

the WOUNDED HEALER

INTRODUCTION – You’re here. God’s here. Now what?

Romans 8:28; John 16:8; Acts 14:16-17; Acts 17:26-27

DINE IN – The Healing Power of Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10 = Healing the *person*
Ephesians 2:11-22 = Healing the *people*

- “Dead” refers, not to an inability to do anything, but to our state of separation from the life and blessings of God (e.g., see **Luke 15:24, 32; Ephesians 5:14; Revelation 3:1-2**). Job one for a “dead” person is to repent, wake up, and trust in God’s goodness.
- Apart from Christ, we have multiple problems to overcome: our surrender to the ways of the world, the devil and our own flesh, as well as the wrath of God who judges us for our sin.
- But God / But now... through Jesus, God changes everything.
- Note that in a passage about our salvation, Paul never mentions “justification”. Apparently no one picture of the saving power of the cross of Christ is THE necessary lens through which we must filter all other biblical views.
- Paul shows how Jesus dismantles the religious expression of Torah, Tradition, Tribe, Territory, and Temple.

TAKE OUT – I’ll Have That to Go Please

God’s gift of salvation is called “_____”. Our acceptance of this gift is called “_____”. Through faith we live each day trusting in God’s goodness for our salvation, and not our own. This doesn’t mean we abandon being good, but rather our goodness is motivated by our love and gratitude, not our fear of judgment.

Romans 6:23

CONCLUSION – In Jesus and Through Jesus

Colossians 1:19-20

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Refresher time. Practice with a partner. In your *own* words – what is the Gospel?

Look to the Book...

2. Read **Ephesians 2**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) The idea of being “saved” suggests we are being rescued from an enemy or something destructive. Paul mentions the world, the devil, and the flesh. What are some ways each of these potentially destructive forces manifest their power in your life? C) Using verses 8-10 as your guide, in your own words explain how the way of Jesus is different than the way of religion. D) How can verse 15 be reconciled with **Matthew 5:17**? E) What kind of person do you find most hard to be unified with (age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, personality type, etc.). What is one thing you could do to express more unity in the body of Christ with those most different from you? F) Paul says that together we form the building, temple, and dwelling of God. To a first century Jew or Pagan, how would this concept challenge their religious assumptions? How does this concept challenge and/or liberate us today?
3. Only if you have time, read **Titus 3:3-8** and/or **Colossians 2:8-17** and compare with **Ephesians 2**. What parallels do these passages have? What differences?

So What?...

4. Think back to your discussion of #2 “B” above. How might you draw on the strength of the rest of the “temple” of God around you this week to help support your weak areas?

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching