

"When You're a Little Unsteady"

Ephesians 2:1-10

August 5, 2018

Sermon Series: "Stories That Stick: The Gospel at Work in Everyday Life"

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THE BIG IDEA

This message underscored how free grace shapes Christians' identities in Christ. Ephesians 2:1-3 shows what life looks like before Christ; verses 4-9 illustrate life after we are gifted with faith. Verse 10 tells us what our new lives are for: we are given grace for good works and to be Christ's workmanship. You are gifted for a specific calling that you and only you can know in Christ. However, our identities are not in our good works, but in Jesus' grace, which produces faith.

GETTING STARTED

1. What's the most gracious free gift you've ever received and how did it bless or change you?
2. What is meant by the sermon title? How does grace give us an unshakable confidence?
3. Consider, for example, the story of Alex Seeley (author of *Tailor Made*), which illustrates how the regenerative work of Christ in our lives (grace) makes us secure. Related to this illustration, Henry said to "never let your highs be too high or your lows too low." What does this mean?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read Ephesians 2:1-10.

Henry broke this passage into three sections: verses 1-3 (before image), verses 4-9 (after) and verse 10. Study the verses in light of the word bank and phrases below. Think critically about what each section of verses says specifically about life with or without Christ. Perhaps put together a list to juxtapose the benefits of being with faith versus being without.

Definitions and implications from verses 1-9:

Trespass/transgression (*paraptoma*) – slip and fall imagery

Sins (*harmatia*) – failure to hit the target of God's glory

Ruler of the kingdom of the air – demonic spiritual power

Desires and thoughts (*dianoia*) – your different senses as well as personal beliefs

Deserving of wrath – byproduct of being a fallen people living in the presence of a perfect and holy and glorious God

Love (*agape*) – self giving

Mercy (*eleos*) – in the Old Testament, “mercy” was given to Israel. Now mercy is given to all people

Grace (*charis*) – undeserved gift

Incomparable (*hyperballo*) – excelling, surpassing, exceeding, beyond measure

Faith (*pistis*) – heart and head knowledge of the risen Lord

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

4. What brings you to the “heights” of praise? What can often bring you to an especially “low” or despondent place? God’s grace is continuously generating good in you. Are there ways you might further anchor your life in this unmerited gift of grace?
5. Is your “boast” in what Jesus did on the cross?

THE “EXTRA-MILE”

6. Reread verse 10. As God’s workmanship, what are some good works only you can do? In other words, given the time, relationships, and resources God has given you, what unique opportunities do you have to act for good in the lives of those around you? This week, pray for opportunities to do one thing every day of this week that only you can do.

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the families affected by the Carr Fire and the first responders involved.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Tailor Made: Discover the Secret to Who God Created you to Be by Alex Seeley