

THE JESUS DIFFERENCE

Maxim

If Jesus isn't making a difference in any relationship or area of life
it is because He is absent in it.
i.e.
Jesus always makes a difference.

Ephesians is – relentlessly relational!

The first Jesus Difference is in our relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:1-10

4 Question

1. What was my spiritual condition before the Jesus Difference?
2. What did God do and why did He do it?
3. How does one – receive – Jesus/The Jesus difference?
4. Is there a connection between The Jesus Difference and 'good works'?

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-7

“As for me, I was dead in my transgressions and sins...”

Spiritual Dead = Separated from God

But your iniquities have separated you from your God.

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23a

“But God”

Because of His great **love** for us, extend His **mercy** to us through **grace** to **save** us!

(vs 5)

G.R.A.C.E – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16a

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

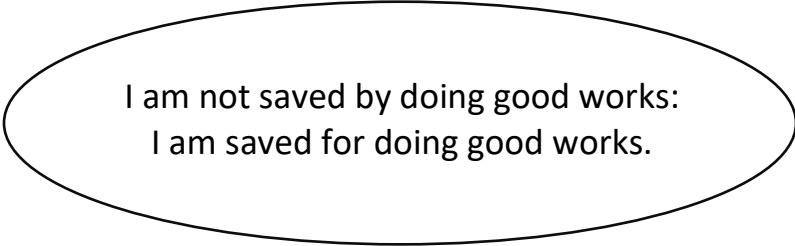
Ephesians 2:8-9

Good Works - The Greatest Error

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Good Works - The Greatest Neglect



I am not saved by doing good works:
I am saved for doing good works.

And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24 (NET)

For Discussion

1. Have you experienced ‘The Jesus Difference’ in your relationship with God. When, elaborate please.
2. What was life like before this Jesus Difference in you?
3. Have you ever believed ‘The Greatest Error’?
4. How are ‘good works’ a part of your life currently: do you struggle with the ‘Greatest Neglect’?