

## Ephesians 2

During these 5 weeks in October we are looking at each of the 5 solas of the Protestant reformation.

1. We have looked at *Sola scriptura*: Scripture alone is God's inspired, inerrant, sufficient, and sole authority for the church.
2. We have looked at *Solus Christus*: Christ alone is the way the ungodly are justified
3. Last week we saw *Sola fide*: the belief that Christians receive the redemption Christ has accomplished through faith alone.
4. Today, we are going to focus on *Sola gratia*....grace alone...which affirms that *all* of our salvation, from beginning to end, is by grace and grace alone.
5. Next week we will finish up with the last of the 5 solas: *Soli Deo gloria*.

Some of you need to listen very closely today. I have tried to share the gospel message clearly and repeatedly for the past four years. I have tried to move you to examine yourselves to see if you are truly in the faith.

1. I have done the best that I can do to alert you to any deception you may have fallen for.
2. I have done my best to shake you free from any distraction you are enamored with.
3. I have done my best to help the disinterested see the greater treasure of Jesus Christ.
4. I have tried to clarify the biblical gospel for those that have been disillusioned by western Christianity and western Christians and hypocrites and churches that aren't biblical.
5. Some have responded and found peace and assurance...some have rejected my message and written it off...but some of you are stuck in the place of doubt and discouragement. You can't seem to find peace or assurance and you are struggling.

This message is going to help you. So pay close attention.

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked 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. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived 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.*

### **1. We are characterized by Mis-steps v1**

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

- a. Trespasses: a blunder, to fall away, to mis-step
- b. 2 Samuel 6:1-7

### **2. We are characterized by Short-steps v1**

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

- a. Sins: missing the mark, falling short, a short step

- b. This is the most comprehensive term for all types of sin.
- c. Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

### 3. We are characterized as in step v2

*2 in which you formerly walked 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.*

- a. In step with the world.
- b. Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*
- c. In step with the ruler of this world.
- d. The Devil is smooth! He's got everyone blind, deaf, dumb, and happy about it

### 4. We are characterized as those who Over-step v5

*even when we were dead in our transgressions*

- a. Transgressions: law-breaking.
- b. The law doesn't make men sinners, it makes them transgressors and therefore exceedingly sinful.
- c. 2 Peter 2:16 *he received a rebuke for his own transgression, for a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.* (Numbers 22:22-35)

*3 Among them we too all formerly lived 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.*

- 1. We act like what we are by nature: children of wrath characterized by the flesh: the Old Adam that we learned about a couple weeks ago.
- 2. Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- 3. We act like what we are: spiritually dead.

#### • You were dead

- 1. What can a dead person do? I'll tell you one thing...dead people don't reach for things.
  - a. Imagine going to a funeral and the person in the casket reaching out and grabbing you by the collar and the funeral director coming up and saying, "Its ok....let me just lock the top down on this thing."
  - b. We would be horrified because dead people don't reach out and do anything!
- 2. We need to get this picture out of our head: the picture that salvation consists of a drowning man, struggling for life, that God throws a life raft to.

- a. You weren't drowning until God threw you a life line
- b. You were drowned...at the bottom of the ocean, lifeless, hopeless, and helpless.
- c. And just like a dead person doesn't reach out of his casket at the visitation, a dead person doesn't cling to a life raft in the ocean...and a spiritually dead person doesn't, can't, to anything to correct the problem God has with them.

3. Dead people can't do anything...and that's us. We are dead!

So where is the hope? v4 *But God,*

1. BUT GOD!!!
2. There is hope!!!!!!! BUT GOD

*4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

1. We have to be made alive
2. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-10) The Sovereign God breaths life into dead men

*6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

1. He then raises you out of this world...the current of this world...and seats you in heavenly places.
2. Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as 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 so that we would walk in them.*

1. Sola Gratia. Grace alone
2. *Salvation is entirely a work of God, in its Origen, execution, and consummation. Salvation is something God does.* Carl Trueman

This doctrine was not welcomed by the Catholic church, to say the least. Here is one of the many reasons a reformation was necessary.

1. The 6th Session of Trent, Canon 30 reads: *"If any one saith, that, after the grace of Justification has been received, to every penitent sinner the guilt is remitted, and the debt of eternal punishment is blotted out in such wise, that there remains not any debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this world, or in the next in Purgatory, before the entrance to the kingdom of heaven can be opened (to him); let him be anathema."*
2. In other words, if you believe that there exists no more divine penalty for sin after justification, you are damned.
3. We recoil at such language, but practically we act the same.

We say it is by grace alone that we are saved...but practically we believe it is grace plus...

1. A sinners prayer...prayed with the proper amount of sincerity
2. Baptism
3. Church attendance
4. Prayer and bible Study
5. Overcoming every one of your sins
6. Obedience
7. Why do you think you are going to heaven...and how many of us start with "Because I?"

*"He who does not receive salvation purely through grace, independently of all good works, certainly will never secure it."* Luther

### **Conclusion:**

Do you wrestle and struggle with salvation?

1. You are likely looking at the wrong thing. You are likely looking at yourself...
2. Am I sorry enough? Am I praying enough? In the Word enough? Working hard enough? Good enough? Knowledgeable enough? Changed enough?
3. The answers are always no.

*a. In vain people busy themselves with finding any good of man's own in his will. For any mixture of the power of freewill that men strive to mingle with God's grace is nothing but a corruption of grace. It is just as if one were to dilute wine with muddy, bitter water.* Calvin

- b. You are not enough.
  - c. Say this with me: I am not enough. I will never be enough.
  - d. So stop asking that question! It will always be no. But do you know what the answer will always be yes to?
4. Is Jesus enough? Is he good enough? Holy enough? Was his death enough? Is His intercession enough?
5. Then the answer always yes! Look off from yourself and look unto Jesus

You can keep trying to be good enough, acceptable enough, sincere enough...you can keep trying to be enough. Or you can look to Jesus as your enough.

*When Satan tempts me to despair And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me To look on Him and pardon me*