



# Ephesians

## Part 12

Ephesians 2:1-10  
Week of May 23, 2021

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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

*But God made us alive together in Christ.*

The foundational statement and description of Revival in the church comes from Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God made us alive together in Christ." If we were to simply spend our time today breaking down this main clause, we would find ourselves in a valuable frame of mind. Within this phrase is the central ingredient for revival. "Alive together in Christ" If you were to say to me "I know how to bring about revival, we must come alive!" I would not disagree, but I would refer you to the importance of the language at use here.

- "But God" is the only contrast that can begin this statement. From the state we were in, "death through sin and trespass", there is only one power who can bring about this sharp contradiction. It is a letdown to hear "you were dead in your sin and trespasses, but philosophy... but sports... but counseling... but medication... but religion... etc... There is no other pair of words that could hold the power of Paul's beautiful proclamation over us, "but God!" If the beauty of these words are not seen by you this morning, then know that I am praying for true revival in your heart right now.
- "Made Us Alive" We truly must come alive, but this is the great work of the Spirit in us. Not any will or power of our own, but only at the hand and desire of our God through Jesus Christ!
- "In Christ" This term is clearly central for Paul as he seeks to open up our hearts to the Glory that is in the Covenant relationship we have with God in Christ.

So, how are we who were dead now all of the sudden alive in Christ?

## **By the Character of God, God is Merciful.**

- "Being Rich in Mercy"
- The greatest need of man since the dawn of sin and death is that we receive mercy.
  - Since that day in the Garden of Eden, we are unable to gaze upon the Glory of Him who is in heaven.
  - Mankind's sin in the beginning of time wrote our name in death but choosing to rebel against God rather than bow to Him as Lord.
  - My greatest desire, to be in the presence of the Holiness of God, is now the most dangerous thing and the greatest threat to my life.
  - Experiencing the full presence of God threatens anyone who seeks to live in non-repentance. The unrighteous cannot live in the presence of the righteous. The unholy cannot exist in the presence of the holy with the grace and love of God.
- His mercy shown to us directs our Worship!
  - *Exodus 34:4-8 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.*
  - God reveals Himself to His people that He is mercy and that He grace. The greatest cry of our soul will be met and filled in Jesus Christ's mercy.

- His mercy is the foundation for Covenant.
  - God's mercy is at the center of His relationship with His people.
  - God's mercy is at the center of His relationship with you.
  - You cannot grasp the centrality of God's mercy until you are struck by your need for it.
  - When you truly understand your need for it, you will erupt in true worship of a God who is rich in it!

## **By the Provision of God. God is Love.**

- "because of the great love with which he loved us"
- If the greatest need in our life being mercy, is met with a God who is Rich in it, then the greatest act of this mercy is God himself providing himself to us.
- The mercy of God is so great that it could travel upon no other vehicle than the greatest Love, God Himself.
- *John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
- God loves the world in this way. Whoever looks to Christ and turns from their snake bitten sinful lives will have eternal life.
- The work that God did in sending His son was the most beautiful act of covenant love! It was the most powerful act of Covenant love!
- You have gone from walking in sin and death, children of the wrath of God, to those who are mercifully forgiven and adopted as children of the Love of God.
- The indicator in your life that this is true should be the radical, no similarity, life that we live after we come into the Love of Christ!
- The love of Christ does not look like your jealousy and anger. The love of Christ in you does not look like your sin that defined you before. All of this was not done so that you could go on living a life of sin and death.
- We have missed Revival! We sell Jesus as the greatest consumer good to further your investments of this life.
- *Colossians 2:20-3:3 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*
- When you begin to see clearly the beauty of what Paul is describing, when you are washed with the Love of Covenant which he "lavished" upon us you cannot, you will not, ever be able to live your life in the same way you did before.
- We cannot buy the lie that we are still who we were before coming to Christ. God did not send His only son that you might become a better version of you, but so that you would be a New Creation.
- *Romans 5:8 "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!"*
- We are willing to believe that God can do this great work in someone else's life, but we simply don't believe it about our own. I am tired of people pretending like God's mercy and love is not quite enough.
  - We go on feeding our flesh instead of having victory over our sin.

- We continue to highlight our failures rather than lay them at the foot of the Cross.
- We continue to carry the wounds of this world, never allowing anyone close to us in defense of our own hearts, rather than letting Christ's love and life make us vulnerable and available to our loved ones.
- We continue to quench the Spirit by making excuses why we are not able to be obedient rather than step out in faith.
- We are more comfortable building church buildings than walking over to the house next door for the sake of the Gospel.
- We seek to find rest from the work of the Gospel rather than finding rest in it!

## **What Would Revival Really Look Like?**

- Revival looks like the Spirit falling on those whom He has called to live a life that looks radical in a fallen world., a life that reflects glory not death, one that prioritizes obedience to the Spirit of God, not the flesh.
- I believe we would see disciples built in the living rooms of homes more often than in the church classroom.
- I believe we would hear the Gospel preached, in life giving ways, in our neighborhoods and not just on Sundays.
- I believe the Christian would initiate the ministry of the Gospel rather than wait to be invited to serve.
- We might spend less time rationalizing what the Bible doesn't say we can't do in this world, and start dreaming of what the Power of the Spirit who lives in us could accomplish in our own neighborhood.
- Are we set up to quench revival?
  - We organize ministry and offer opportunities to "get involved"
  - If we don't feel like our church is "doing enough" we will go to the church down the road that offers more.
  - If revival fell on our people, our church would never have the resources or the organization to contain or organize the power of the Spirit that would be poured out on our community!
- When people do begin to fall more into love and obedience to Christ, we ostracize them as "radical" Christians.
  - We build the face of the Church today to be "relatable". We are not like those other Christians...
  - Now to be clear, I acknowledge what is trying to be done. We are distancing ourselves from the anger and judgement that has become popularized by some in the church world.
- When Revival comes, it will not necessarily be "relatable."
- He has made us "Alive with Christ"!
  - This has been the most controversial piece of our very faith!
  - And Paul says that this is the truth that is displayed in you!

You have a story. And you are going to look a little weird in the process. Your life should look radical and transformed by those outside of the church. They should see someone whose life reflects the glory of God who has saved us from the grasp of death. We should be willing to grow deeper in our relationship, wage war on sin with one another, and worship the Lord with our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

# Connect Group Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to find mercy in the Lord? What did Jesus Christ do to extend mercy to people? How does doing this reveal the glory of God?
- How would you describe the beauty of Jesus Christ taking on flesh? Why is this the most beautiful act of covenantal love?
- In what ways did the love of God change and transform us? Who were we before we encountered Jesus Christ? What has changed since then?
- Why do we tend to view the church as something we should consumeristically receive rather than something we have the honor and potential to join God's ministry?
- Do we desire to look different and potentially weird to those not in relationship with Jesus Christ? Why or why not? What is difficult about standing out in this manner?

## Challenge For The Week

The cry of hearts is to experience the mercy of God in our lives. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and need the mercy of God to be extended to us. We wage war on our sin and proclaim the Gospel to the world around us.

- Are you in a discipleship relationship with someone? If you are, consider what you are withholding from the conversation and what you need to confession to your brother or sister in Christ. If not, consider who is one person you could ask to be in a discipleship relationship with you this week.
- The world needs to experience the mercy that comes from Jesus Christ. This gift comes out of the abundance of the grace of God. Who do you know who needs to experience the mercy of Jesus Christ? Share your story with them.