

**Intro:** Four Sunday's from now (September 11<sup>th</sup>) we are going to have an amazing service here at RTBC!  
 First Sunday service that our new family members from FBCE join us. (Add Vida Nueava)  
 One Service: 10:30am Everyone together: Both RTBC Services, FBCE and Vida Neava (Translate)  
 Worship Choir, Celebrate Communion, Greetings from a Special Guest, Pig Roast afterwards (500-600)  
 Don't want to miss it! Start planning now on what you are going to bring...Potluck, Inside...

As we get ready for that day...and the future God is blessing us with as a combined church family, praying about preaching  
 Where in bible was someone turning a page, going into something new from God like we are?  
 My mind went back to Children of Israel, Coming out of the Desert, Going into promised land...  
 They were leaving the past behind...and going to a new and better future...just like we are. It is a new day for them...and us!

For the last couple of weeks I have been studying, reading, praying about HOW they made that transition...so we could learn  
 What I saw as I look at them is that they 3 Things:

- Remember: Took Time to Remember Where they Came From (Today)
- Remind: Moses Reminded of The # 1 Key To Spiritual Success (Next week)
- Review: Reviewed Some Life Lessons (Sept 4)

So, for the next couple of weeks that is what I want to do with you...Remember...Remind....Review

First, let's Remember together where we have come from...Both individually and as a church

Ephesians 2:1-11 Page 827

Eph 2:1-3

**1. Remember Where You Have Come From.**

Sometimes in bible we are called to remember, Sometimes called to forget, Always called to LEARN!

Before we can walk into the future God has for us, we should take time to remember the Past

I'm not saying that we LIVE in the past...God calls us to go forward, to the future...but the future is built on the past!

• **Individually:**

Paul tells us: Remember where you came from. Stop...Go back...Remember life without Jesus

~Dead in your trespasses and sin:

Dead: Spiritually Separated from God and His love and grace

~Alive to sin and disobedience:

Alive: Walking in ways of the world (Ruled by Evil One)

-Gratifying cravings of sinful nature Gal 5:16-21

-Following evil desires and thoughts Rom 7:14ff

~Objects of God's wrath by nature:

Because of our sinful nature and our sinful actions destined for wrath!

Illus: "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God!" (Jn 3:16-17) Default!!!

• **Corporately:**

~RTBC: 25 years of an amazing ministry and growth, followed by 2 years of hardship and pain: Move On

~FBCE: Amazing legacy of 60 years of service and ministry...recent years of struggle: Time to Move On

~VN: Vast majority of their people come to know Jesus...leaving the past...Time to Move On!

God is bringing us together as ONE FAMILY...HIS Family...And as we get ready to do that, we Remember:

You see, Thankfulness for the future is built on a recognition of what God has done FOR us in the past!

As we remember...and look back...at what we used to be...and what we have walked through...it drives us to thank Him!

**2. Remember Who God Is and What He Has Done!**

Eph 2:4-9

First Paul gives us the BAD news...Then he gives us the GOOD News! **BUT GOD!** Two Small but incredible words!

~Yes we were dead, Yes we were lost in sin, Yes we were objects His wrath...deserving of His judgment...BUT God!

~Yes we had turned our back on Him, Yes we rejected Him over and over, Yes we earned separation...BUT God!

~Two of the most AMAZING words in all of the bible. Paul lays out our guilt and our judgment...draws conclusion

BUT GOD: What kind of God?

• **Because of His Great Love for us:**

Because of the nature of Who He Is! Not having to...desiring to!

John 3:16 Luke 15 Prodigal Son (Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime)

• **Rich In Mercy:**

Unmerited Favor: Not giving what we DO Deserve!

We have earned and deserve judgment...instead He gives us Grace!

Overflowing or abounding in giving what you don't deserve!

• **Made us alive:**

We were lost in sin, separated from God, and He gave us new life!

Apart from God we would not have new life!

• **Raised us up and Seated w Christ:**

Lifted us from depths of sin Rom 5:6-10 Psm 40:1-3

Gave us a place @ table as sons and daughters!

• **Saved us by Grace:**

Grace: Giving Us What We DO Not Deserve Completely Unmerited favor!

Imagine if God had decided ANY other system

Live perfectly: No sin for a DAY, No thoughts, Omissions, Actions

What if we a had to treat others right for just one day, Say do, think, act

• **God gives us free Gift:**

We cant earn it, we don't deserve it, we could never buy it

But God...Gives us this amazing relationship with Himself...Forgiveness

But God...Forgives...Cleanses...Gifts...Raises...Seats Us!

**3. Remember Why God Has Done All Of These Things.**

Eph 2:7, 10

Why would a Holy, Righteous, Pure and Perfect God choose to pour out such amazing gifts on people rejected Him?  
Why would He express His love and His Grace and His mercy on a world that doesn't acknowledge Him?  
Why would He choose to show Grace to a people that have turned their back and walked away?  
Why would He continue to show love and grace and mercy to people who continually fall back into sin?

- *In Order That: In ages to come He can show the depth of His great Grace!* (JOB)  
Listen, God is going to use you as an example of His grace!  
For eternity, as the angels gather around to sing "Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord God Almighty"  
They are going to POINT at you, and say "Look...THAT is what God can do with a sinner!"  
That is what God can do with a handful of dust!  
That is how God redeems, forgives, changes and blesses!  
Look at his kindness, mercy, love, forgiveness and grace!  
You are going to be an example to all of creation of the greatness and goodness and grace of God!

- *We are Created To Do Good Works:*  
God's workmanship: Lit = *We are the hand made creation of God, Fabricated by His hands!*  
He has MADE us as an example of what He can do...and our service to Him Points others back to Him!

Not only are we going to be an example of His grace and goodness  
We are also going to be an example of what God can do THROUGH us!  
Our good works...our response to God's grace in our life demonstrates His greatness, not ours!

Never be confused. When you work to serve God, invest yourself in His Kingdom  
For all of eternity the angels will say, "Look at what God did through Her!"  
We aren't working for our Glory...we are working for His!  
(AWANA; KIDZ CENTRAL; STUDENT MINISTRY; SMALL GROUPS; CITYSERVE)

When we DON'T use our gifts, when we DON'T demonstrate what He has created us to do  
Then we fall short of one of the very purposes for which we were created and saved!

**CONCL:**

As we get ready for Sept 11 and the beginning of a new era in our church family, I want to encourage you

- Remember where you came from: Remember what it was like w/o Jesus  
Church, Remember what it was like a couple of years ago
- But, Also..Remember What God Has done for us!  
He has saved us, forgiven us, Graced us, Given us mercy  
Raised us up and seated us with Jesus...Seat at His table!  
He has done the same for our Church!  
He has blessed us beyond measure Is 40
- Finally...Remember WHY!  
Not because we earned it, Or Deserved it  
But because of His great love and grace  
And to show all of eternity...THIS is what I can do  
  
Are you a good example of that today?  
Is your life one that God can point to and say...Look at my work

Maybe today...you have yet to receive that grace, that mercy, that forgiveness

It is by grace you are saved...through faith...not of works

Faith: Trusting in God: Coming and saying: God, I don't deserve it, I haven't earned it...but I want forgiveness

I want to be in relationship with you

I want to leave my sin behind...and walk with you

## SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD

The observation from the words that I would now insist upon is this. "There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God." By the mere pleasure of God, I mean his sovereign pleasure, his arbitrary will, restrained by no obligation, hindered by no manner of difficulty, any more than if nothing else but God's mere will had in the least degree or in any respect whatsoever, any hand in the preservation of wicked men one moment.

They are now the objects of that very same anger and wrath of God, that is expressed in the torments of hell. And the reason why they do not go down to hell at each moment, is not because God, in whose power they are, is not then very angry with them; as he is with many miserable creatures now tormented in hell, who there feel and bear the fierceness of his wrath. Yea, God is a great deal more angry with great numbers that are now on earth: yea, doubtless, with many that are now in this congregation, who it may be are at ease, than he is with many of those who are now in the flames of hell.

So that it is not because God is unmindful of their wickedness, and does not resent it, that he does not let loose his hand and cut them off. God is not altogether such an one as themselves, though they may imagine him to be so. The wrath of God burns against them, their damnation does not slumber; the pit is prepared, the fire is made ready, the furnace is now hot, ready to receive them; the flames do now rage and glow. The glittering sword is whet, and held over them, and the pit hath opened its mouth under them.

5. The devil stands ready to fall upon them, and seize them as his own, at what moment God shall permit him. They belong to him; he has their souls in his possession, and under his dominion. The scripture represents them as his goods, Luke xi. 12. The devils watch them; they are ever by them at their right hand; they stand waiting for them, like greedy hungry lions that see their prey, and expect to have it, but are for the present kept back. If God should withdraw his hand, by which they are restrained, they would in one moment fly upon their poor souls. The old serpent is gaping for them; hell opens its mouth wide to receive them; and if God should permit it, they would be hastily swallowed up and lost.