

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

## **TRANSFORMING GRACE**

### **EPHESIANS 2:8-10, 4:17-5:2**

What is the Gospel we celebrate in the Lord's Supper this morning?

#### **1. The good news of God's grace in Jesus Christ - 2:8-9, 14**

To lost sinners (US), who are dead to God in their sin & unbelief (2:1-3), the message of God in Christ is good news:

God raises the dead to life in Christ – 2:4-6.

He bestows faith as a gift of grace – 2:8.

Helpless people are “*saved by grace through faith ...*

*and NOT by (their) works*” - all praise to God alone!

People far from God are brought near by the blood of Christ -2:11-13

This grace comes to sinful people who do not deserve it –

people so broken by their sin that the image of God is near lost!

What we were, our “old man” in Adam, is described in 4:17-19.

But God's grace does *not* come to us *to leave us* as we were/are.

#### **2. The transforming power of that grace – 2:10, 4:17-24**

Salvation by God's grace is His work of *re-creation* – 2:10.

Saved people are His workmanship,

created (new) in Christ – to do good works.

We hear Christ (2:17, 4:21) in the truth of His Word & in conversion

our “old man” is put away, and we put on the “new man” -

in which the likeness of God is being re-created in us -

that we should become righteous & truly holy (1:4).

God's salvation by grace, therefore, is about **TRANSFORMATION**.

God saves us to change us – to re-make us to be like Him.

New birth by the Spirit > new life in Christ > new way of living.

Saving faith is faith that moves us to live this new life.

Let's be clear: “Faith” without works is *dead*. James 2:17.

*Saving faith* “works through love” (Galatians 5:6).

#### **3. Grace-full people – 4:25-5:2**

What should this look like in our lives?

Through Paul, the Holy Spirit, gives us some concrete specifics.

Making this real in our lives involves struggle (Gal.5:17).

Sin does not surrender without a fight!

Then, put off lying & put on truth-telling (with love, 4:15).

Put off anger & put on a heart for reconciliation.

Put off stealing & put on self-reliance & generosity.

Put off bad-mouthing & put on grace-speaking.

AND especially 4:31-5:2 –

Put off those heart attitudes by which we destroy relationships  
(bitterness, anger, resentment, malice, etc.),

& put on those that look like Christ & God our Father in His  
saving love to us (compassion, tenderness, forgiveness).