therefore, we are to walk worthy of the calling you have received.

So here's my challenge for you today: walk worthy. Live on purpose for that calling. We all struggle being faithful to God. We all stray from His path and His best. God's grace is sufficient. So today begin to live on purpose.

If you've never chosen to follow Christ, then admit you need Him. Confess your sinfulness to God and receive God's gift of salvation by grace through faith.

All of this is made possible by God's grace. Paul said this in Ephesians 3:20-21.

“Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”