

MAIN POINT

The bad news is that we have all rejected God and been separated from Him. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to make the way of restoration with God for us.

INTRODUCTION

In Luke 2:10, the angel told the shepherds to “fear not.” What are some reasons people might be afraid of God today?

How would you describe your spiritual condition before you came to faith in Jesus?

Knowing where we came from is important to understanding who we are, what we desire, and what makes us tick. To understand new life in Christ, we’ve got to uncover our old identity. In Ephesians 2, Paul gave us an unfiltered picture of who we were before placing our faith in Jesus. Through this passage, we see who we were before we knew Christ and the new life we have been given through His death. Before the coming of Christ, all people had reason to fear due to their rebellion and separation from God. But through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made the way for our restoration.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10.

What words and phrases did Paul use here to describe every person’s spiritual condition apart from Jesus?

In what way is it actually a good thing to recognize yourself before coming to Christ as dead in your sins, living according to the ways of the world and even Satan himself, in your fleshly desires, carrying out your carnal inclinations, and under wrath?

According to these verses, what does every single one of us need to be saved from? Why?

According to these verses, what has God done about our dead, hopeless condition?

Looking back on your life, when have you been most thankful for grace? Explain.

How did you come to faith in Christ? Name two or three people who influenced you.

How are you different now since coming to faith in Christ? Name two or three events that have been significant in your spiritual journey.

Why is it vital to know that salvation is a gift, not a prize?

What makes Christianity distinct among all world religions and philosophies?

How would you explain the good news of the gospel? How does this good news free us from fear?

APPLICATION

Where do you currently feel most fearful? How does remembering the gospel point you toward joy over fear? How will you take time to meditate on this truth each day this week?