

Craig Clarke: 20 February 2022

The Gospel in two short words (Ephesians 2:1-10)

(Sermon Summary)

“But God”: these two tiny words in v4 tell us so much about God and the Gospel. As believers we need to keep hearing the Gospel as it reminds us of what God has done for us, and prompts us to worship Him.

To understand the “But God”, the apostle Paul first has to remind us of who we once were (v13). We were dead in sins, children of wrath who walked in the fashions of this world. This can be uncomfortable reading as we recall the shame of our past life. Even if we did not commit particularly shameful sins, we had no desire for God, even hating Him, and did not acknowledge His goodness to us.

We were worthy of death. But thank God that He had different plans, rich in mercy. God loved us before we loved Him. Because we were dead in our sins, we could do nothing to earn His favour. We will never fully grasp His glorious grace this side of Heaven.

People still try to earn God’s favour by works, but none of us can ever do enough or be good enough. That’s why God has granted us His grace. We keep on sinning, but God keeps on forgiving us.

That’s the good news that we have to share in Crich and Jacksdale. We want to see our churches full of people praising God for His grace and mercy. We need to keep on hearing the Gospel so it reinvigorates us to share it with others.

In the last few verses we have a wonderful reminder of what God has done for us, the wonderful blessings He showers on His children. We have the precious gift of salvation. “But God” is the gospel in two words - our salvation all depends and rests on God (John 3:16).

It is good for us to share in praising and thanking Him for this wonderful gift.