

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 9/15/2019

Ephesians 2:1-9 – “Nothing Less Than a New Birth” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Although we were born into this world spiritually dead, those who believe in Christ Jesus can say that God has made them spiritually alive—a new birth—entirely by his grace.

Quotations

“The doctrine of the new birth made its way like lightning into the hearers’ consciences.” George Whitefield

“Everyone comes into the world physically alive but spiritually dead.” Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) We sometimes read or hear reference to a “born again Christian.” Is there any other kind? Why do secular commentators feel compelled to use that phrase?
- 2) George Whitefield was known for preaching two main themes: justification by faith and the new birth. Make a short list of the key doctrines of the Christian faith that you would consider important for evangelism (i.e. the most important things for an unbeliever to know about Christianity). If you had to select two of them as constituting the heart of your message, would they be the same two Whitefield chose? Why or why not?
- 3) What did Paul mean when he said, “And you were dead”? Is this different than being spiritually weak or sick? How do most people view their spiritual state? If you are a Christian, do you agree with Paul’s assessment of your pre-Christian state? Why does Paul make a point of this?
- 4) Drew indicated that we all want a God of wrath who brings justice, and that this is shown by asking ourselves, “What if God were indifferent to the atrocities in our world?” Do you agree? Why do many people object to the idea that God is angry toward *them*?
- 5) Ephesians 2:3 says we all were once children of wrath, yet 2:4-5 says God had great love toward us even while we were still dead in our trespasses. How do you resolve these two truths? How did God resolve them?
- 6) Ephesians 2:8-9 seems to state that *everything* associated with your salvation, including your faith, is God’s gift and not of your own doing. Does this thought inspire in you the kind of joyous wonder and worship that it appears to have in Paul? Why or why not?
- 7) Re-read Ephesians 2:1-9. How does this passage affect your approach to evangelism?