



Ephesians

Part 13

Ephesians 2:1-10
Week of May 30, 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

But God made us alive together in Christ.

We have all heard the adage of dressing for the job you want, not the job you have. The idea of going out there and working hard for you and your family is a very important thing. Hard work and the irreplaceable value of it, should be something we seek to instill in all of our children. It does not take long to understand that those who work hard will set themselves up for a better outcome in this material world.

The Christian is willing to take all of this and claim, "Yes, but none of this is even possible without the 'grace' of God." To be clear, this is a very true statement. We are always depending on the grace of God for every moment of our lives. However, I find that this foundation in our lives creates a bit of confusion in our understanding of the "grace of our salvation"

The beauty of what Paul is doing with the Ephesians in this text is that he is speaking the beauty of the Glory of Christ over them. Please do not be fooled into thinking this is something easily grasped. We are so easily distracted from allowing our minds to just rest in the Glory of our salvation in Christ Jesus. Why?

- We are hyper focused on the praxis of our faith.
 - We have dictated to our preachers throughout our age that the best sermon is the one that has the most practical steps for us to follow.
 - We have inadvertently determined that our holiness is based on our ability to produce our desired morality rather than be consumed in the joy of grace.
- We are uncomfortable with the thought of helplessness.
 - Vulnerability is something that we have deemed weak and useless in our culture.
 - The problem is that without vulnerability you cannot intimately see the beauty and love of the one who comes to rescue you.
- We have grown weak in our understanding of Worship.
 - We have reduced worship to an "art" rather than a state of our hearts.
 - Worship has become something of "talent" rather than a universal response to the Glory of God.
 - Worship is now produced and given a time slot in our Sunday morning services, rather than a response to the move of the Spirit no matter where we are in our day.

By Grace You Have Been Saved

- There are two statements that parallel each other in our focused verses this morning.
- There is an interesting structure worth noting here. The Grace of God in our salvation encompasses two overwhelming aspects of our salvation.
- The grace of God that raises the dead to life.
 - This is the powerful indication of the salvation that was to come when the Messiah finally came to fulfill all things.
 - *Matthew 11:2-6* Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."
 - By the great mercy and the love of God, we are no longer dead in our sins and

trespasses, we are alive together in Christ. This is what we talked about last week...

- When we think about our salvation through Grace, this is the majority of what we think about. But, this text continues not just with our dead to life movement, but our earthly to heavenly glorification.
- The Grace of God that Shines Glory Through Us!
 - *Ephesians 2:6-8*
 - This is the Grace of God that many of us do not think about. Some of us do not have a category for this. We slip into the wrong thinking that God has saved us from death, now it is our job to produce glory.
 - We get to that point by demanding our practical application before we have spent our time worshipping the glory of His grace.

In Christ We Find All Grace and Glory For This Life

- The fulness of the Picture of Christ in us:
- The "In Christ" movement continues strongly in our section this morning.
- Raised us up "with him"
- Seated us "with him"
- He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us "in Christ Jesus"

By the Grace of God, You Have Been Raised High

- *John 13:36-38* Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.
- I think this response from Peter consumes our internal struggle.
- Your desire does not mean that you can.
- You can desire the things that you cannot have, but you will never be able to receive them.
- Your desire to be with Christ is commendable. However, it does not make it any more possible for you to follow Him in his resurrection from the dead and His life unto God!
- We inadvertently confuse our desire and willingness for Christ as some guarantee that what we want is achievable.
- "I will lay down my life for you" this false promise of effort equal to desire will always end in failure.
- Regardless of passionate desire or valiant effort, the thing that we desire most, to live a life in Christ is an unachievable want in us.
- It is only the Grace of God that can produce any of what we desire.
- Salvation Grace is the end of your attempts and desires, and a new life in Christ!
- *Galatians 2:20* I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

By the Grace of God, You Are Seated In Glory

- God did not work some of His power in you, but all of His power!
 - *Ephesians 1:19-20*
 - Grace is overwhelming simply in the dead coming to life, but those who were once dead in sins and trespass to be seated in Glory is insane!
- You are assured Justification in Judgement
 - *Romans 5:18-21* Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one

man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- You always have access to the Father!
 - *Colossians 3:1-4* 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 Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

By the Grace of God, You Are A Beacon of Grace To A Broken World

- *Ephesians 2:7*
- That you might "be" to the glory of His grace.
- One of the most astounding things to see in the Grace of God is that he shines his glory in you.
- *2 Corinthians 4:6-10* For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.
- Take hold of who you are, not by your desire, not by your effort, but by His grace alone.
- *1 Peter 2:9-10* But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Once we were not a people, now, we are God's people. Once we were lost, now, we are found. Once, we have not received mercy, now, we receive mercy. We cannot dress ourselves for more glory for God. We need to undo our attempts at self-justification and self-reliance to find ourselves completely consumed by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- In John 13, how does Peter demonstrate the results of our own attempts at elevating ourselves? How do his actions betray his ideal of himself?
- What does it mean to be raised high? How did Jesus Christ accomplish raising us high? Why is this considered an act of grace?
- How are we assured justification in judgment? What does it mean to be justified?
- How did Jesus Christ provide us access to the Father for all eternity? What does this reveal about God's affections for us?
- What does Paul mean when he desires for us to be to the glory of His praise? What does it look like in our lives to reflect the grace and glory that comes from God?
- What can we do to diminish our ego and looking to our own ability in order that we can better see and reveal the glory of God?

Challenge For The Week

All we are stems from the grace of God. Everything we are and everything we have comes from the graciousness of a Loving Father who does everything according to His glory. During your quiet times this week, consider some of the questions.

- Where do you struggle to give grace to those around you? Too often, we think we understand the grace of God but without extending it to others. How can we give grace to those around us?
- Who do we know who needs to experience the grace of God for the first time? What is our role in sharing the Gospel with them?

