

SERMON NOTES

4th Sunday in Lent, Year B * March 14, 2021

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Numbers 21:4-9 * Psalm 107:1-22 * Ephesians 2:1-10 * John 3:14-21

Because of God's great love for us ...

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

⁴ But **because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.**

✦ **Grace = God's divine influence on our hearts, AND its reflection in our lives.** It's God's L_____ AND our R_____.

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:31-34 * Ps 119:9-16 * Hebrews 5:5-10 * John 12:20-33

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. Who in your life – outside of your immediate family – has loved you well? How did they show that love?
2. What is a habit, attitude, behavior, or set of choices in your life you've chosen to eradicate because of your relationship with Jesus? How did God help you do that?
3. Grace is "God's love for us AND our response to his love." What is a way you've felt God's love in your life, and how have you responded?
4. Ephesians 2:10 says "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." What is a good work you're doing in your life right now? And how did God set you up to do it?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for the people in your life who love you.
 - ✦ Thanking God for the grace he's shown you and the changes he's brought about in your life as a result.
 - ✦ For grace to continue doing what you described in #4.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.