



## Sermon Reflection (10 minutes)

---

What in the sermon encouraged you to read, know and live Scripture? What in the sermon convicted you? What in the sermon pointed to the good news of the gospel? What in the sermon made you curious to know more?

## Scripture Study: Ephesians 2:1-10 or Romans 6:4-11

---

The Bible finds its center in the person and work of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus with all that it accomplishes in reconciling God and humanity, defeating death, forgiving sin, and making all things new, offers us the good news that we desperately need.

The letters of the Apostle Paul. In the New Testament Paul is the primary author of 13 different “books” that we call letters or epistles. These books go from Romans through Philemon. They are generally arranged in order of decreasing length, although two letters sent to the same person or church are always grouped together.

Paul, the 1st-century apostle, spent years sharing his faith in Jesus, starting various churches across the Mediterranean world in what is now Turkey & Greece. These churches were fledgling communities of those who trusted and followed Jesus. Paul moved frequently but stayed in contact with many of these communities through personal messengers and letters he sent to the churches. As a result, these letters are occasional letters, not abstract treatises. Each letter was written to address Christians in specific locations dealing with particular problems or challenges in their walk with the Lord. Paul wants believers to know how to live out the implications of the gospel they have received so each of his letters comes back around in some way to the nature of the gospel and its ramifications for our life as followers of Jesus.

While it is difficult to synthesize 13 unique letters, one way of looking at Paul’s letters is to see them as being unified around the theme of our union with Christ. For Paul, the Gospel

transforms your life because your life is defined by your connection to Christ. You are now united to Christ and you participate in the life of Christ which gives you a whole new way to live in the world. Your life in, with, & through Christ changes everything about you

*How does being united to Christ shift the way you engage in forgiveness and reconciliation with those who have hurt you? Is there someone with whom you need to seek or extend forgiveness?*

*How does being united to Christ shift the way you think about your future? What fears or anxieties do you have about what comes next in your life? How is God inviting you to shift your perspective on your future because of your connection to Christ?*

*How does being united to Christ transform your struggle with sin? How have you been living (or tempted to live) out of your old sinful reality? How is God calling you to live instead?*

*How does being united to Christ transform your sense of purpose? Where do you feel that life is overwhelming or futile? Alternatively, what unhealthy sense of meaning or purpose are drawn to? How does the good news of the gospel give you a greater purpose in life?*

## Prayer (25 minutes)

---

Share prayer requests and pray as a group.