

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### Belief Brings Life

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
October 11, 2020



Ephesians 2:1-10 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.<sup>2</sup> You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup> For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

#### BEFORE CHRIST...

- **We were dead:** v. 1a "Once you were dead"
- **We were disobedient:** v. 1 "...you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins."
- **We obeyed the Devil:** v. 2 "You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil."
- **We followed our sinful desires:** v. 3 "All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature."
- **We deserved God's judgement:** v. 3b "By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else."

#### THROUGH CHRIST...

- **God loved us:** v. 4 "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much..."
- **God gave us life:** v. 5 "...even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life..."
- **God raised us:** v. 5b "...he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead."
- **God seated us:** v. 6 "For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms..."
- **God united us:** v. 6c "...we are united with Christ Jesus."
- **God points to us:** v. 7 "So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us..."

Ephesians 2:8-9

**Big Idea: Believe and receive your new identity made possible through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Psalm 86:5 (NLT) "O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help."

**This Week's Missional Challenge:** Think of someone who has doubts about God or is looking for an identity in other places and send a note of encouragement, telling them that they are loved by God.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (MSG)

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Belief Brings Life**

**#2 of 10 - October 11, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why?

3) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

4) Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What stands out to you most from this passage?

5) Review the “Before Christ” realities. Which one impacts you the most and why?

6) Review the “Through Christ” realities. Which one seems most meaningful to you personally and why? How does this truth make a difference in your life?

7) Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Explain the term grace. What does it mean to be “saved by grace through faith?” Put this in your own words in a way that would make sense to someone who doesn’t know anything about God.

8) Read Ephesians 2:1-10 in The Message Translation. What imagery do you find helpful or significant?

9) Read and reflect on Ephesians 2:10. How does it make you feel that you are “God’s Masterpiece”? What does this verse reveal about your purpose? What steps do you need to take today to step into this in greater ways.

**This Week’s Missional Challenge:** Think of someone who has doubts about God or is looking for an identity in other places and send a note of encouragement, telling them that they are loved by God. Who is God leading you to encourage this week?



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