



Ephesians

Part 11

Ephesians 2:1-10
Week of May 16, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10
 - Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>
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And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:1-10, ESV

Sermon Notes

The Gospel is not that God changed His righteous standards of perfection to allow you to be bypass judgement, but rather, God provided - through the perfect work of Christ - the justification for all who believe.

As Paul prays over us, that we would know the hope to which we have been called, that we would know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and that we would know the immeasurable greatness of his power. This is where Paul pauses. He wants us to understand what he is talking about here. So he walks us through the display of this power in Christ. He raised Him from the Dead, He seated him in the heavenlies, He gave him ruling commission over the earth.

The section we are in now is an outflow of that very work in those who believe. Those three sections I mentioned earlier in regards to Christ will guide our discussion through the beginning of Chapter 2. The first display of Power that Paul talks about in Christ is his resurrection from the dead (vs. 20). So that is the first display of power that he is going to talk about in you. When I read this section, I see Paul writing to believers to remember the immeasurable and miraculous expanse of the beauty of your Salvation.

Unfortunately, this amazing word "salvation" can get swallowed up in the liturgy of our Christianity. When that happens, the danger is that it loses value and power in our ongoing perspective of life. We must never forget the spanning contrast that exists in Christ's salvation work. We must not lose sight of the radical victory of deliverance that took place on the Cross and through the empty tomb. We cannot water down or take for granted the immeasurable power of God that is at work inside of you every single day.

Our Sure Judgement

- *Ephesians 2:1-2a "You were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked."*
- The reality of sin in you. Your sin is complete. Because death rules over you.
- *Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*
- Your judgment has come from God.
- *Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*
- You have no claim to righteousness.
- *Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
- "You shall surely die" is an act of righteous judgment.
- Anyone who has any trespass, any sin, WILL experience this death.

Our Overpowering Enemy

- Ephesians 2:2b-3
- There is real evil at work in this life.
- People in this world have a woeful ability to cover the depravity and deteriorating morality with a blanket of moral relativism and human rights. We think that we can speak "goodness" over society and that is going to undo some mystical, fictitious belief in evil.
- Many have the perspective that we are mostly good and at times we are tempted by

evil.

- You are evil and there is no righteousness in you.
- *Psalm 14:1-3 "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*
- Some have claimed that the description within these verses is mythical and gnostic. However, Paul is communicating the observable dominating power over us who are living by our own might in this world.
- Just as Paul spoke of Christ's dominance in chapter 1:20-21 So Paul speaks of the dominance of the enemy over our flesh in 2:2
- The enemy is your natural father.
- Ephesians 2:3 This is a crushing identity.
- Think of the most innocent in the world. They are children of wrath!
- This is your story! Your sin, your unrighteousness, your obedience to wrath has brought on you the most horrific death, the most horrifying judgment.
- In your sin, there is no hope... In your fight against the powers of this world, there is no hope.
- One of the greatest victories of the enemy, is to appease this judgment in your own mind. To convince you that there are no evil powers at work in this world...
- If you can believe in your own good, you will be less impressed with any deliverance there may be.
- If you do not believe in a real enemy, you may be foolish enough to believe that you can conquer this life with the power of positive thinking.
- *John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

The Mercy and Grace of God!

- Ephesians 2:4-5
- The most beautiful words in the Scriptures "but God"
- Your value, clarity, and praise of God for the gift of salvation in His Son will be elevated on the clear understanding of your hopelessness without Him in your sin and death!
- If you were standing in your yard, you would be irritated with someone who threw a life jacket at you and hit you in the head, but when you are drowning in the ocean, you want to do nothing other than give that person a kiss!
- As Paul makes his way through these opening verses in chapter 2, the believer is crying out through tears of Joy.
- *Ephesians 1:5-7 He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*
- The Gospel is not that God changed His righteous standards of perfection to allow you to be bypass judgement, but rather, God provided - through the perfect work of Christ - the justification for all who believe. That they may be fully judged, not upon their own works of righteousness, but on Christ's

Please don't let this world, this nation, or this community, fool you into thinking that it is "alive", or that it is "good". The need for the light of the Gospel is at its greatest right now. The recent events in our community should make clear that we are not fooled. *Matthew 5:14-15* "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- As Paul discussing being dead to sin, what does Paul mean? What caused our death? Where did the source of our sin come from?
- What does it tell us about the nature and character of God that our judgment comes from God? Why do we need to understand to understand the nature of our sin?
- Why do we attempt to frequently cover over our moral depravity? Why do we want to believe that we are mostly good but tempted by a little bad?
- Where can we find the power to overcome sin and defeat the impulses of our flesh? How does the fact that we were dead in our sins and only Jesus can save display the grace of God? How does it display the supremacy of God over all creation?
- What is the difference between someone who is marked as a child of wrath and one who is marked as a child of God?
- How does the work of Jesus Christ give us hope in the midst of our earned death?

Challenge For The Week

The heart of the Gospel is that we were once dead to our sins and grace bore the punishment of our sin upon Himself and drew us closer to Him.

- We need to reflect upon the depth of the Gospel and its impact on us. In your quiet time, consider your life before you submitted to the will of God in your life. What did Christ save you from?
- This week, take some time to pray for the hurt in the community and for those in pain with the recent events. Ask God to move in the hearts of the people so that His name might be glorified and hearts might be healed.