

SATURATE

Part 1: Jesus



Intro

Gospel Means Good News

It's not about us and what we need to do / it's about Jesus and what he *already did*.

Last week we talked about what it means to be a disciple. The main idea was that discipleship is a matter of the heart, more than a matter of discipline.

If you want to change what your life produces, you need to change what your heart treasures.

Often Jesus ceases to be our hearts treasure because we forget how amazing it is. This week we're going to remember together how great we have it.

The field guide breaks it down like this:

1. You have been saved
2. You are being saved
3. You will be saved.

I'd like to expand on this a little bit by looking at Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus.

1. You Have What History Hoped For

Ephesus

Paul spent more time here than in any other city, and had a genuine love for the people. (Acts tells us there was much weeping upon his departure.)

A Final Word

He writes to this church most likely near the end of his life, from prison in Rome. This is the last message Paul wants to convey to them. How to be an effective church, how to live rightly as the people of God.

Let's take a brief look at how Paul opens this letter. What is his initial statement, the foundational principle that he lays down for those trying to live as God's people in a city that does not know or want the Gospel?

Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**, even as he **chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has **blessed us** in the Beloved. In him **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the **riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us**, in all wisdom and insight **making known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him **we have obtained an inheritance**, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, who is the **guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it**, to the praise of his glory.

Paul was amazed.

He begins by simply explaining who Jesus is, and what he's done. But look at the way he says it. He can't help himself, he begins to ramble. (All one sentence)

"This is amazing!!" God himself has redeemed, forgiven, predestined, adopted, blessed us with EVERY blessing, Lavished his riches upon us, made known to us his mysteries and will, given us his spirit, and guaranteed our inheritance.

Paul never stopped being amazed by the gospel. At the end of his life, he was still excited to talk about it.

You have what history hoped for.

Verse 12 here in this chapter tells us something amazing. “we who were the first to hope in Christ, might be to the praise of his glory.” (Paul was a Pharisee, a Rabbi)

Or look at how Peter phrases this same idea in **1 Peter 1:10**,
“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven...”

Peter tells us here that your salvation, this new covenant is so amazing, that for thousands of years people have been looking forward to it, waiting for it, talking about it... but unable to see it. **And it has come to you.**

Or look at Luke 7:28, Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was the greatest prophet ever to have lived. That’s a big statement, think about the prophets for a moment. **But the least of the saints in the new covenant is greater than him.** Are you hearing this?

Abraham
Moses
David
Daniel
Elijah
Elisha (Mantle)

You

You have it better than any of them. They lived dreaming that they could see what we often take for granted, life in the New Covenant.

Mysteries revealed to us

Verse nine here in Ephesians says that we, (New Covenant Christians) have the Mystery of God’s will made known to us.

Not only did the OT saints have the ceremonies to deal with, but they didn’t know all that God was planning! God didn’t tell them that someday the Veil would be torn, or

that someday we would all be changed in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, that we would get new bodies, a new heaven, a new earth... But we do.

They looked with longing at what today we so easily take for granted.

Said another way, Better men than us would have given anything just to see what is freely ours for the taking.

Jesus said it. **Matthew 13:16**, “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

But... Me?

2. He's Not Done Yet

Ephesians 2:8-10

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

You already have what history hoped for - Salvation from the **penalty** of sin. But it doesn't stop there. You are being saved from the **power** of sin.

You were created for a purpose. For “Good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

He is saving you from the **power** of sin, filling you with his Spirit, to enable you to be the kind of person it takes to do those works.

Saints of Old

A moment ago, we were looking at a list of the prophets of old. Remembering how amazing they were. And it seems shocking that we could even be compared to them in the same breath.

You may be thinking to yourself: “I'm not like that. They had faith, they had something!”

You've forgotten something. It's the power of God that saves us, not your ability. God's power can work through anyone.

If you are here, and you really believe this gospel, God can use you. Still don't believe me? Let's take a quick look through the Bible, and see how "qualified" it's heroes were.

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was a wouldn't believe
- Sarah laughed at God
- Jacob was a liar
- Joseph was abused as child
- Moses couldn't talk
- Rahab was a prostitute
- Gideon was a coward
- Sampson had an anger problem
- King David murdered his friend after sleeping with his wife
- Solomon was a womanizer
- Elijah was suicidal
- Jonah ran from god
- Peter was too stupid
- Matthew was too greedy
- Paul was a religious serial killer
- Mary Magdalene was Demon-possessed
- James & John wanted to burn entire cities
- Lazarus was DEAD

Lazarus Optional side-note - **Waiting for Jesus** / to experience **resurrection**, you must first experience **death**. (Time permitting.)

3. The Best is Yet to Come

We have what history hoped for - Salvation from the **penalty** of sin, knowing the king.

He's not done yet - Being saved from the **power** of sin.

The best is yet to come. We will be saved from the very **presence** of sin.

Look at verses 13 and 14, “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

New Heaven, New Earth, The age to come (Misconceptions)

The Bible doesn't simply promise to save us from this world. To take us away to some place called heaven. The Gospel is not merely, “Jesus died to take you to heaven.”

Jesus Came, not to take us away from the world, but to save the world. All of it! In the end, We don't go up there, but Jesus comes down to here!

NT Wright, God is not throwing the world away. **God does not make mistakes.**

Better than Eden

Good kingdom, great king. Adam knew God as creator and friend, we will know him as savior and redeemer. With the scars still on his hands. (Knit you together)

Conclusion.

What's your place now? Now that you have the hope of history, you've been saved from the penalty of sin, you're offered the promised Holy Spirit to empower you, saving you from the power of sin... We now work together as the church toward the coming reality of our world's rescue from the presence of Sin.

You are called to be a part of that work.

Colossians 2:6

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him

How did you receive him? **Grace.**

In Him

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,

In him we have obtained an inheritance

In him ... when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.