- MESSAGE OUTLINE -



We Shall See God

Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

The movie Awakenings, based on a true story, was about a group of patients in a psychiatric ward who were essentially dead men walking.

They were catatonic, frozen in time, unable to move, speak, or interact with the world.

All the staff treated them like manikins. But Dr. Sayer, believed they were alive inside.

He found a cure. Leonard, who awakened – walking, talking, rediscovering life.

Today, in our series Spectrum of Grace, we will see how God's work in us awakens us to a new life, a new purpose, and a new reality.

We will be confronted with what we came from and what we are here to live for.

HOW GOD *SAW* US - ALIVE BUT DEAD

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Paul begins in the past, saying "you He made alive," but immediately takes us on a deep dive into what we were before that.

Dead in trespasses – stepping over the line. Dead in sins – missing the mark.

That's us. Trespassers and sinners: we trespassed God's law and there's nothing we can offer to fix it.

We all started the same way – united in sin, united in spiritual death. We walked according to the course of this world and the prince of the power of the air.

Jesus said, *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* **Matthew 7:13-14**

What road are you on?

The great lie we believed was that by feeling the pleasures of life, we were alive.

Proverbs 26:11 – *As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.*

Illustration: My dog Kitty – the picture of what we were – foolish, sick, returning to sin day after day.

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Left alone, without being made supernaturally alive, we are by nature children of wrath.

Hopeless, wrong, weak, filthy and disgusting.

HOW GOD SEES US IN CHRIST – BUT GOD...
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

When God saved us, He gave us eternal life – and with it, we *now* have:

- Eternal life – secure forever now
- The power of the resurrection now
- Access to the throne of God now
- Derived authority in Christ now

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38–39 – *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The grace we have is not a one-time event – it is coming to us in the ages to come.

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **John 1:16**

So what do you say? Is that all you have to say?

Remember what you once were, where we came from, and where we are going.

HOW GOD SEES US WITH CHRIST – NOT WORKS BUT GRACE
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Many of you know verses 8–9 well. They're often debated – is the gift grace, faith, or both? The short answer: the whole process of salvation.

But Scripture itself defines the gift in one place only: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* **Romans 6:23**

And only Romans 10:17 tells us exactly where faith comes from: *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* **Romans 10:17**

Paul's point to the Ephesians: salvation is not by works of the Law but by grace through faith – and that faith alone sustains us. This unites Jew and Gentile in Christ.

In chapter 2 he calls the church to break down the wall of hostility (vv. 14–16) and become a multi-national dwelling place of God (vv. 21–22). This has always been God's plan – one people, one kingdom.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. **Ephesians 5:8**

So, are you a child of light? Can people see God when you are around?

For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. **Romans 10:13**

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? **Romans 10:14**

They can't hear unless you show. Salvation is never just "me and God."

If the person who shared the gospel with you had stayed silent, where would you be? Now think of the next person you might share with – where will they be?

It could be someone beside you, in your home... or even you.

The excessive riches of grace might be the very thing that makes it hard for some to believe it's real for all.

CONCLUSION - HOW WE AND GOD SEE EACH OTHER

One of the biggest theological traps we can fall into: see people as undeserving.

In Job's story, Satan – the accuser – says Job only fears God because of His blessings.

- Satan, the murderer from the beginning, kills Job's servants with the sword – twice.
- The one who fell like lightning destroys more servants with lightning.
- The prince of the air blows down Job's son's house, killing him and all his siblings.
- At first Job endures, but eventually he says God is unjust, listing sins he had never committed.

Job's problem wasn't that he had not sinned – it was that he didn't believe in God's power and sovereignty.

It didn't matter whether Satan was right Job was a sinner – *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

What mattered was how and where Job saw God.

So Job says: *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You."* **Job 42:5**

How about you? Do you see God? Can you see him here and now?

You will act like the one you call your god, and you will see people the way your god sees people. Is your god the God of mercy, love, and grace – or one who accuses sinners?

When you see people with grace, you can share God's sovereign grace in the Gospel.

You won't need to convince yourself to share and live out the gospel in your life when you see people with your renewed eyes.

INVITATION

Dr. Sayer's discovery only worked temporarily. The drug's effect wore off, and the patients returned to their catatonic state.

But this is not true of the grace of God. We do not maintain our salvation, work for it, or take anything for it.

Once we are saved, we are always saved.

If you believe in the mercy, love, and richness of His grace – given through His Son, Jesus Christ – and believe in Him for eternal life, you will truly live.

Through the crosswork of Jesus, your sins are forgiven, your life is changed, and you will look back no more. It will not matter what any accuser has said.

Then you will be like Job – you will see and know God in the ages to come. You will always feel loved by God the moment you put faith in Jesus.

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
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