

## Lesson 3

### Church Matters to the Unsaved!

#### Sharing Question:

What does it mean to you when something is said to be “a work in progress?” What are some things in your life that would fit in that category? Do you think it’s appropriate to identify the church in such terms? Why, or why not?

#### Study and Discussion Questions:

1. Who is included in the salvation experience described in Ephesians 2:1-10? What has changed, and what will change for this group of people, according to the text? **Application:** Do you think most people usually connect “church” with changes like this? Why not?
2. What is the significance of Paul’s description of the unsaved as “dead?” (Ephesians 2:1, 4) What other descriptive terms are used in Ephesians 2:1-5 to identify the basic building materials of the church? What does it mean to be “saved?” **Application:** What is the “Good News” in all of this for those who would be classified as “the rest,” or the unsaved? (2:3)
3. How can such desperate, even hopeless, circumstances be changed, according to Ephesians 2:4-5? What are the ingredients of the church’s plan of salvation? Where does “grace” belong in this process? **Application:** What does it mean to you that the “dead” are made “alive with Christ?” What has Jesus done for you?
4. How does Ephesians 2:6-7 present the dramatic nature of the changes experienced by those who are “in Christ Jesus?” What do such changes imply about “the coming ages” of the church? **Application:** Where have you observed the church experiencing the benefits of such changes?
5. What is the intended interpretation of this statement: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8-9) What are the “good news/bad news” implications of this interpretation? **Application:** What is the single greatest disadvantage of the church enamored with its own traditions, programs, and successes? Why is this such a problem? How does this impact the unsaved?
6. How would you describe God’s work in Christ (John 1:14), and now in the church (Ephesians 2:10)? What was the purpose of all this creative effort? How should we define “good works,” according to Matthew 5:16? **Application:** How will such a goal change the way the church goes about its activities?