Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – September 22, 2019

**The Mystery and Majesty**

**of**

**Jesus Christ**

*How God’s Glory and Promises Find Fulfillment in His Son*

Exploring Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians

***Remembrance: Recounting Our Resurrection***

***Ephesians 2:1-10***

Paul begins Ephesians with praise to God for His blessings to us in Christ, which are complete in every way (Ephesians 1:3-14). Our sins have been forgiven, as adopted children of God, and we are prime examples to all creatures in heaven and earth of God’s grace.

All that is lacking is a full understanding of these blessings, the mystery now revealed, so that through the Spirit’s operation, we will know God, and be clear about our destiny, identity, and the power with which God has made us His inheritance (Ephesians 1:15-23).

Now he calls on us to recall what has happened in our own experience. But why? Jesus reminds us in his parable of the two debtors (Matthew 18:21-35) that our own experience of grace must move us to show grace to others, to forgive as we’ve been forgiven.

And then there is the lesson Jesus taught Simon the Pharisee when the “sinful woman” wept at Christ’s feet. Those who are forgiven much, love much (Luke 7:36-50). So our love for God and others is weighed and mobilized to the extent we remember *from* what and *to* what we have been saved. And all of it has come by His grace.

***How do we commemorate our passing from death to life?***

***We confess who we were as the rebellious walking dead.*** vv. 1-3

Dead to God’s life and enslaved to base desires, we became objects of His wrath by following Satan’s temptation to conform to the world.

***We contemplate God’s grace in raising us to new life***. vv. 4-7

God, rich in mercy, made us objects of His love, raising us from spiritual death in and through His Son. By identifying us with Christ, and placing us in Him, God eternally shows the richness of His grace.

***We celebrate God’s present work within us to do His will.*** vv. 8-10

Now, as trophies of God’s love and grace, by faith we enter into all that He has for us and all He has planned for us to do. We take no credit for any of this, for we are His creation in all we are and can do.

***What is it to be saved by grace through faith?*** It means that. . .

1. We were born in sin and needed to be rescued from ourselves, Satan, and the world.

2. We had absolutely no ability or inclination to love or please God.

3. We, once objects of God’s wrath, are now greatly loved by Him.

4. We can do what pleases God as a result of His mercy and grace.

5. We take no credit for any aspect of our salvation, but receive all as God’s free gift through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.



***Why it matters. . .***

*What is God’s ultimate purpose in resurrecting dead sinners? Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14*

*How does Satan, along with our desires, enslave us apart from Christ? 2 Corinthians 4:4*

*Can we take credit for our faith? How is faith different from works? Titus 3:3-7*

*What does it mean to be “seated with Christ in heavenly places”? Colossians 3:1-11*