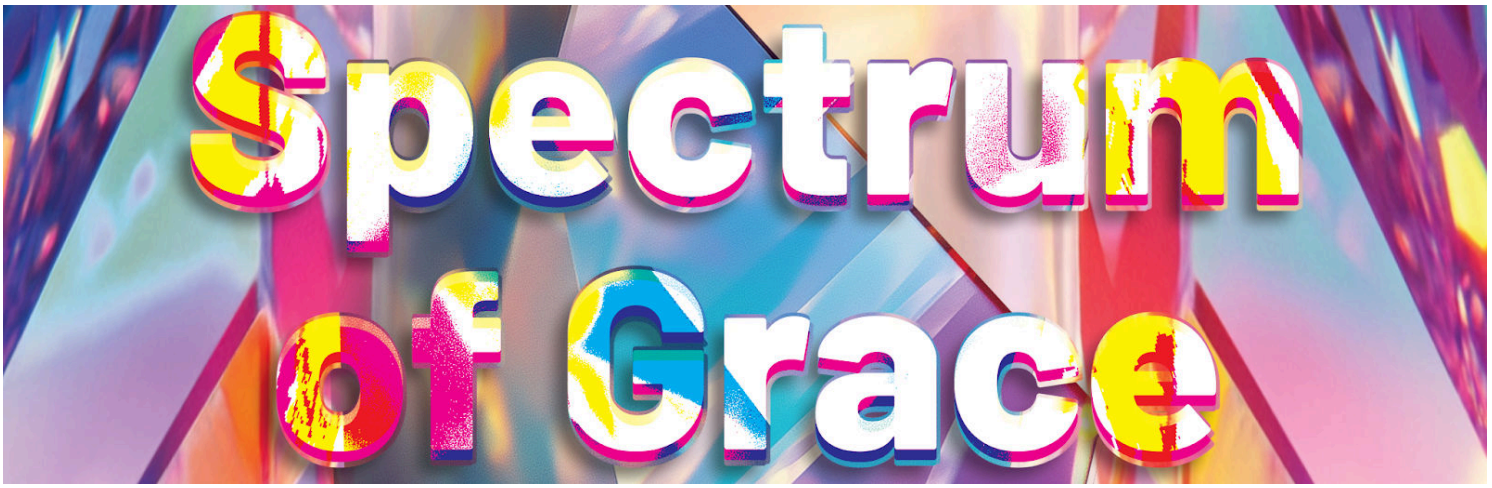
- MESSAGE OUTLINE -



- More than Meets the Eye -

Ephesians 1:7-10 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Spectrum - the colors we see when light passes through a prism, only a small portion our eyes can detect.

Do you know how much more light exists besides what our eyes can see?
The simple answer is: vastly, vastly more.

In the Beginning, God spoke all light into existence. There is ***More than Meets the Eye***.

We are in the middle of the longest sentence in the Bible, beginning in verse 3. The longest sentence in the Bible is about the blessings that we have in Christ, which all comes through **God's grace**.

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...*

Paul then brings into focus our predestination: Every believer is chosen to be a **perfect** or holy or God glorifying child of God.

Why? - Paul often addresses the Jew and the Greek in his letters, not the Jew and the Roman.
Greek philosophy was pervasive in the Roman Empire and Romans became adherents.

You either lived by the philosophy and world-view shaped by the Bible or you lived like the rest of the world.

Greek Platonism: there were perfect forms of things that existed outside of the physical earthly realm.
Anything inside the earthly realm, down here, was imperfect and could not exist in the heavenly realm.

In contrast, the Jewish faith after the fall, did not believe that anything down here was perfect.

Until Jesus came.

v.7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Paul was a master at speaking into both philosophies of thought. Paul explains that mankind, by being *IN* Him, the perfect form, to the Greek, and to the Jew, *THROUGH* His blood—the perfect sacrifice.

So the Jews and the rest of the world—**ALL** people can be redeemed.
Philippians 1:6 (NASB), *that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Paul speaks the truth to both groups and answers the question of how the impossible is happening.

God will perfect you in every way. **This is our hope.**
Contextualize the message of the gospel is important—but we must **NEVER** alter the truth of it.

Can you imagine if you give the wrong message?

The Bible says that we need to be ready in-season and out of season. Have you thought out of the box in order to contextualize the message? To let's say, a child?

What would you say? How would you start?

You could join our Kids Table for city kids, our KiDZ Church for our own kids, or VBS for all kids.

Great places to learn how to do that, and share the gospel with young people. **Contact me or Sumiko** and we can help get you started. (first name @ tokyobaptist.org)

v.8 ***which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,***

God is redeeming all things, all of what we can see and not see, by **His wisdom and understanding.**

1. Creation
Proverbs 8:22-27, did you know that Wisdom talks to us? This is what she says:
"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there..."

All creation was made perfect through Wisdom: *God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.* **Genesis 1:31**

2. The Fall of Man
So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. **Genesis 3:6**

Eve sinned and broke the law, destroying the creation. From there, all creation went bad.

3. The Redemption if the Universe
With a new and hidden wisdom, called grace. The restoration is happening right now within a believer in Jesus Christ, and through believers as a witness to the truth.

Through this wisdom of God, you can now experience the power of God. We have to share the wisdom of God, that is, His glorious grace with anyone and everyone.

How would you share the gospel to children who can't understand what's so good about grace? How would you contextualize it for them? Because if they can get saved, neither can the adults.

We need to stop overcomplicating things, **especially the gospel message.**

And all of us learned that down here, on this earth, that it takes work and effort to survive. And little kids, they get it too. They know at a very early age that people die.

The gospel is the most basic and simplest form: believe in the name of Jesus: God saves, people from death.

Are you willing to share Him and share the gospel? Even with the smallest of God's creation?

The Bible often uses language of purchase, ransom, or redemption to describe the transaction of Christ's sacrificial death. His blood is presented as the price paid.

What is *He* getting out of the deal? **Acts 20:28** "church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

And Revelation 5:9 (NASB) says this is what they worshipped Him for- *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.*

v.9 Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

See, its easy to have misconceptions about mysterious things.

The Greeks, they were the scientists, even inventing the word for atoms.
The Sadducees, close, but had the wrong understanding of God, as most religions do today.

In Ephesians we get a view of God's love for His people and the glory He *receives* from us being His people.

You see, it is not that we are going up to be with the Lord, it is the Lord who will come and dwell with us.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, *"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."* **Revelation 21:3-4**

This is our hope and this is why we need Jesus. None of us want death or sorrow or crying or pain.

The Fullness of the end times: **we will be with Him, and He will be with us. All will be perfect and right.**

CONCLUSION

Jesus proclaimed "The Kingdom of God is among you!" Could mean that He was there to fulfill the future Kingdom. The Pharisees didn't like that.

Jesus' disciples thought he was there for that too. In **Acts 1:6** it says, *"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'"*

Acts1:7, Jesus replied, *"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."*

A realized eschatology means Christ fulfilled the end times in His first coming and there would be no second.

So we have to be careful. *But...*

Paul taught us, right now, we have every spiritual blessing bestowed on us in the heavenly places in Christ!

Acts 1:8—*...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Share the Good News and you will have and witness the power of the Holy Spirit.

Your spiritual gift will be active and you will see things and see people come to God beyond what you would ever expect.

Do not fear, for God is with you in Spirit. You can do more than you think you can.

Through faith, it will not be you who lives, but Christ who lives in you. That is your power today, faithful!

INVITATION

Today, if you have faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and believe His name, Jesus—Yahweh saves—and you will not die, but have eternal life.

God will be with you, and you with all His people together, forever.

LET US PRAY

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
May 3-4, 2025

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