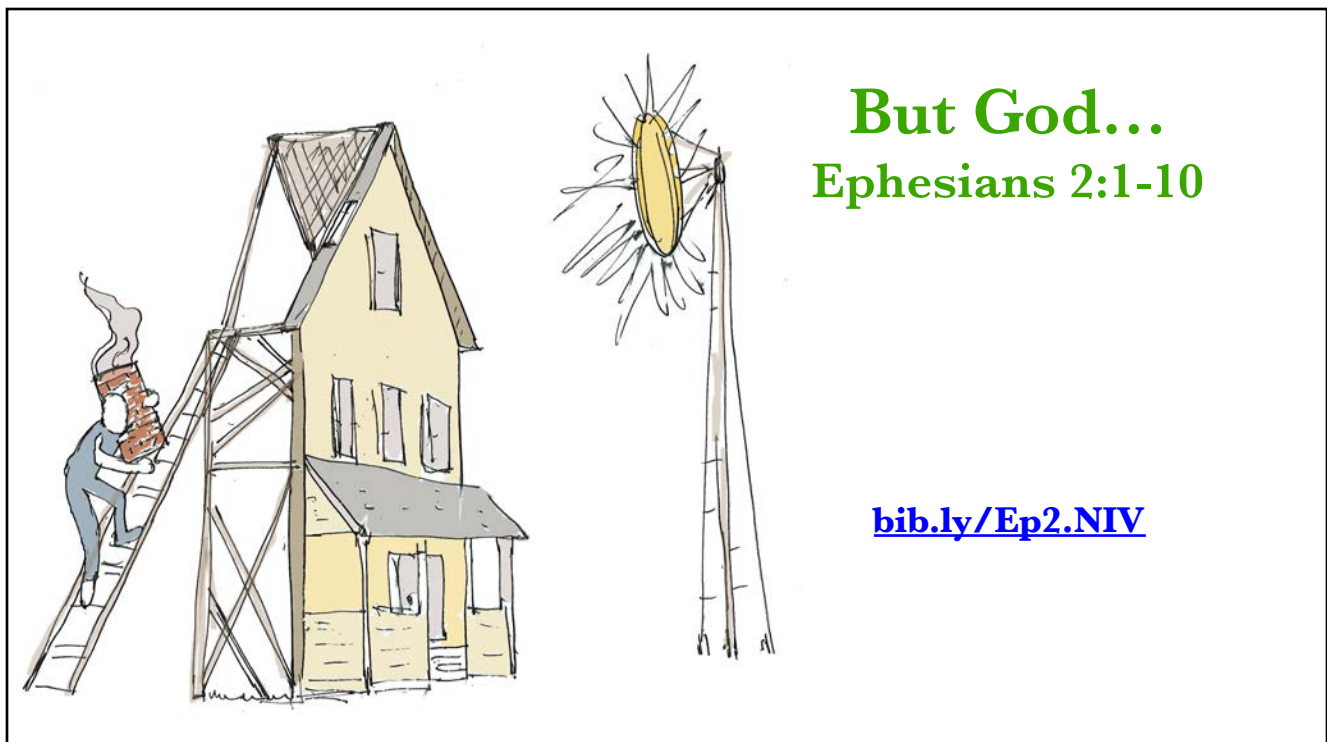


Diagnosis & Treatment

- Diagnose
 - What is the nature of an illness or problem?
- Treatment
 - What should we do about it?
- I go to the doctor and say...
 - “Whenever I exercise, I experience shortness of breath”
- A student in office hours says...
 - “I failed the midterm. What should I do now?”
- We go to God in prayer and say...
 - “What is to be done about humanity?”

1



But God...
Ephesians 2:1-10

bib.ly/Ep2.NIV

2

The Lord's Supper Sundays

- Celebration of Jesus' death that brought us life
- First Sunday of each month
- Cycle through key elements of the Gospel

Holiness: Holy, creator God over all

Sin: immorality and disloyalty to God by all people

Grace: God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus' death

Faith: Our genuine trust in Him to receive this free gift

Mission: Our submission to our **Lord** Jesus Christ

Heaven: The hope of the perfect Kingdom restored

3

Setting of Ephesians 2

Letter from the Apostle Paul

To the church in Ephesus where he had spent about 3 years teaching in the midst of conflict

Paul presents **God's diagnosis and treatment** for humanity's condition

4

Ephesians 2:1-10bib.ly/Ep2.NIV

1-3: **Diagnosis: humanity is “dead”**

- 4-9: • Deserving of “wrath”: God’s action to move
 10: what is impure and ungodly away from His holiness
- Without God’s overflowing goodness
 - Every person in every time and every context
 - **Contrast: infection with coronavirus**
 - **Inherited** from our parents: “by nature”
 - By **personal choices**: “cravings, desires, thoughts”
 - In a **broken system**: “the ways of this world”
 - Led by an **active enemy**: “spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”
 - There is no place for pride or naïve hope

5

Ephesians 2:1-10

1-3: **Diagnosis: humanity is “dead”**

4-9: **Treatment: God, in His mercy, gives us life through faith**

- 10: • Solution: we need outside intervention
- God’s great love and rich mercy
 - Religion: find good people & make more people good
 - Grace:
 - Withholding deserved punishment
 - Giving the undeserved generous gift of profound love
 - **We were dead. God “made us alive with Christ”!**
 - Received through **faith** alone, **not** by our goodness
 - By the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

6

Ephesians 2:1-10

1-3: Diagnosis: humanity is “dead”

4-9: Treatment: God, in His mercy, gives us life through faith

10: Purpose: to do God’s good works

- We are God’s good work (“handiwork”)
- We are created to do God’s good works
 - Live out God’s character and purposes
 - We are saved by Jesus’ good work, so that we would join Him in doing His good works
 - “Take up your cross daily and follow me” *Luke 9:23*
 - In the church
 - In the world

7

Ephesians 2:1-10

1-3: Diagnosis: humanity is “dead”

4-9: Treatment: God, in His mercy, gives us life through faith

10: Purpose: to do God’s good works


- The purpose of God: diverse unity of all peoples
 - “His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.” 2:15
 - God’s plan: “through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body” 3:6
 - “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the body of peace. There is one body and one Spirit” 4:3-4

8

The Big Idea

**Every single person
is by nature broken and cut off from God
and can be made alive forever with Christ
by the grace and love of God
through faith alone
to do His good works wholeheartedly**

9



The world's goodness:

- A façade over a broken nature
- Human solutions have good parts, but are never enough
- Human solutions always reintroduce brokenness
 - By birth
 - By personal action
 - In a broken system
 - Pursued and promoted by the active enemy of God

10

God's work to rescue us

- He brings new life as His gift of grace
- He causes that new life to grow into abundant good works
- In the church
- In the world

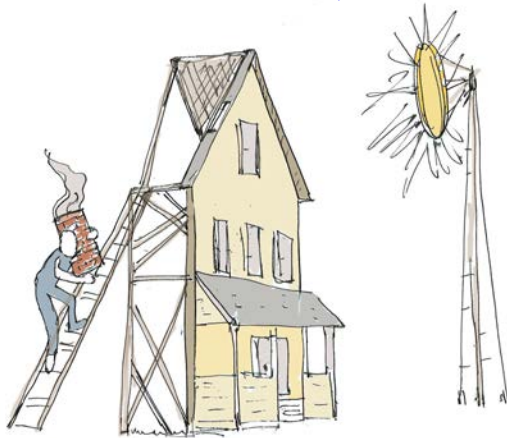


11

Sometimes the façades don't look much different

The reality is fundamentally different:

- the goodness of God
- living through His people
- more and more until Jesus comes



12

The Big Idea

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to do His good works wholeheartedly**

13

Application

- Repent of our pride and self-righteousness
 - Every single person is fatally broken by sin
...in a broken world, guided by the enemy of God
 - My biggest problem is **my** sin and brokenness
 - Every good action must begin with the recognition
that I am part of the problem
 - Jesus: “First, remove the log from your own eye...”
 - I will answer to God first for my sin and brokenness
 - Then for those hurt my sin and brokenness

14

Application

- Repent of our pride and self-righteousness
- Rejoice in God's great mercy and rich love
 - When we were utterly lost, God rescued us
 - “My sins, they are many. His mercy is more!”
 - Every human failure for a Christian is bounded by...
 - Every hopeless situation is bounded by...
 - Every action of injustice is bounded by...
 - Every attack of the enemy is bounded by...
 - “**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love, made us alive with Christ**”

15

Application

- Repent of our pride and self-righteousness
- Rejoice in God's great mercy and rich love
- Tirelessly and wholeheartedly do His good works
 - A tragic weakness of much of Christianity: skips this
 - Good works flow **from** the mercy of God
 - We are saved **apart from** good works
 - We are saved **for** good works
 - Boldly, humbly, courageously, patiently, joyfully, ...
 - Care for the vulnerable and oppressed (“pure religion”)
 - Pursue diverse unity in Christ

16

The Big Idea

**Every single person
is by nature broken and cut off from God
and can be made alive forever with Christ
by the grace and love of God
through faith alone
to do His good works wholeheartedly**

17

- **God's diagnosis** of humanity
 - Broken people in a broken system with an active enemy
 - Progress is always limited and uncertain
- **God's treatment** for humanity
 - God's great work:
 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ”
 - So that we would wholeheartedly do God's good works
 - **God, who began this good work, will carry it on to completion in the day of Christ Jesus!**

18