



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Gospel Clarity

Date: October 5, 2025

Scripture Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Notes:

In today's world, there are so many distractions. We carry small computers in our pockets called smart phones that can give us direct access to almost any piece of information available. And in turn, grants access to us via phone calls, text messages, email, instant messages, social media posts, etc. In a day when technology was supposed to make our lives easier, instead it has added complexity. As a result, it is easy to get distracted from where our focus should be. We may get focused on ourselves, what we want, or get wrapped up in cultural issues and miss where God wants our focus to be. In today's passage from [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), the Apostle Paul writes to help Christians focus on Christ and the salvation that can only be found in Him.

I. See Where You Are Without Christ (Eph. 2:1-3)

Paul is making the case that we are lost and without hope apart from Christ. He describes a life of fleshly desires that is driven by selfish aspirations. "Apart from Christ, people are without authentic spiritual life. In this state the most vital part of the human personality is dead; thus people cannot by their own efforts or ingenuity experience fellowship with God or meet his requirements... Apart from Christ, people are dominated by "fleshly desires," which refers to an orientation away from God toward selfish concerns. The unredeemed person is completely at the mercy of the tyrannical self and its lustful impulses." (Wax).

- Describe elements and character of a person walking 'according to the ways of the world'. ([vs.2](#))
- What might be ways people may try to achieve their own righteousness apart from Christ?
- What are your thoughts on why people don't choose Christ to get out of their bondage of sin?
- Paul, before moving on to describing the grace and mercy of God wants his reader to fully grasp sin and its effects. How does he do that in [vss. 1-3](#)?
- Are there areas of sin you still struggle with, prioritizing what you want over God's desires or downplaying it as 'not that bad'?
- What do you need to do to fully surrender your whole life to Christ and experience His grace?



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II. See Where You Are With Christ (Eph. 2:4-7)

“Over against the human rejection of God, Paul painted a picture of the new life manifested in God’s gracious acceptance of sinners because of Christ. The strong contrast points to God’s answer to people’s dreadful situation. “Mercy” is God’s compassion for the helpless that relieves their situation. While grace involves God giving believers what they do not deserve, mercy means that God does not give what is deserved.” (Blum)

- In [vs. 5](#) we see that God ‘made us alive with Christ’. Our sins separated us from God. The resurrected Christ overcame death. God lets us share in Christ’s resurrected life. In so doing he caused us no longer to be spiritually alienated from Him. This was made so by God’s grace. What does being ‘made alive with Christ’ look like for the Christian?
- Our resurrected life with Christ is accomplished because of the great love God has for us ([vs. 4](#)). How can God’s great love motivate us toward obedience?
- In [vs. 7](#), our salvation is a display of God’s divine grace. God did all of this in Christ with a single goal: to ‘display the immeasurable riches of his grace’, the demonstration of his divine favor for the coming ages to see. How would you describe the immeasurable riches of God’s grace?

III. See Where You Are Going With Christ (Eph. 2:8-10)

“The work of salvation is for God’s glory and is not accomplished by human works. The whole process of salvation is not a human achievement, but is an act of God’s goodness. The emphasis is always on Christ, the object of faith, not on the amount of faith. Salvation is by God’s completely unmerited favor. The phrase ‘by grace through faith’ serves as the antecedent (precursor) of the phrase ‘it is God’s gift’. We must not portray grace as God’s part and faith as our part, for *all* of salvation is a gift from God.” (Blum)

- What are ways people may try to achieve salvation by works?
- Why are our works not sufficient?
- What does the phrase mean ‘good works are the fruit of our salvation, not the cause of it’?
- According to [vs. 10](#), for what purpose were we saved?
- Good works are not secondary to God’s plan; they are instead an essential part of His redemptive plan for each believer. How are we blessed by our good works?
- Can a Christian be obedient without doing good works?
- How are our good works an expression of gratitude to God for His salvation?
- List examples of your good works.