But God
Ephesians 2:1-10

_____: What is the nature of an illness or problem?

_____: What should we do about it?

We go to God in prayer and say…

"What is to be done about _____?"

The Lord's Supper Sundays

Celebration of Jesus' _____ that brought us _____

Cycle through key elements of the Gospel

_____: Holy, creator God over all

_____: immorality and disloyalty to God by all people

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

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

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

_____: The hope of the perfect Kingdom restored

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 _____

Paul presents God's _____ and _____ for humanity's condition

Ephesians 2:1-10

1-3: Diagnosis: humanity is "_____"

Deserving of "_____": God's action to move what is impure and ungodly away from His holiness

Without God's overflowing _____

Every _____ in every _____ and every _____

Contrast: _____ with coronavirus

_____ from our parents: "by nature"

By personal _____: "cravings, desires, thoughts"

In a broken _____: "the ways of this world"

Led by an active _____: "spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient"

There is no place for _____ or _____ hope

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

Solution: we need _____ intervention

God's great love and rich _____

_____: find good people & make more people good

Grace:

Withholding deserved _____

Giving the undeserved generous gift of profound _____

We were dead. God "made us _____ with Christ"!

Received through _____ alone, not by our goodness

By the _____ of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

10: Purpose: to do God's good _____

We are God's good work ("_____")

We are created to do God's good _____

Live out God's _____ and purposes

We are saved by Jesus' good work, so that we would _____ Him in doing His good works

"Take up your cross daily and follow me" Luke 9:23
In the _____
In the _____
The purpose of God: diverse _____ 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

The Big Idea:

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

Application:

_____ of our pride and self-righteousness
Every single person is _____ broken by sin
…in a broken world, guided by the _____ of God
My biggest problem is _____ sin and brokenness
Every good action must begin with the recognition
that ___ am part of the problem
Jesus: "First, remove the _____ from your own eye…"
I will answer to God first for _____ sin and brokenness
Then for those _____ my sin and brokenness

_____ in God's great mercy and rich love
When we were utterly lost, God _____ us
"My sins, they are many. His mercy is more!"
Every human _____ for a Christian is bounded by…
Every _____ situation is bounded by…
Every action of _____ is bounded by…
Every attack of the _____ is bounded by…
"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love, made us alive with Christ"

Tirelessly and wholeheartedly _____ His good works
A tragic _____ of much of Christianity: skips this
Good works flow from the _____ of God
We are saved _____ from good works
We are saved _____ good works
Boldly, humbly, courageously, patiently, joyfully, …
Care for the vulnerable and oppressed ("pure _____")
Pursue _____ _____ in Christ

Diagnosis and Treatment:

God's diagnosis of humanity
Broken _____ in a broken _____ with an active _____
Progress is always limited and _____

God's treatment for humanity
_____ 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 _____ _____
_____, who began this good work, will carry it on to completion in the day of Christ Jesus!

Reflection Questions

- What are the situations in life where you are tempted to judge other people and to blame them? Why is that problematic?

- What helps you realize again the amazing mercy and love of God that He gave His Son for you?

- What good works is God calling you to pursue tirelessly and wholeheartedly?

- "Every good action must begin with the recognition that I am part of the problem." What does that mean? Do you believe it? How might that affect your actions this week?