

All Access Pass

Open with my friends.

Open with Lewis friends-- Jack, Ronald, and Charles. When Charles died, he thought, "Ah, I'll get more of Ronald now. But he got less of Charles because there were things that Charles brought out of Ronald."

Access God's plan

CONTEXT

- Week one, we could have said, "You don't know **who** you are."
- Last week, we said, "Your greatest weakness is that you don't know **what you've got.**"
- Today, "You might not know **where you are.**"



- Paul is displaying the **"glorious grace of God"** like a jewel or displaying a splendid diamond, he places it on black velvet, so every facet my sparkle and you might see it's beauty."
- That black background is you.

The Doctrine of the Wrath of God

- Trespass (Jews)-- false steps, against law, standards, disobedience, rudeness, and even, or evil thoughts, you were like the *Walking Dead*. Trespasses is worse-- a willful and deliberate action of disobedience to God. Sin (Gentiles)-- to miss the mark, implying that you were trying, but still came up short, like a university student who flunks a course. As husbands, we know what it's like to set out to do the right thing for our wives, but somehow in the end, we miss the mark anyway. "A person can miss the mark. It isn't always a willful, rebellious thing. Many times, it is "pure weakness" on our part.
- Sin (Gentiles) is from the English word that originated in archery, where they would put a hoop on a pole and each man would shoot his arrows through the hoop. If he missed the hoop, he was called a "sinner" from *harmatia*. It means to miss the mark.
- A person can be a sinner trying to hit the mark, but is weak in his flesh and unable to be all that God would have him to be. A trespasser is one who deliberately goes over the line, challenging God. It is a willful act of disobedience.
- The results are the same. "The soul that sinneth, it shall surely die." (Rom. 3:23). The net effect is the same-- death, alienation, and death.

Made Alive in Christ

2A As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² **B**in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

We're dead and we don't know it. Stuck in the world.

1. We're dead without Christ. Do you recognize that you were once dead? You can only realize that you were dead once you are alive. "I could see the truths of God as an alive person."
2. We're slaves without Christ. When you worship the world, there is no greater reality. Paul says that outside of Christ, that's what you follow-- lusts are the things that you've just gotta' have. You've got to have them or else you feel like you are nothing. It's an epithumia, over cravings.

How are we experiencing Satan's defeat in our lives?

Followed means to meander-- like going through the Arden Fair or the Galleria Mall. When you see a person meandering, you think, "Well, they're just killing time." In times past, you meandered. Without true purpose and meaning, your life is being wasted rather than to "serve God and live in fellowship with Him." Without God, "you're just following every fad and fashion that came along, going with the current."

"Any dead fish can go with the current. It takes a live fish to go upstream." Satan is orchestrating the flow of the world. Satan is behind the worldly flow. You were in Satan's power and his grip.

Some people are terrified to submit their lives to the will of God. Surely He'll send me to Barney, New Guinea, under a thatched roof with rats running around. They're terrified. What a wrong concept of God and the will of God. If God wanted you to go to New Guinea, to bring them the Gospel, God would give you the heart of a biologist and a tremendous interest in bugs, and you would find it extremely fascinating.

We do not need to fear the will of God. "For God is at work in you both to will and to do the will of His good pleasure." **God puts in our hearts a strong desire for a particular thing, and we discover that it is exactly what God wants me to do.** He guides me with the desires of my heart. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart." He'll put His desires in your heart. He will give you the desires of your heart. He'll plant the desires in your heart. That is why Jesus said, "I delight to do thy will, Oh Lord." It is a joy, a blessing, to do what God wants you to do, which is a joy, a pleasure, and a delight.

- None of us can improve on God's will for our lives. That's the path of joy. That's the path of blessing.
- Remember Jonah-- being a true patriot, he didn't want to go. They had invaded the Northern Kingdom. Jonah said, "I know that God is gracious." He didn't want to go for fear that they might be saved. Tarshish, the end of the world in those days, like the South Pole. And God sent a great storm. Jonah felt it better to drown than go to Nineveh. The seaweed, he said, was "Hot as Hell." Gastric juices, miserable. But he was a tough cookie. "The part of the story that brings me most difficulty-- after three days, Jonah said, "After three days, I cried out to God." Those who observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. He was observing the lying vanity that he could escape the call of God, that his will was

better than God's will for his life. Nothing can happen better than you than doing the will of God." You were being guided by the "ruler of the kingdom of the air."

- Here is the natural man-- you were my nature, sinful. That's the black background.

³ **C** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

- Paul says that outside of Christ, that's what you follow-- lusts are the things that you've just gotta' have. You've got to have them or else you feel like you are nothing. It's an epithumia, over cravings.
- The devil is the someone behind the world's cravings.

3. We were under God's wrath-- by nature, we were children of wrath. We try and set up ourselves as our own God. We are born into this animosity and this anger. Your were in opposition against God and He was in opposition against you.

Nine warnings of God's wrath--

1. God's wrath is being revealed right now (Rom. 1:18-19).
 - a. Exchanged the logic of God for the foolishness of this world
 - b. Exchanged the worship of the creator to worship created things
 - c. Exchanged natural passions for unnatural lusts
 - d. God let them sip the wrath by giving them over when a heart turns off to the gospel.
2. No one escapes God's wrath apart from Christ (Rom. 3:23; John 3:36). "Let the people think they're in Switzerland, because Satan owns Switz too"
3. God's wrath is not an impulsive temper tantrum (Rom. 2:5). (chairios, an appointed time). Justice delayed is never justice denied
4. God's wrath is eternal if you're outside of Christ (2 Thess. 1:9). "I think that Hell is far more torment than torture." "God gives everyone exactly what they asked for." CS Lewis
5. God's wrath is fierce and personal (Heb. 10:31).

Nine warnings of God's wrath--

6. God's wrath brings final and everlasting judgment (Rev. 14). -- no rest day or night)

7. God's wrath will be poured out undiluted (Rev. 8). --the voice of the martyrs
God's wrath silences heaven for thirty minutes. Isa. 6,
8. God's wrath confirms his righteousness. "If he is good, he cannot stand for what is bad."
9. Jesus absorbs the wrath of God intended for you on the cross if you repent and believe the gospel (Rom. 5, John 3:16; Rev. 14:10; Jer. 25; Isa. 51; Ps. 75; Hab. 2:16). This is what makes vv. 8-9 so beautiful.

-Pastor Chris Hilken, College Avenue Church

- Now He's going to splash on that background the brilliant colors of God's grace.

⁴ **D**But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **C**made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ **B**in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, **A**expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

God favors you....

- But...God...wasn't willing that you would go down the tube.
1. God makes dead people alive
 2. God takes slaves and makes them rulers
 3. God takes people who are under His wrath and makes them part of His kingdom, makes them people who are not opposed to Him, but do His good
- John said, "Not that we loved God, God loved us."
 - Paul said, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly."
 - He has made us alive in Christ. "You've got to have the second birth-- the birth of the Spirit."
 - "Raised us up with Christ"-- called the "ounce" of the NT, it lifts you up into the heavens. It takes man from that lowest state into the presence of God. Paul was praying that we might know his incomparable power towards us. Raising Christ up above all authority, Christ high above, and you are seated with him. **This is our place positionally as believers. We need to come about it practically. We need to be living above the world.**
 - (v. 7) the eternal purposes-- God's grace is so rich towards you, the kindness so marvelous and so abundant, that it will take all of eternity to reveal its fullness-- the exceeding riches of grace and kindness towards you."

- Think of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary-- 1,000 pages. Each page being an eon of time. When we first enter into His presence in that inner state and are so enthralled, the first ten trillion years will pass by like a breath. We'll think, this is all there is. There can't be more than this. Then God will turn the page of a whole new vista as he reveals the incomparable riches of his grace and kindness.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus** to do good works, which God **prepared in advance** for us to do.

He has surprise work for you to do...

- Grace, unearned, undeserved blessings
- There's no work that you can do to earn eternal life. None of us deserves it. There are no rules that you can keep that will qualify you. Salvation is not of yourselves. You can't do it (ie, the rich young ruler). "How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God. With men, it's impossible. With God, all things are possible."
- We can't earn it; it's God's gift to you. If God had set forth a list of do's and don'ts and said, "Now if you will do this-- then you'll be saved." Heaven would be one big bragging session. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him as righteousness." It eliminates boasting. Now I stand with him in heavenly places. The glory all goes to Jesus-- the preincarnate one, exalted one, that every knee would bow and every tongue would confess.
- Workmanship-- "It's not my work for God that is meaningful. It's God's work for me that is truly meaningful." In many churches, "You're always being pressed to do the works for God-- how much you're going to pledge to the church this year. You hear very little of **the work what God has done** for you." We **enter into a finished work.**
- We are his *poiema*, a poem is a work of art. An artist is always seeking to express Himself in His work. **God wants to express Himself in you.** "We're being changed from glory to glory by His Spirit that is working in us" as God expresses Himself through us. God wants you to be an expression of Him.
- Our salvation is not of our works. As God works in me, He prepares me for the good works that He would have me to do for His glory-- works that have nothing to do with my salvation; **works that have to do with the expression of my appreciation of God's grace and God's love to me.** It's my response to God. Because of God's tremendous love for me, I respond to Him. God's the initiator, we are the respondents. God initiated His love, His grace.

- In most churches, you'll hear, "Let's praise the Lord so He will bless us." You don't praise the Lord to get a blessing; you praise the Lord because of the blessing.
- God initiates, I respond. These good works are my response. As God is working in us, He is preparing us for the good works that He has already determined that we should accomplish for Him. God has your future all mapped out and designed. **God knows exactly the work that He wants you to accomplish for His kingdom. When God created you, He had a purpose for your life, an eternal purpose for your life. And He had planned for you the work you should accomplish for His glory.** It is wrong for us to think that the highest calling of God is to be an Apostle, an evangelist, or a missionary. We hear of a person making a sacrifice.... The highest calling of God is whatever God has called you to be. Not all are Apostles, Teachers,... It's being what God wants you to be, where God wants you to be, doing what God would have you to do. In the broad house (2 Tim.), there are many vessels, and each of them has a purpose. In your body, every part has a function (eyes, ears, hands, and fingers). It's important that each part of the body fulfill its function in order that the body might properly fulfill its purposes. **It's wrong to think that ministry is the highest calling of God.** If God hasn't called you to be a minister, the worst thing you could do is try and be a minister-- mechanic, car salesman,
- We're all a part of God's handiwork, his *poiema*. "Though I didn't realize it, as I was going through hard, difficult periods of life. I look back now and realize that God was teaching me vital, important lessons in order that he might bring me to that work that He had before ordained that I should accomplish for the kingdom. It's wonderful from this vantage point" (Bryce Jessup)

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

You're connected in Abrahamic covenant...

- Excluded from citizenship in Israel
- Foreigners to the covenants of the promise
- Without hope and without God
- In Christ...brought near by the blood of Christ

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one **new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have **access to the Father** by one Spirit.

- God chose Abraham as the Father of the nation through which the Messiah would come into the world-- that all the nations would be blessed
- The Jews took this "favored nation status" believing that God loved and would save only the Jews. They became very anti-Gentiles. They believed that it was impossible for a Gentile to be saved. They believed that God only created the Gentiles to fuel the fires of Hell. Some of the early church in Jerusalem held to that belief.
- To the Galatians-- "There is neither Jew, nor Greek, Barbarian, Scythian, bonded or free."
- When Jesus came down to break down the walls, people were trying to build up walls-- unless you see things eye-to-eye with them. Jesus is our peace. "If he can break down a wall between a Jew and a Gentile, surely He can break down a wall between a denomination's fortresses."
- He abolished in His flesh the enmity that separates man. Even the ethnic barriers are down-- Irish, Scottish, German. We do not have the walls between us, but feel the openness of love between one another.
- Modern Existential Philosophy is loneliness because you are the one who determines what is truth as you feel it and as you relate to it. It's lonely and builds all kinds of walls.
- (1:3) "all of these spiritual blessings"-- He is still listing the blessings
 - You are saved by grace through faith
 - God is working as He's preparing you for the good work
 - We have the same access to God by one Spirit-- Jesus has made access for you to come. The Jew had to come to the priest with the blood of the sacrifice. There was that thick veil symbolizing that distance. When Jesus died, the veil was torn from top to bottom-- "Let us come boldly to the throne of grace..."

You have an all access pass to God's new society

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the

chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:1–22 (NIV)

- You're part of the family-- come on in!
- The door is open. Welcome.
- Here we are. God's people. The temple of the Lord, in whom you are also built together.
- When two or three of you are gathered, He's there to bless you.
- Don't be afraid to talk to him
- You're an important part of the family. God loves you. And he's opened the door and He says, "Come on in." Rev. 3-- "I'll come in and eat supper with Him." Jesus always loved to eat with people-- "A free dinner." He was always willing to eat with anybody that would open the door-- eating with someone was the most intimate experience you could have because you were becoming one with that person (no fancy China, no silverware, hands). No fancy butter dishes, bread plates, hands. They would pass around a big round of bread, and you would pull off a chunk of bread, and you would start dipping it in the sauces and the soups and eating it with your hands. And there were no rules against double-dipping. So by dinner's end, you had shared your germs.
- Jesus is saying, I want to become one with you-- where you become a part of me and I become a part of you.
 - His death
 - He's broken down the walls that we have built up
 - You're all a part of the family
 - Oh, thank God for the spiritual blessings He's bestowed upon us. We have access to your tonight.
 - Help people cast their cares on you. Reach out and touch them. Minister to your body. Work in us as you prepare us to do the **works you have prepared us, Lord, for the works you would have us to do for you.**

When I use the app, **Open Table**, my reservation is confirmed, guest services has my name, knows how to contact me, and may be aware of any special occasion.

APPLICATION

Access God's plan from your...

1. Seat with Christ (v. 6)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Heaven's guest services already has you in a seat, positionally. Today's the day we understand this practically. You will become a ruler (Rev. 14). You have power.

Grant Macaskill says, we don't simply share in the status of Christ, we share in Identity. We are "raised up with Christ and seated with him" in the heavenly realms.

We're not there yet in our new bodies, but we are spiritually. That's where we Are-- "seated with him."

I was weightless with hope whenever I was seated next to my Grandpa Joe on a chair lift, on the back of his Honda Trail 90, in a Cessna 152, or watching the 1984 Track and Field Olympic Games.

2. Heart's desires (v. 10)

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which **God prepared in advance** for us to do.

¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

⁴ Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4 (NIV)

Not just your golfing buddies,

3. Connectedness (v. 21)

²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become **a holy temple** in the Lord.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

Chapter 2:1-10 shows us how the power of God comes into us internally and individually-- where there's brokenness and deadness, he brings vitality and wholeness.

2:11-22 how God gives brings power into your life collectively.

Expert opinion-- There are two things going on spiritually in America today

- There's an enormous spiritual hunger-- more interest in faith
- There is a movement away from institutional religion-- *God Decentralized*
- Objection-- Can the power of God come into your life only individually and not corporately of love, truth, and mission? Can the power of God come into your life only individually?

1. Challenged to see the necessity of the church "Therefore"

- "I don't want to become involved in the institution."-- 81% of Americans say, "Yes."

2. Challenges us to see the intensity of the church-- a new nation, a new household (God is your father), and building blocks in a temple where God's shekinah glory lives. From King, to Father, to Someone who indwells us. In the last illustration, we are actually cemented together. How involved do we have to be in the church? Your involvement has to to the level of 1) Personal accountability with Christians who know the sins that you overlook (a household; Heb. 3:13). Are you so involved with a group of Christians that that is happening. Your not single anymore. 2) We are inhabited-- The more Christians you know intimately, the more you'll know God. C.S. Lewis (Jack, Ronald, and Charles). Unless you are involved in spiritual accountability, you will not experience the power of God in your life. Consumer capitalism.

3. Challenges the vitality of the connection-- the Spirit of God, when you become a Xn, unites you to the Triune God. When you become a Xn, you are connected to the Triune God. In the Xn God, we have one God and three persons, one will, one soul, one heart. From all eternity, our God is three persons that have poured themselves into a race and being that will experience Him. How can you relate to a God without you being brought into a community? Accept the challenge of love and mission in the world.

- a. I'm scared
- b. I'm afraid
- c. There are a lot of Christians I don't like.

Ephesians 2 is saying the old distinctions don't matter.

How can we become one? Causality of the church? How does He actually bring down the barrier? Hostility 2X's. In the KJV, translated enmity.

On the cross, God killed the hostility (v. 16). God made Jesus the hostility (2 Cor. 5:21). God treated Him legally as if he had done what we have done for centuries. God treated Jesus Christ as if He had been doing all these things to each other. He did this objectively and subjectively.

The minute you embrace Jesus. He slays is objectively and subjectively. You're only hostile towards people when you say, "i would never have done that." If you look at him, it slays the hostility in your heart.

How do we know get from where we are, seated with Christ, heart's strong desires, and members in God's household to where we need to be?

Access God's plan

Action Step:

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and **his incomparably great power** for us who believe.

1. Pray this prayer.
2. Meditate on these truths.
3. Think of Christ praying this prayer.

-Timothy Keller

CONTEXT

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- A person can be a sinner who is trying to hit the mark but is weak in his flesh and unable to be all that God would have him to be. A trespasser is one who deliberately goes over the line, challenging God.

How similar your path is to Christ's path (2:1-7 and 1:8-14)

Doctrine of Original Sin

The hole in the Gospel = the wrath of God (Ezek. 3:17-19; James on teachers)-- messenger

- There's a hidden world behind our coffee mug and AC

First step begins with a death

- like a convict on death row
- A spiritual inability to rescue yourself from that predicament
 - a. Trespass-- false steps, against law, standards, disobedience, rudeness, and even, or evil thoughts, you were like the *Walking Dead*
 - b. Sin-- to miss the mark, implying that you were trying, but still came up short, like a university student who flunks a course. As husbands, we know what it's like to set out to do the right thing for our wives, but somehow in the end, we miss the mark anyway.
 - c. Isa.. 64:6 "like a filthy garment" versus a "clean white garment"-- the good works done by unbelievers do not change their standing (donations, volunteering, building a house) for whatever their reasons are (it makes them feel good). This is another filthy garment on top of a filthy garment.
- We were dead in two ways:
 - a. Our trespasses made us dead like the Walking Dead
 - b. Our efforts of good works missed the mark
 - c. We were dead because we were incapable of correcting the problem that put us there in the first place. "You are in a hole that you created, so you have to find a way to stop digging."
 - d. Dead is a reference to a corpse into which we were born (v. 1).
- Everyone from day one is under a penalty of sin-- even a one-day-old child is by nature a sinner (Rom. 3:9).
- There's no one you would find that is good or that is truly seeking God because the nature of a human before Christ is a dead corpse. "No one starts innocent and becomes bad. We all start bad, but by faith, some of us are justified." This is the course of the world.
- The course of this world is authored by the Satan-- he leads the world, "working in the sons of disobedience." They are all children of a spirit that is seeking to disobey God. Paul is saying that the enemy is the "father of lies."
- (v. 1-3) You all began in a state of deadness, a nature that you had. "We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners, because our nature

drives us to do it." You don't have to wait until someone is two years old to see it.

- Imagine if we could swim underwater without coming up for breath (a sea mammal). Our will is not enough.
- The nature you had before you came to know Christ limited you.
- He walked into the path of the grave so we could follow Him. Knowing where you started is critical to knowing what you have now. You were 100% opposed to God and 100% unable to correct your own problem by the power of God.
- You are no longer dead spiritually, not having to "give in to the lusts of your flesh."
- We are not born Christians (Ezekiel 11:19-20).
- The moment of salvation doesn't come until a profession of faith
- At the very moment Adam disobeyed God, Adam's nature was reprogrammed to rebel and sin. His new source code was written by the Devil himself. In the pattern of, we were like him. The programming directs the behavior-- "gratifying the cravings of our flesh" routinely and without forethought. We're not even awake to the reality of who we are.
- The programming we were born with: Like trying to explain to a fish what it would mean to be wet. Because it has never not been wet, it has nowhere to appreciate what it means to not be wet" (1 Cor. 2:14). Only those who are spiritually alive can understand spiritual truth. *Catch 22*, written in the 1960s-- the solution and the problem are contradictory or they interfere with one another so that you can't get there from here-- The Gospel message is spiritual truth

CONTEXT

- Mishnah (the rule)- Written down 300 AD. Parts predate Jesus. The Mishnah is full of illustrations. Asking questions and debating for a clear understanding: Who is my neighbor? What are the greatest commandments? M gives examples. It teaches how other rabbis have answered questions. They rarely come to a definitive conclusion. Many of the Pharisaical questions Jesus is asked are around the Mishnah.
- Gemara- expands or is a commentary on the Mishnah (the rule), arguments about Mishnah
- Talmud- Mishnah and Gemara Commentary Talmud has
- Mishnah (300 AD [illustrations]) + Gemara [commentary on Mishnah] = Talmud (with six divisions).

The Doctrine of the Wrath of God-- "The wrath of God is the love of God delivering the justice of God against the enemies of God." CH "Simplicity,"

- He's always all these characteristics like all the spokes on a wheel-- love, holiness, justice, wrath, mercy, and truth. If your God is not wrathful, you don't understand anything else. In 1 Cor 13, Paul is saying if we get rid of love, all the other attributes fall.
- Wrath is being stored up
- Wrath informs God's mercy
- Wrath is coming for the non-believer, and the unrepentant sinner
- Thomas Aquinas (32:00)

Nine warnings of God's wrath--

10. God's wrath is being revealed right now (Rom. 1:18-19)
 - a. Exchanged the logic of God for the foolishness of this world
 - b. Exchanged the worship of the creator to worship created things
 - c. Exchanged natural passions for unnatural lusts
 - d. God let them sip the wrath by giving them over when a heart turns off to the gospel.
11. No one escapes God's wrath apart from Christ-- "Let the people think they're in Switzerland, because Satan owns Switz too" (Rom. 3:23; John 3:36)
12. God's wrath is not an impulsive temper tantrum (chairoi, an appointed time). Justice delayed is never justice denied (Rom. 2:5)
13. God's wrath is eternal if you're outside of Christ (2 Thess. 1:9). "I think that Hell is far more torment than torture." "God gives everyone exactly what they asked for." CS Lewis
14. God's wrath is fierce and personal (Heb. 10:31)
15. God's wrath brings final and everlasting judgment (Rev. 14-- no rest day or night)
16. God's wrath will be poured out undiluted (Rev. 8-- the voice of the martyrs)-- God's wrath silences heaven for thirty minutes. Isa. 6,
17. God's wrath confirms his righteousness-- "If he is good, he cannot stand for what is bad."
18. Jesus absorbs the wrath of God intended for you on the cross if you repent and believe the gospel. This is what makes vv. 8-9 so beautiful. Rom. 5, John 3:16; Rev. 14:10; Jer. 25; Isa. 51; Ps. 75; Hab. 2:16;

At Gethsemane, Lord, if there is any way, let this "cup of wrath" be taken from me. Ps. 22-- forsaken me 2 Cor. 5:21

Don't drink it.

Eph. 2:8-10; Jer. 17:9-- "His wrath is coming for all who don't believe."

In an attempt to make God safer, have I inadvertently changed his character and failed to sit in awe of the wrath that I deserve? The cross of Christ has hidden me from his wrath. He didn't redirect his wrath,

The interlocutor asks, "Why would you do that?"

- Karise, grace = is God's unmerited favor. Pistis, faith = how the individual applies this to his life, a key word for Paul, not mental ascent, not believing that Jesus exists, "It's not just knowing something, it's believing something so deeply that it leads to your transformation." When Paul talks about faith, he's talking about your whole life "waking up"? Remember the cost of discipleship. Salvation by grace through faith is the "complete application"
- This refers to Psalm 139-- "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," not an abiogenic creation through methodological naturalism. Through Jesus, you have been recreated by faith (John 3).
- "The sound of hellfire and gunfire and screaming and sirens is the...." (26:00)
- Modern theology asserts that "works don't matter."
- What relationship has obedience with salvation? It's not a ticket into heaven, but it's proof of citizenship. "It's not works that save, it's works that prove you have been saved." "If you think he is your Savior and he is not your Lord, He is not your Savior."
- Motivational Structure-- "You're so deeply loved, why wouldn't you change?"
- Marks of having walked through the door:
 1. Lordship-- from autonomy to theonomy (distinguished sanctification [2 Cor. 5])
 2. Influence-- building my name to bring His kingdom (1 Pet. 1:4-10)
 3. Fulfillment-- striving for love to living from love (The prodigal reality-- "Everything I have is yours!") You have been satisfied by Christ, and in that abundance, you pour it out to the world. See Augustine on restlessness.
 4. Endgame-- from anxiousness to anticipation (Titus 2:1-11). This is a grace-based motivational structure.

Some of the most important doctrines in the NT

Challenging because the Bible teaches us about spiritual matters is often very different from what we experienced personally in our walk with Christ.

Through the Word of God, spiritual truths are revealed to us apart from the Word of God:

- In our past, we chose to place our faith in Jesus Christ-- the Father chose us for salvation before the world began.
- Before we were Christians, doing good works because we thought God would be pleased-- we learned that they were the "selfish products of a sinful heart " that could not please the Lord.
- Prior to our coming to faith, we were like a corpse, the *Walking Dead*, under judgment for our transgressions and incapable of doing anything good to rectify our spiritual condition. We were absent spiritual life and so incapacitated that we could do nothing.
- His journey started with His death on the cross
 - We start our spiritual journey, dead (v. 2)
 - Our dead nature dictates our behavior (v. 3)