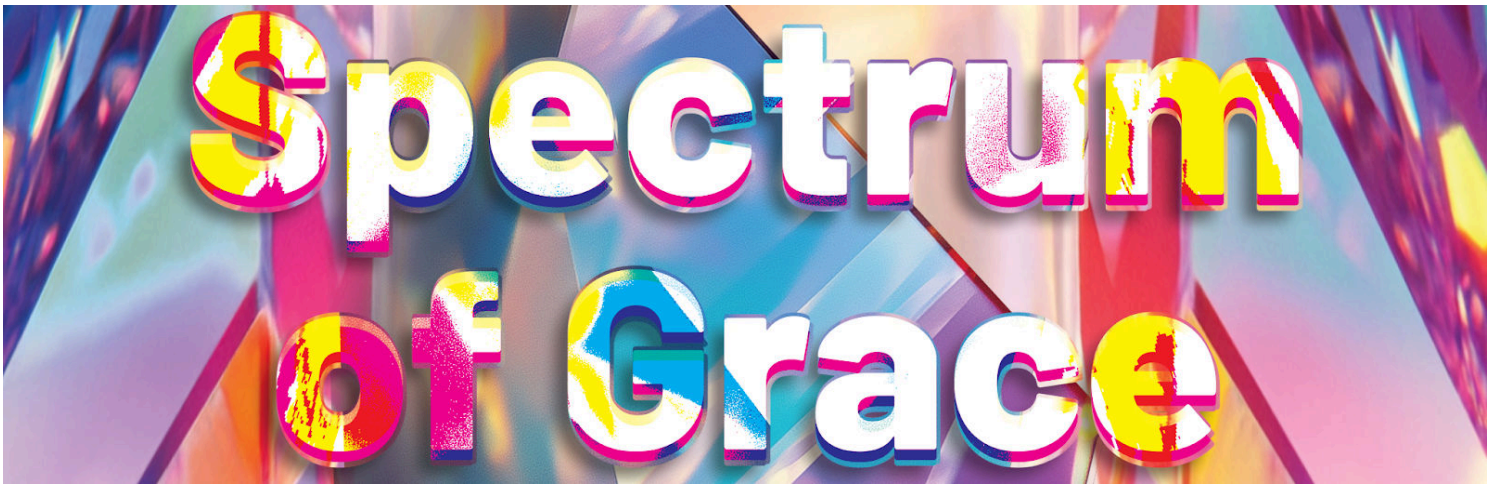
- MESSAGE OUTLINE -



- Tell Me What You See -

Ephesians 2:11-22 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Do you know what the VBS breaker rock theme was all about? Jesus is the Rock.

What is your church vision?

The book of Genesis is woven by Paul, reordered both by and for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It will show us how the church is supposed to work.

So, how does He do it?

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

He reminds the Gentile believers of their past: once separated, outsiders to the Jews.

The Jews have their beginnings in Abraham and the practice of circumcision begins. The first separation began in Genesis 17. Far from God, and anything good He had to offer.

The Jews were the underdogs. But we see their faith, resilience, and God's intervention in adversity. They were chosen to be priests, like Jesus, our High Priest, to bring the world to God.

"I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles..." **Isaiah 42:6**

Supposed to be restoring relationships between God and the whole world.

But the world had no interest in God. Until the Rock shows up.

But now...
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

How did Jesus do this? He came in person. Don't overlook that first part of His mission.

Going to people is key to outreach, it is the definition of outreach.

Second: He took care of it all by shedding His blood. Beyond priest, because the Priest *was* the Sacrifice.

Good news: there is nothing left to do.

Now let the world know the price has been paid for their lives. **That's our job.**

Will you do that?

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

As a Pharisee, Paul would have been dedicated to teaching the following of God's Law.

As a Pharisee, Paul would formally have been a close minded nationalist.

Post Christ—the exact opposite, reaching ALL people with the gospel of grace.

God is systematically working backwards through the Old Testament. Now with the wall of separation back to the covenant made with Moses.

This is why Paul is mentioning the dissolution of the wall made by the Law.

The Jews and Gentiles are to be united into "one new humanity" we call the church.

Be careful—do not fall into the trap that the gospel is only for a specific chosen people.

The definition of the gospel, the good news, is that the news is for everyone!

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. **Acts 13:48**

You're chasing eternity when you try to figure out election, chosen, and salvation.

This is what even Paul says:
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **Romans 1:16 (NIV)**

The gospel, the Good News is the power of God, to those who believe. Not the belief.

Chosen Ones

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

The separation was never the world versus the Jews, it was the world versus God.

The way to remedy this, is to first fix the vertical relationship problem with God. All had fallen short the glory of God.

Christ comes to let us know we all have peace with the Father, which unites all people into one Spirit as children to the Father.

This is why Jesus is *OUR* peace. ALL OUR PEACE.

The early church, primarily Jews, took them a decade to go beyond themselves.

Peter denied going to the unclean animals that represented gentiles, three times.

For Peter to deny Christ, is to deny the salvation of the world. Later he said:
The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

Who is waiting on who here?

Does your theology match what the Bible says? Your theology direct your view of how church should work.

And if the people cannot come to Him and keep coming back to Him... then it does not match what the Bible says.

This is what He wants. He always wants you to go to Him.

Whether you succeed or lose, always in all things, it should point to Him.
What do you live for? **Him.** Who do you go to for help up even as you die? **Him.**

This is how Jesus lived and died. Jesus lived for God, He died for God, and then He cried out to God. All for you. **This is the model of the successful Christian.**

Remember, fix the vertical you also fix the horizontal.

Is there More?

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

To understand the new unity of the church, understand the problem of Babel.

Their motive in Genesis 11:4 as stated, *"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens..."*

Not interested in the glory of the name of God; but their own name to reign supreme.

So they say, "let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Their unity was based on themselves. So God scatters them across the face of the earth.

Now, He is reversing the curse of Babel, building His own tower, a "holy temple."

On the foundation of Jesus Christ Himself as the first rock, the cornerstone.

It needs to be active and alive.

CONCLUSION

What is your vision for church?

You just come, sit there, learn and go home. What you are is a sum of your habits.

Church is not a building, it is a movement of people called Christ Followers.

What is it going to take? It takes Christlikeness. Meaning:
You need to show up to be there for each other, and unite with them.

We need to actively share our faith and love with anyone and everyone—without boundaries.

We need to live for and rely on Him for all things, for ourselves and our church.

Knowing His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us. A promise from both the Old Testament and the New. Jesus knew it and believed it.

Church, let us live for the Glory of God for the Glory of His name Jesus.

INVITATION

Do you feel far off, without hope, and separated from God—the good news is for you today.

Jesus said, *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* **Matthew 11:28**

Come and build your life on the one true Rock, Jesus Christ.

If you trust in Him for eternal life, your sins will be forgiven, and you will no longer be a stranger but a member of the very household of God.

LET'S PRAY

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
September 27-28, 2025

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