

CLOSING THE GAP
Longview FUMC Lenten Bible Study
Week 4: GRACE and GOOD WORKS – Ephesians 2:1-10

Theme/Focus: Grace redirects us from sin and desires of the flesh toward a more faithful life of selfless and God-centered life in partnership with God. We are saved by grace, not good works. However, good works are an outcropping of our redeemed life through God's grace in Jesus Christ. In other words, we are saved by grace to do God's will through good works, rather than try to earn our salvation through good works.

Related Scriptures:

Matthew 19:16-26 – Salvation and Eternal Life Depend upon God's Grace

Galatians 2:15-21 – Jews and Gentiles Saved by Faith

Romans 11:6 – Grace, Not Works

Romans 12:1-5 – New Life in Christ

John 16:16-24 – Conflicting Perspective with the World

James 2:14-26 – Faith without Works is Dead

Titus 3:1-8, 14 – Rebirth, Renewal, and Good Works

Questions:

- How do you receive gifts?
- Where have you tried to earn God's favor and achieve salvation?
- What led you to embrace salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ?
- How is the motivation of our good works important? How is works righteousness different from a response of good works to God's grace?
- How has God's grace offered you new life?
- When have you felt close to God?
- How has closeness to God blessed you? How has it challenged you?
- Have you been challenged when making a commitment to Christ?

NEXT WEEK: Read Hebrews 5:5-10 – Closing the Gap: SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE