

Remembering Human Sinfulness, Remembering Divine Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon Outline

The Main Lesson: We are saved by grace!

Part I. The Message of Human Sinfulness (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- *We are saved by grace!*
 - We are spiritually dead in sin. We need to be saved.
- 1) A ***difficult*** message: Human sinfulness isn't a message that people want to hear. They will often try to deny it.
 - 2) A ***necessary*** message: In God's presence and in light of his word, human sinfulness is undeniable. (See Isaiah 6:1-7; Ephesians 2:11-12)
 - 3) A ***blunt and bleak*** message (v. 1): Paul doesn't try to sweeten this message up. He very clearly and very directly reminds the Ephesians that they were spiritually dead—alienated from God and trapped in a twisted mess of evil. (See Ephesians 4:17-19; Acts 19:17-20; 26:16-18)
 - 4) A ***multifaceted*** message (vv. 2-3): The Ephesians' (and our) pre-conversion condition has three main elements:
 1. The world (v. 2b)
 2. The devil (v. 2c-e)
 3. The flesh (v. 3a-c)
 - 5) A ***universal*** message: Paul says this message is true of his mainly Gentile readers (v. 1a), true of himself & his fellow Jews (v. 3a), and true of everyone else (v. 3e). (See Romans 3:1-20)

Part II. The Message of Divine Grace (Ephesians 2:4-10)

- *We are saved by grace!*
 - We can't save ourselves. We totally depend on God's grace.
- 1) A ***shocking*** message (v. 4): "But God!" These two words cut through the darkness of our despair and breathe unforeseen life into our hearts. The remedy for our death was nothing less than a miraculous, spiritual resurrection.
 - 2) A ***Christ-centered*** message (vv. 5-6): This spiritual resurrection was provided for us "in Christ," that is, through our being united with him. (See Ephesians 1:3-14, 18-20; 3:20; also, take note of the gray highlighting in the diagram)
 - 3) An ***eternal*** message (v. 7): When we are united with Christ, we immediately experience God's grace. However, God's expression of his grace and our worshipful response is a process that will endure for all eternity.
 - 4) A ***humbling*** message (vv. 8-9): This drama of redemption was *God's* plan (see Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 3:11). It was *God* who initiated it and it is *God* who will carry it to completion. For our part, we are simply to trust in his saving work. (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Titus 3:4-7)
 - 5) An ***inspiring*** message (v. 10): This is a message that calls us to action. We're not saved by works; we're saved for works. Just as God chose us before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5), so also he has prepared work in advance for us to do. (See Ephesians 4:1; Luke 7:36-50—especially vv. 42-43 and 47)

Human Sinfulness: The Ephesians' Former Condition and Behavior: Death & Evil Deeds (2:1-3)

1a	concession	<p>And you were <u>dead</u> in your trespasses and sins, in which you <u>formerly walked</u> according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.</p> <p>[the sons of disobedience] ←</p> <p>Among them we too all <u>formerly lived</u> in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.</p>
b		
2a		
b	1) the world	
c	2) the devil	
d		
e		
3a	3) the flesh	
b		
e		

Divine Grace: The Ephesians' New Condition and Behavior in Christ: Life & Good Deeds (2:4-10)

4a	contra-expectation	<p>But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were <u>dead</u> in our transgressions, made us <u>alive</u> together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly <i>places</i> in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, <i>it is</i> the gift of God; not as 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 so that we would walk in them.</p>
b		
c		
d	concession (again)	
5a	action #1	
b		
c		
6a	action #2	
b		
c	action #3	
d		
e		
7a	purpose	
b	when?	
c		
8a	expansion	
b		
c		
9a		
b	purpose (or result)	
10a		
b		
c	purpose	
d		
e	purpose	