

**Intro:** PopQuiz!!! Can anyone quote for me the Mission Statement of the Church? RTBC Mission Statement?  
RTBC is committed to loving people by leading them to Jesus and encouraging them to grow through worship and service to others!

Loving People:	Fellowship	Leading to Jesus:	Evangelism
Worship:	Worship	Grow:	Discipleship
Service:	Ministry		

One element in there that is unique to the Church: *Leading People to Jesus (Even worship is not unique) Worship of JESUS!*  
Why is that so important? *Because it defines why we exist and what we do! If we don't do that...we have no purpose*

Today I want to focus with you on one piece of that: *Leading To Jesus: Evangelism: WHY*

Turn with me to: **EPHESIANS 2:1-10** pg 827

**1. Understand WHY We Exist As A Church: Because People Need Jesus** Ch 2:1-3

Paul tells us, Remember where YOU came from, and Remember that a lot of people are still there!

What We WERE...and what people without Jesus still ARE

- **Spiritually Separated from God:** (Dead in your trespasses and sins)

~Not physical death but spiritual death

~Originated with sin: (Gen 2:15-17; 3;1-4)

Physical death process initiated

Spiritual death was immediate (the closeness, relationship, fellowship with God was broken)

>Trespasses: *Deviation from the mark, to cross the line, slip to the side*

>Sins: *to miss the mark, to not aim at what you should be hitting*

Basically sin is failure to hit the target of life. It is the failure to be what we OUGHT to be and what we were CREATED to be!

**Illus:** Rom 3:23: For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; Rom 6:23: For the wages of sin is death!

People without Jesus are lost in sin, separated from God and spiritually dead, destined for a Christ less eternity

- **Walking a path Separated from God:** Walking: Living a lifestyle that is characterized by two different things

~Walking in Ways of the world: World system lived without reference to or respect for God and His purposes

~Walking with the ruler...: Spiritual ruler of the world system, we call him the devil

Eph 6:10-12 Paul goes on to describe him this way: *"Our struggle is not..."*

- **Serving themselves rather than God:** Gratifying: Living in; fulfilling; Performing in two different ways:

>Desires of the flesh: *Living for sensual fulfillment*

>Desires of the mind: *Living to fulfill personal imaginations and desires*

**Illus:** What is wrong with that? What is wrong with living for self instead of God? Fair question. Hand made creation of God, made to be in fellowship with and serve Him and others. And yet we choose a totally different and selfish life. Choose to serve self rather than God. Paul is telling us, there is no MIDDLE ground!

Illus: Barclay on sin: Pg 111

- **Objects of the justice and wrath of God:** Because of the life we chose, and the way we lived, justice of God exercised

This is contrary to what we have been taught to believe in our culture.

WE are the captains of our own ship and the masters of our own fate. WE decide how we live

Even have a Poem!!! **Invictus: Unconquered**

**Great Poem**

But, the Truth of God's word says this:

**Romans 1:18-25**

Paul says, Remember where you came from, and why you exist. There was a time when you were separated from God, living your life as if He did not exist. He made you...created you to be in relationship with Himself. You lived...like He wasn't there. Instead of serving Him, thanking Him, honoring Him...You served, honored and took care of self, with no regard for HIM!

**ILLUS:** *When we see that in the natural world, we shake our heads, and say, what kind of a kid is that? Treat parents that way Live that way in the spiritual world...and try to excuse ourselves...act like being that way is OK!!!*

**2. Remember What God Did On Your Behalf. Saved You When You Didn't Deserve or Earn It** Ch 2:4-9

We were lost in our sin, separated from God, condemned to a Christless eternity, without Christ and without hope

We were living a life of self and sin, pursuing what pleased us, what we desired, with no thought of God and responsibility

God, then moved on our behalf! And He did 3 amazing things!

- **Made us alive in Christ!** AND/OR **Raised us up with Christ**

God worked on our behalf to bring us to Himself

~He (if you are from a predestination view) simply chose us to be alive in Jesus

~He (If you are from a free will view) gave us *"prevenient grace"* so that we have the ability to choose...

(Because those who are dead can't make choices, despite what Walking Dead show tells you)

God did FOR us what we could not do for ourselves:

Just as Jesus was raised from the dead Physically, so we were raised from the dead spiritually!

>Romans 5:6-10 (at just the right time!)

>Col 2:13 "when you were dead...God made you alive!"

- **God Seated us with Christ:**  
~Ch 1:20: *God raised Christ and seated Him at His right hand...(Position of honor)*  
~Ch 2:6: *God raised US and seated us with Christ! God gave us the SAME Position!!!*  
**Positional Righteousness:** *When God sees us, because of the blood of Christ and the forgiveness that HE bought and paid for, God views US as one of His children, just as righteous, just as holy, just as much His Child as Jesus!*  
*To be "seated with Christ" means that while we practically may not yet be living out the fullness of God's grace Positionally we are viewed by God as fully His child as Jesus is!*  
**Illus:** Think about that!!! You are HIS child...And everything He feels, loves, blesses Jesus with...is YOURS as well!

- **Saved us by Grace** (God's Riches At Christ Expense)  
~Grace: *Unmerited favor* *Nothing you have done has earned or deserved His forgiveness*  
~Saved: *Rescued from danger* *We were separated from God, destined for judgment*  
*John 3:16-18 "Stands condemned already"*

**Illus:** God looked down on a world lost in sin, rebelled against Him, living like He does not exist, Practically the only time we reference Him is when we use His name in vain to curse Him or others. He looks down on a world that is selfish, greedy, wicked and seeking gratification for themselves. Like the Father in the story of the Prodigal son...loves that which has walked away from Him. And His heart longs for the garden and the cool of the evening...and so...He sacrificed the only One left ....WHY???

### 3. Understand WHY God Chooses To Forgive And Save Us. Because He Loves Us Ch 2:4; 10

This always stretches us because God is so different from who we are.

But...if you read the Scripture and take it at face value then you see the heart of God toward us

WHY? Would God act unilaterally on behalf of creatures that rebelled, turned their back, lived like He doesn't matter?

- **Because of His Great Love for us**  
*Love: Good will toward, Care and Concern for, Seeking the best of the loved one*  
*1 Cor 13 Love is patient and kind...*
- **Because He is Rich in Mercy**  
*Giving what is not deserved:* Since we had no merit...God acted out of mercy!  
Like the Father in the story of the prodigal son...There was NO reason to receive the ungrateful son home Other than His love...and His mercy...poured out on an undeserving life: Throw a party...my son was lost/found Didn't matter to the Father that he had "lost" himself!!! Lost by accident...Lost because he walked away... OK
- **Because He wanted to demonstrate His Grace (Trophies)**  
God has chosen you and I, and all who put their faith in Jesus as Trophies of His grace!  
**Illus:** Remember back in the day when you would walk into your highschool, and there would be a trophy case And many times the Trophies would have the date, sometimes the names, and often there would be a picture of team God is going to do that with you and I! We are TROPHIES of His Grace! Vs 7 This is what my Grace results in!!!
- **Because He wants to work with us to complete the good works we were created for!**  
We are His workmanship...created for good works! Play on words!  
We are created with Purpose: Not just some random activity, but you were perfectly created to accomplish a goal  
**Illus:** So that begs the question: Are you fulfilling your purpose? You were created for good works...are you working Every single one of us is different, unique, made for something different.  
What is important is not what you do...but whether or not you are doing what God put you here to do?  
SS Teachers, Small Group Leaders, Deacons, Elders, Ministry Leaders:  
God has gifted you...Like the TV commercial: As Jesus followers, we do good works.  
THAT WHAT WE DO!

### CONCL:

1. Started message today saying, "People Need Jesus" Do YOU have Him? Do YOU Know Him? Your Savior? Make sure you have dealt with the sin in your life that separated you from God  
If you have yet to accept Christ as Savior and put your faith in Him, Father is on the porch looking for you!  
All you have to do...is come home! Walk down that aisle...Take my hand and say...Pray with me Pastor
2. Hold on to the promise of God's view of who you are  
There are days when it doesn't FEEL like we are seated with Christ! It FEELS like we don't even know Him at all  
There are times when we look at our life and we don't like what we see. Listen to me...God Does! Sees Jesus!
3. Thank God for all He has done on your behalf  
When was the last time you paused to say "Thank You" to God for what He has done in your life?  
When was the last time you asked Him? Why am I here? What do YOU want me to do?  
How can I live out the calling you placed in my life  
If God has spoken to your heart today...You Come.