



Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

Sermon Title:

Road to Christmas – the Centurion

Preached by: Jeremy Rensford

### Big Idea/Sermon focus:

- None of us deserve God's grace – we are to humble ourselves and have Jesus as boss.
- Coming into Christmas, let's treat not-yet-Christians as "VIP's".
- Jesus is our only hope for healing and salvation.

### Key Scripture/s:

- Ephesians 2:8-10

### Summary:

Paul writes to the Ephesians some truths that the world and every religion is still trying to come to grips with two thousand years later: that we can only be saved by God's grace.

The centurion in Sunday's sermon understood he was *not worthy* but still approached Jesus for help. We too can humble ourselves and experience the very best of Jesus as Lord of our lives, inviting and encouraging others to join us.

Let's discuss...

### Questions for Small Group Discussion:

#### 1) Bible study. Read Eph 2:8-10 together.

##### Verse 8 discussion:

- How would you explain the word grace?
- Can anyone name a time in their life where God extended His grace to you?
- What else is important in this verse (maybe discuss faith, and the fact all of this is God's *gift* to us)?

#### 2) Verse 9 discussion

- What do you think are these “works” that Paul mentions here?
- Do people still think works get us into heaven? What about other religions? Discuss
- Paul talks about boasting in this verse. What could heaven look like if we got in because of our works?

### **3) Verse 10 discussion**

- In the last verse, Paul talks about works not helping, and yet in this verse he says it's what we have been created to do. Why? Discuss.
- How does seeing people as God's handiwork/masterpiece/workmanship help us with relating with not-yet-Christians? (Remember that the Jewish elders in Sunday's sermon treated the non-Jew as a VIP)

### **4) Practical discussion:**

- Who can I treat like a VIP this Christmas season? (non churchies)
- What can I do to treat them in this way?
- Where do I struggle in relating to, and reaching out to not yet Christians?
- (pick up discussion around this area – feel free to expand the discussion – important we think and talk about this)';

### **5) Prayer:**

Christmas period for families.

Reaching out to not-yet-Christians and where we struggle in this area.