

On Display

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 2:8-10.

B. The only thing that can deliver man is the work of God through Jesus Christ.

II. The great purpose of God is that man might know the immeasurable riches of God's grace.

A. God's purpose is beyond our present experience.

B. God has determined to put His grace on display.

C. God's grace is His character, love, compassion and tenderness.

D. God wants to enrich the lives of the onlookers and display the skill and artistry of the Artist.

III. The coming ages mark the greatness of God.

A. The age does not reach its conclusion until the Coming of Jesus.

B. But God is fulfilling what He has started right now.

IV. God is displaying His kindness toward us in the present age.

A. This is God's gentleness.

B. God's kindness is given to lead us to repentance.

C. This is to show us that we are dependent.

D. God's kindness is given in redemption to put us back into harmony with those we live with.

V. The basis for God's kindness is grace.

A. God's work of grace is already done.

B. Man has been given a new personality and relationship with God.

C. The believer belongs to the family of God and has a new power available to him for every situation.

D. Perfectionism locks a person in guilt, but Christ gives the believer a new identity where he can accept himself and accept others.

1. The power of Christ's resurrection enables the believer to deal adequately with perfectionism.

2. This is not man's doing because it involves his death—no one plans to die on his own for fulfillment.

3. This is not from man because it is not something that man could ever merit through his works or his faith.

4. We are God's masterpiece—He has put us together in order to teach us to stop depending upon ourselves and rest upon Him.

E. Everything was prepared beforehand by Jesus. Step into a good work that God has prepared for you.

Application questions:

1. How does God's kindness relate to our dependence?

2. What is the solution to perfectionism?

3. How has your view of God been changed or strengthened through this message? Explain.
