



Week 3: Every Nation

Here's the question....Am I getting stuck in virtual reality?

Ephesians 2:1-10

"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. (2) You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil-the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. (3) All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. (4) But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, (5) that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) (6) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (7) So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus."

Salvation is not _____ - it is _____!

We are the _____ of his creation

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

John 10:10

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give (you) a rich and satisfying life."

Romans 12:1-2

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. (2) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message)

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

How to receive the rescue of Jesus:

- 1) *Admit you, like everyone else, have been in darkness and need the LIGHT of Jesus.*
- 2) *Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.*
- 3) *Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.*

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord. Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "LIGHT" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: With today's definition of virtual reality (Anything that takes me away from all God has for me), what comes to mind as the current virtual reality most affecting your life right now? What is pulling you away from God and all he has for you?

:: How do you think your life would begin to change if you truly saw yourself as an ambassador for Christ in the place where you "do life"

:: Who is Holy Spirit inviting you to consider blessing with a Christmas for all?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT]
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