

October 30, 2016

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Message: “God’s Beautiful Story”

- October 31—Reformation Day!: rediscovering the beautiful truth of the gospel story
- The story of the Bible...
 - Ephesians has a “gospel structure” just like Romans (last week’s message)
 - First the indicatives and then the imperatives)
 - The gospel is a beautiful story

1. Humanity (vv 1-3)

- “dead in your transgressions and sins” (vs 1)
- “followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (vs 2)
- “gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts” (vs 2)
- “we were by nature deserving of wrath” (vs 3)

- Is this really true?—Shantung Compound

2. God (vv 4-9)

- “because of his great love for us...rich in mercy” (vs 4)
- “made us alive with Christ” (vs 5)
- “it is by grace you have been saved” (vv 5,8)
- “the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us”
- “the gift of God” (vs 8)
- “Jesus Christ” (vv 5, 6—2X, 7, and 10)

“The Gods of moralistic religions favor the successful and the overachievers. They are the ones who climb the moral ladder up to heaven. But the God of the Bible is the one who comes down into this world to accomplish a salvation and give us a grace we could never attain ourselves (Tim Keller).

- What has God done?
 - God raises the dead and gives us life.
 - God does for us what we are not able to do for ourselves
 - God ability in the midst of our inability.
 - God restoring us to our original purpose (vs 10).

3. Humanity (vv 8-10)

- “through faith” (vs 8)—a posture by which we receive the free gift
- “to do good works” (vs 10)—salvation not “from works” but “for works”
- “God’s poem” (vs 10)

God’s grace liberates us:

- Namaan (2 Kings 5)
- Paul (Acts 9 and following)
- Robin Hood (1991)
- Les Miserables (2012)

- What are the “bad works” God has saved us from and what are the “good works” God, by grace, has saved us for?

The Lord’s Supper...