

God's New People: Moved from Wrath to Delight

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 — Ephesians Series—MS Msg 4 — Pastor Jason Hill

Ephesians 2:1-10

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** 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—**3** 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. **4 But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—**6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

REVIEW:

- 1) Ephesians divides into two sections: Chpts 1-3—What God has done for us in Christ; Chpts 4-6—What it looks like for us to live our life in a new identity.
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-14 describe the spiritual blessings which are given to believers.
- 3) Ephesians 1:15-23 records Paul's prayer Ephesian believers to know the hope, riches and power that God has given in Christ.

Paul describes how God has moved believers from being objects of wrath to objects of God's delight.

We needed grace before we knew Christ to bring us to Christ.

We need God's mercy and grace as we live each day by his grace.

God wants us to live our lives with the understanding that we need His grace on a daily basis.

When we forget about the importance of the grace of God, we can fall into one of two ditches.

Spiritual pride—thinking that we are better than what is true.

Complete sense of failure—think that we are not as bad as what is true.

Thinking about God's grace....you need to remember some important points...

1) Life before salvation.... (v 1-3) - The Bad News

Paul is showing that life before salvation is a mess.

Dead in trespasses and sins—trespass—a deliberate disobeying; sin—a missing the mark

Followed the course of this world—living as those who do not know Christ. **1 John 2:15-17**

Followed the prince of the power of the air—ultimately living as Satan desires for us to live.

Living and carrying out the passions and desires of your flesh—**Galatians 5:16**

By nature children of wrath—God's wrath is His automatic response to evil. THINK VOMIT.

Before God's grace, we are driven by a desire to gratify our sinful, selfish thoughts and desires. We are not simply bad in behavior but it comes from a heart that is hopelessly corrupt. In our very nature, we are infected with sin and inclined away from God.

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Thinking about God's grace....you need to remember some important points...

2) But God... (v 4-7) - The Good News

In our mess, God steps in.

WHAT GOD DID? He saved us **v 5, v 8.**

WHY? Because He had mercy on us and loves us **v 4, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Titus 3:5**

To put his grace and kindness on display in Christ **v 7**

HOW? Giving us a New Position in Christ—because of our connection to Christ

Made us alive—God showed us mercy while we were dead. We were hopeless and helpless. In active rebellion.

Raised us up—God raised us to live a new life. **Ephesians 1:20-21, Romans 6:4**

Seated us with Him—We are seated with him. **Colossians 3:1-4**

IT IS AS GOOD AS DONE!

3) The Needed Response.... (v 8-10) - The Gift of Faith

The only response in salvation is to receive through faith the free gift that God mercifully gave us.

Remember salvation is a sovereign work of God.

Grace and the faith are gifts from Him (v 8-9).

We are his workmanship and created (v 10). Both speak of creation.

This is not trusting in God for salvation and living on our own.

God gave us faith for salvation (for us to know Christ) but also for how we live and grow.

In our salvation, as helpless and needy, we receive the rescue gift of God.

In our life, with limited power, we don't live by our own efforts but trust in the gift of God.

When He saved us, He didn't move on to other things. He is working a plan for your life.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is the gospel (Man's need, God's Action, and Man's Response) important for those who don't know Christ? Why is it important for those who have already trusted in Christ?**
- 2. What happens in our life when we forget how bad off we are apart from Christ?**
- 3. What does our life look like when we live as if the gospel is only for someone else?**

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Paul describes how God has moved believers from being objects of _____ to objects of God's _____.
We needed grace _____ we knew Christ to bring us to Christ.
We need God's mercy and grace as we live _____ by his grace.

God wants us to live our lives with the understanding that we need His grace on a daily basis.

When we _____ about the importance of the grace of God, we can _____ into one of two ditches.
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Followed the prince of the power of the air—ultimately living as Satan _____ for us to live.
Living and carrying out the _____ and _____ of your flesh—**Galatians 5:16**
By nature children of wrath—God's wrath is His _____ response to evil.

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