

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, October 21st, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
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PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

O God, We joyously come together to worship,
realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here.
We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you;
our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.
Grant us this blessing, O Lord,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Come, all who thirst—come to the water!
You who long for the water of life—come and drink!
Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness;
quench your thirst at God's well of grace.
For God is here among us,
offering living water to all who would drink!
Let's worship God together!
— based on Exodus 17: 1-7

[To the Table](#)

[Your Promises](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Gracious God, We praise you continually for permission to approach your throne of grace,
and to spread our wants and desires before you.
We are not worthy of your blessings and mercies
For we are far gone from original righteousness;
Our depraved nature reveals itself in disobedience and rebellion;
Our early days discovered in us discontent, pride, envy, revenge.

Congregation: Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor the multiplied transgressions of later years,
my failure to improve time and talents,
my abuse of mercies and means,
my wasted sabbaths,
my perverted seasons of grace,
my long neglect of your great salvation,
my disregard of the Friend of sinners.

Leader: While we confess our guilt, help us to feel it deeply,
yet to remember there is hope in thee,
and to see the Lamb that takes away sin.

Congregation Through him may we return to thee,
listen to thee, trust in thee,
delight in thy law, obey thee,
be upheld by thee.

Leader: Preserve our understanding from error,
our affections from love of idols,
our lips from speaking gossip,
our conduct from stain of vice,
our character from appearance of evil,
that we may be blameless, useful, light-giving,
zealous for your glory and the good of our neighbor. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
-Ephesians 2:4–5

Leader: What hope do you have that God has forgiven all your sin and now only has love for you?

Congregation: Our only hope is the death of Christ for our sins.

Leader: And now, for those with faith in Christ, which of your evil sins keep him from loving you?

Congregation: None. For we are his and He is ours! Hallelujah, we have been saved!

[How Great Thou Art](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

The good news of the gospel is that we have been reconciled! Reconciled to God and to one another. Take a moment to celebrate our reconciled status by welcoming your brothers and sisters here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon- One in Christ, Ephesians 2:11-22

// Benediction //

Leader: The joy of being the people of God be upon you and fuel you to love and serve others this week. Go from here as his people, full of love and grace.

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

Loving Father, oh how we need to hear your word today. I need to hear from you. We need the good news once again that we're yours, you love us, and you have provided everything we need in Christ. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Nourish our faith and deepen our love for one another. In Christ name we pray, Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Psalm 136:1-9

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: to him who alone does great wonders,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: to him who by understanding made the heavens,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: to him who spread out the earth above the waters,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: to him who made the great lights,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: the sun to rule over the day,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: the moon and stars to rule over the night,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

[Come Thou Fount](#)

[Awake My Soul](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Father, the more we delve into the depths of our sin, the uglier and more heinous it becomes. If we promise to do better, we lie. If we try to clean ourselves up, we are frauds. If we give because we feel guilty, we are schemers. If we serve to feel good about ourselves, we are self-righteous. If we pray only to get what we want, we are self-serving. If we read your Word so you will be pleased with us, we are manipulators. The selfish motivations of even our best actions condemn us. Please forgive us and help us to look only to the life-saving, life-giving, life-changing power of Your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2:8

You Are Righteous, You Are Mighty (written Matt Beckler, unrecorded)

// Passing of the Peace //

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

- Ephesians 2:13–14

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

[We Will Feast in the House of Zion](#)

Sermon- "But God..." Ephesians 2:1-10

[Grace Alone](#)

// Benediction //

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

—2 Corinthians 13:13

Leader: Go in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY ([back to table of contents](#))

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #45

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. (*Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5*)

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. (*Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4*)

Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection. (*Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21*)

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

Imputation- Simply, to credit or reckon. Through Adam, the guilt of sin is imputed to all men; through Christ, righteousness is imputed to believers (*Rom 5:12-21*). On the cross, Christ exchanged his righteousness for man's sinfulness (*2 Cor 5:21*) by means of imputation. The sins of believers were imputed (credited) to Christ on the cross, and the righteousness that belonged to Jesus Christ was imputed (credited) to believers. Thus, believers possess an "alien" righteousness and can stand before a righteous God.

Reflection Questions:

- In our prayer of confession we stated, "The selfish motivations of even our best actions condemn us." When you consider your best actions, is there a side to them that is motivated by selfishness (ie- giving to get)? What does that look like for you?
Follow up: If there is always a sinful part within the good we do, should we stop doing good until our motivation is pure? Why or why not?
- Verse 4 changes direction from our sinfulness to God's love, when did that change in direction happen in your life? When did you come to faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for you? Take a moment to see God guiding you through that process. He was leading you to faith because he loves you- you specifically. Reflect on that and thank God for his extravagant grace.
- What is the difference in the "good works" described in v.10 and the "works" in v.9? Why is that distinction so important?
- What's so great about grace?

Suggested Resources from last week

Articles: [Sins of Omission](#) by Ligonier Ministries

[Many Good Things Start with a Grave](#) by Charlotte Goetz

[I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting](#) by Michael Horton

[How to Become a Very Bad Person](#) by Chad Bird

Podcast: "[Christ Alone](#)" White Horse Inn

Ephesians Series Resources

[Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)

[Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#) and

Ephesians Resources from Bible Project: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

2-minute Video (because we know that's all the time you have ;))

[Gospel Principles for Parenting: GRACE](#) with Paul Tripp

Get the New City Catechism App: <http://newcitycatechism.com/mobile-apps/>

New City Catechism Question #29

Q: *How can we be saved?*

A: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read aloud:

Ephesians 2:8–10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not 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, that we should walk in them.

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- What does it mean that we were saved “by grace”?
- Why do we need to be saved?
- What “good works” does God have for us to do?
- How do you know God will never stop loving you?

Prayer

Gracious God, thanks for giving us Jesus. Thank you for saving us by grace. We know we couldn't be good enough to be saved, but Jesus lived a perfect life for us and died for our sins. What an awesome Savior! We know we didn't do anything to be saved, but you saved us because you love us and you want us to know you. Help us this week to walk in the good works you planned for us. May we be a blessing to others who need to hear the good news that Jesus saves! Amen.

Sermon Review [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Title: “But God...”

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Watch: *[sorry, the video won't be loaded until Sunday. We apologize for the inconvenience]*

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Two things I am quite confident I know about you are these: 1) You think you are much better spiritually than you are and 2) You think God is way less loving than He is. Now don't get offended, that's true of all of us, it's part of the human condition. But Paul in Ephesians 2:1-10 wants to set us straight (as he usually does!) He wants us to understand *the expansiveness of sin* and *the relentless, resurrecting power of love*.

Sermon Summary: You are more sinful than you thought, but more loved than you ever dreamed.

Let's start with an example to prove my point about how we think of ourselves- ask a room full of people to raise their hand if they are a bad driver. Guess what you'll get? Maybe a couple people will agree they are bad drivers, everyone else thinks they are good drivers. Maybe not the best, but certainly not the worst. The problem is, if you have driven on roads with other drivers you see that many people's estimation of their driving is quite a bit off!

If we take that into the spiritual world it sounds something like this: "Well, I know I am not perfect, but I'm not *that* bad." Paul on the other hand says- "You were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked..." Seems like our estimation of ourselves and Paul's is a little off! What Paul is saying is that our ability to respond to the call of God is the same as the ability of a corpse to respond to the instruction to get up and dance. It is not "unlikely" it is impossible. Our spiritual deadness is expansive and Paul wants us to know that. He says we were dead in our "trespasses and sins" (v.1) and he uses these terms intentionally to describe our spiritual deadness. We have both done what we shouldn't ("trespasses") and not done what we ought ("sins"). In other words God has set a boundary like "Do not covet" and we cross it. Think of it like a "no trespassing" sign. He posted the sign, we crossed the barrier. But not only that, God also calls us to a righteous standard- love your neighbor as yourself- and we fail to live up to it. Our sins are both those of *commission* and *omission* as theologians categorize it.

But Paul is not done describing this spiritual deadness. He tells us it's all around us ("the course of this world", v.2), it's pressed upon us by its leader ("the prince of the power of the air", v.2), and lest we resort to blaming other sources, he also notes that it's within us ("the passions of our flesh" and "desires of the body and mind", v.3). Finally, spiritual deadness is also our predicament from conception ("by nature children of wrath" v.3). Now, hopefully you feel that there is no escape. Hopefully you feel the deadness that resides in you and all around you.

Like our driving example, we want to create categories:

A few bad people: Hitler, Stalin, and Michigan fans

Mostly pretty good people (and we always put ourselves in this category, by the way)

A few great people: Mother Teresa, MLK, Jr., Billy Graham, etc.

Paul on the other hand has only one category for all of mankind - "children of wrath."

If you want to know if you really believe what Paul is saying here, then let me ask you a question- have you ever said something like, "I can't believe a person would do something like that.." or "I can't imagine doing something like that..." What we are doing when we make those sorts of comments is living according to our categories again. We are making sure people know- "I may be a sinner, but I am certainly not as bad as THAT sinner!" But when we minimize the reality of our spiritual deadness we minimize the work of Christ for us. If we want to feel the full weight of the love of God for us, let us first feel the full weight of our deadness. We were all, from birth, children of wrath.

As verse 4 begins something absolutely amazing happens. In the darkness of our spiritual deadness, hopelessness, and despair we hear words we only dreamed of, "But, God..." It's something like a contestant on *America's Got Talent* hearing their fate in the judges cuts round. "Well, you know this was really difficult. You know we had more singers this year than ever and all of them were extremely talented. Your last audition was really disappointing, and that played a big role in our decision. We don't want people who get cut to stop pursuing their dreams.." and then they pause as the contestant sinks further and further into depression. And then say "But you won't have to worry about that because you're going on to the next round!!!" They can't believe the words they just heard. From depression to joy in one short sentence. From death to life, we might say.

It's the same thing here, only way, way better. "But God..." is the ONLY thing that is worth hearing at this point. "But these principles...", "But you can...", "But hard work..." and "But focus on the positive" are all completely hopeless and not good news at all. "But God..." on the other hand is full of hope and future. If

HE does something about this situation there is hope. Principles, encouragement, and better focus won't help dead people. They need the power of the resurrection. And that's exactly what they get! Ephesians 2:5 is going to sound familiar- God has "made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places." That sounds a lot like what God did with Christ in Ephesians 1:19-20, "according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places." The same exact thing that God did with the dead Christ, He has done with us. When Paul says we are "in Christ" he really means we are "in Christ". We have the same status, have received the same resurrection, and are seated at the same place. Once dead in our trespasses and sins, now ruling and reigning with Christ. Almost unimaginable, isn't it? "Why would God do such a thing?" you might ask. Good question. Paul says it's "so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

You mean to tell me that he does all this so that he can keep showing us more and more grace and kindness and love? Yup! He is committed to you knowing him in the fullness of who he is. So he is going to spend eternity pouring out the endless riches of his love upon you.

He is rich in mercy (v.4), he had great love for us when we were dead (v.4), he is full of grace and abounding in kindness. But those aren't just personality traits without a direction or target. Those are directed right at us, and not just once, not just in one or two installments, not just temporarily, but overflowing for eternity. From death to life by the love of God. Pretty astounding, isn't it? May this cause your affections to be forever drawn to our great God. He loves you more than you can comprehend and he's going to dazzle you with it for eternity. Amen.