

Introduction

Good morning. It's great to see you today. Welcome to Part 2 of "Life Together." I hope that you are enjoying this series so far. We are going through the Book of Ephesians. So if you have a Bible with you, and I hope that you do, I want to invite you at this time to go ahead, take it out, and open it up with us to the Book of Ephesians. We will be in chapter 2. If you don't have a Bible with you, it's okay. Just look right there in front of you, in the tray underneath the seat right in front of you, you ought to see a Bible. If you do not own a Bible, then this is our gift to you. Feel free to take it with you today. If you just need to use it, that's fine. Use it and you can put it back. If you have a phone or a tablet with you that has a Bible online, you are also welcomed to use that as well.

Now, before we jump into the text today, I just want to tell you a little bit about what it is that we are doing through "Life Together." We are working toward helping everyone joining a Life Group so that we can all understand what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ, to be living together in community. We have got some resources for you to do that. The first one of these is a little book written by a pastor named Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It's a little book called "Life Together." It's one of the places where we found our title for our sermon series through the Book of Ephesians. This book itself is not actually about the Book of Ephesians, but it is about the Church. It talks about how good it is for brothers and sisters in Christ to live together in unity. So if you would like to get a copy of this book and read along with us, as we go through this series, you can pick a copy up. We're asking for a donation of five dollars to help us cover costs, out here at our event kiosk. But if you don't have five dollars, we want you to get this book anyway; so that's out there available to you. We also have this curriculum booklet. It's also entitled "Life Together." Your church staff wrote it, and they did so with an eye toward this series through the Book of Ephesians. If you join a Life Group, then you will get one of these booklets. We would encourage you to join a Life Group so that you can get this booklet so that that way you can walk through the Book of Ephesians with us. We want you to be in that group so that you can ask questions. The reason that we join a Life Group is because we believe that's where we get to practice what it means to be Church. We do and "One Another's" of the New Testament, as we often say. We love one another, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, encourage one another, exhort one another... so we want to ask you to join us in that. So I hope that you will join us as we go through this series. Whenever we're dismissed at the end of the service today, there's a couple of white popup tents out there. Those are your Life Group stations, so if you have questions about how to join a Life Group or if you would just like to talk to somebody about maybe some various things that you're curious about then you can go there to those tents. They will be happy to help you out.

Now we are going to jump into the Book of Ephesians. If you're not familiar with the Book of Ephesians, let me talk very briefly about what the Bible is. The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about God's people, Israel. It's a record of them and it tells us about their need for a Rescuer. The New Testament tells us about, then, who that Rescuer is. His name is Jesus. It tells us about His birth, His death, and His resurrection. It also tells us about the people who began to follow Him, and they are known as the Church. One of the people who followed Jesus was a guy named Paul, and Paul wrote letters to a bunch of different churches that he started a couple of thousand years ago. One of those letters was written to a church in the city of Ephesus, and it is called the Book of Ephesians. So we're going to start reading here in chapter 2. Let me pray for us and we'll jump into reading the Scripture together.

"Lord, how good it is to be with You, how good it is to have Your presence, how good it is to have Your Spirit. Father, we pray today that you would move among us, that You would awaken us, that You would

intercede on our behalf, that we would see what it is that You have for us today. God, we love You and I ask that You would rescue people, that You would save people, that You would change people, that You would encounter people today in a very real way. God, I pray that the words that I speak would not be from me but they would be from You. And Lord, I pray that this not be about me but, Lord, it would be about Your Son Jesus Christ. God, we love You and we praise You, and it's in the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen."

Ephesians 2, starting in verse 1: *"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Several years ago, whenever we moved to Houston... we moved right after Christmas... and for Christmas I received a copy of Doris Kearns Goodwin's book called "Team Of Rivals." I don't know if you've read "Team Of Rivals." It's a book about Lincoln's cabinet. I'm kind of a history geek. Well, let's be honest... I'm kind of a geek in general, but I wanted to read this book. It's kind of a hefty tome. I mean, it is several hundred pages, eight-point font, pretty dense. I'm carting this book around for two or three months trying to read it, make my way through this book. It was a great book. I learned a ton. I thought it was so great. My family, when my birthday rolls around, they saw me reading this book for so long, being so diligent to do it. They had made a movie based on "Team Of Rivals" called "Lincoln." Maybe you saw the movie... maybe you didn't... they bought it for me on DVD for my birthday, so we throw it into the player... on my birthday. I've got my family here, I got the movie, I got the food, and we're going to settle in and celebrate my birthday together. Seventeen minutes into that movie... they were all gone. They had completely abandoned me. (Laughter) They were nowhere to be found. I was like, "What?" Everybody's getting up and they're leaving. "What's going on here?" They're like, "This movie is boring." (Laughter) "We love you but we are not watching this movie." We love action movies, don't we? We like things where stuff happens. We're the kind of people that we really, really want action. Boredom is where stories go to die. We all already know this. Now, how many books have been read to about the third chapter and people just say, "Nope... not doing it. I'm not going to give my life to this. I don't care whether these characters live or die." Then they just set it to the side. Maybe you remember that quote from the "Princess Bride" where the grandson is talking to the grandfather and he says, "Is this a good story?" and the grandfather says, "Are you kidding me? It's got everything. It's got fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles..." And the grandson says, "Well, it doesn't sound too bad."

This is kind of the way we are. We want stuff to happen. We want a little more action and a little less conversation. We are just those kinds of people. This is what I want you to know today. You're in good, good hands because chapter 2 in the Book of Ephesians is an action story. It is God who acts on your behalf, and that is what Ephesians chapter 2 is. Maybe you missed it, but Ephesians chapter 2 actually is an action story about zombies. (Laughter)

1. The Walking Dead (v. 1)

Verse 1... it's right there. "...you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked..." You were dead. You were dead in a couple of ways, actually. You were dead through your actions. You were dead because, as it says here in chapter 2 verse 1, "you were dead in your trespasses and in your sins." You see, every one of us were following, as it says later on in that verse, "...following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience." That's a fancy way of saying that every single one of us were doing what the devil wanted us to do. Every person. And because we had done that, we were dead. Why were we dead? Well, we were dead because we were choosing to do things that were actually killing us. Verse 3 tells us that we were carrying these things out. Another way to look at it is that we were actually gratifying those desires, those sinful desires there in the flesh. So we were dead through our actions but we were dead through our actions because we were dead through the judgment of God. You see, actually later on in this same passage, verse 3, it tells us that because we had chosen to do these things, we were children of wrath. Children of wrath. We deserve to be destroyed. We have been born into a wrathful state because we were choosing over and over to act against the very things that God wanted for us.

I don't know the first time that you ever heard the word "wrath" ...maybe it was John Steinbeck's novel "Grapes of Wrath." ...maybe it was the "Battle Hymn of the Republic:"

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored."

Or maybe you were like me and you were raised in a family that watched "Star Trek II—The Wrath of Khan." But wherever you heard it, you heard "wrath" at some point and you wondered, "What is wrath?" Wrath is this idea of revenge, anger, punishment. Wrath is coming. Sometimes we read the Bible and we think, "Is God really a wrathful God? Isn't that sort of a passe idea? Hasn't God moved past all of that? Isn't He a loving God?" Yes, He is loving. But did you know, if you believe in Scripture, that the Bible tells us that there are twenty different words for God's wrath? ...Twenty different words. There are 600 passages in this Book that talk specifically about God's wrath. And God's wrath is different from your wrath or my wrath. Whenever I have wrath, it tends to be pretty capricious, pretty vindictive; it just sort of pops up in the moment with whatever is getting on my nerves at that time. I just take out all of my anger and my fury on it in that moment. But actually it's quite different in Scripture. The word that is used most often to describe God's wrath is a word that means "to ripen." It's not something that happens immediately. It moves gradually toward its intended target. God's wrath is something that is so intentional that it moves toward its intended target, and then in the correctly precise moment... "BAM" ...it goes off and it punishes those things that need to be punished.

The Book of Hebrews chapter 10 actually describes this wrath, starting in verse 28: "*Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine; I will repay.'"*

Listen to this verse: "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"

In the prison system, whenever they escort someone on Death Row from their cell for the final time to the executioner's room, it's tradition that they cry out "Dead man walking." The idea here is that this individual is still breathing, but they are very soon about to meet their Maker. We are, very simply put, dead men and women walking. We have been rebelling against God, over and over. We are children of wrath. His wrath is coming, it is ripening, and it is intended directly for those who are sinners. We are in trouble. Or are we?

2. Are Raised (v. 4)

Verse 4: *"But God..."* But God... Zombies, walking around... putrefying, spiritual zombies... *"But God..."* You see, this phrase... these two, tiny three-letter words, actually only one letter when rendered in Hebrew, are sprinkled throughout the pages of Scripture whenever circumstances are stacked against God's chosen people, He then intercedes and almost always it starts with "But God..." Are you foolish and sinful? Yes... But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. Have terrible things happened to you? Of course. They intend it for evil, but God intended it for good. Over and over and over... "But God..." shows up in the pages of Scripture. If we would simply remember those words "But God..." As we come to the table, we would say, "I deserve punishment, I deserve wrath..." "But God..." interceded by sending His Son. I deserve to die, "But God..." gave Jesus to die in my place. I don't deserve eternal life... "But God..." raised Jesus from the dead so that I might walk into eternal life with Him. "But God..." over and over and over. When we remember "But God..." then we remember that we have been rescued, through nothing that we have done, but simply through a God who chooses to intercede. So we are dead... we are children of wrath... *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..."* He made us alive. You were dead "But God..." made us alive. From death to life; we were dead. He makes us alive. "But God..." makes us alive.

Our God is in the resurrecting business. Over and over in the pages of Scripture we read this. Ezekiel saw a valley filled with dry bones that resurrected into an army. Elijah raises a widow's son. Elisha also raises a widow's son. Paul is preaching until midnight, and there was a young man by the name of Eutychus who falls out of a window and apparently dies. But Paul goes down and prays over him, and he comes back to life. Peter raises Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, from the dead in the Book of Acts. Jesus sees Jairus's daughter raised simply by sending out the words. The son of the widow of Nain, Jesus raises from the dead. And of course, most famously, Jesus says, "Lazarus, come forth," and the man wrapped in grave clothes come out of the grave. He is brought back to life. You see, our God, over and over, raises people from the dead. Jesus is simply just the capstone of the great fact... the great truth... that our God loves to take people who are dead, who look like they cannot survive any longer, and raise them up. That's what pleases our God. He loves to take dead things and make them alive. You were dead in your trespasses, "But God..." makes us alive in Jesus. That's what He loves to do.

Why does He want to do this? Why does God want to raise us? ...Because of His great mercy; because of His great love. I don't know how to explain love. As a preacher, I have attempted to illustrate and explain love over and over. I will tell you that I have yet to find, really, the perfect illustration to explain love. One thing that occurred to me this week is that God does not need us. He simply chooses to have us. You know those things that you have in your life that are just kind of little extras. You don't need 'em but you really like 'em. You don't need a four-dollar cup of coffee... but you really like it. You don't need to go fishing... but you really like it. You don't need a donut... (Laughter) ...but you really like it. I want you to think about the fact that we are... as C.S. Lewis so eloquently puts it, "With regard to God, we (you and I) are superfluous." That is a fancy way of saying, "He does not need us. We are extra. We do not bring any

value to Him." God looks at us like a really good donut. (Laughter) He doesn't need us but, man, it makes Him happy. That's love, in one essence, at least... that it's something that He does not need, but He chooses it simply because it pleases Him. It pleases Him when people who are far from Him, who are rebellious, who are trespassers, who are sinning against Him... it pleases Him when those who have pushed back against Him over and over... It pleases Him when He gets to take them from death and bring them into life. It makes Him happy. Why? ...Because He is filled with mercy. He doesn't want to give us what we deserve. He doesn't want to punish us. He doesn't want to destroy us. He wants us to have a relationship with Him, so He gives us Jesus, and He lets Jesus die in our place and He brings us into life.

This revelation is so moving to Paul that he attempts to describe it, and he moves into poetic-licence territory. He starts creating words that have never been used before and are actually never used again anywhere else in the pages of Scripture. Do you know how nobody knew what an emoji was ten years ago? Now, everybody knows what an emoji is. Whenever my mom started sending me emojis, I was like, "We have reached peak emoji." It was right there. Everybody knows what an emoji is now. Paul starts making words up, attempting to explain. Kind of like this thing that was just invented. He says, "I'm going to make up words to attempt to describe what exactly is happening. He is trying to describe that whenever we are taken from death we are then made alive again; but we're not just made alive, then He does something with us. He makes us alive... with Christ. He raises us... with Christ. He seats us... with Christ. It's a doctrine that is prevalent in Christian theology known as "The union with Christ." That is the doctrine. The union that we have with Christ. It's not some kind of a word game. You are actually unified with the Spirit of Jesus. And Paul wants us to understand how significant this is, so he starts to make up words:

"synzooipoieo" – which means "to make alive together with."
"synegeiro" – which means "to raise up together with."
"synkathizo" – which means "to sit down together with."

He is saying, "I love you so much..." (this is what God is saying) "I love you so much that not only do I want to save you from destruction, but now I want to unify you with My Son so that you not only will be raised to life, but you will be raised to a life that is filled with Him so that you are overflowing with the blessings given from God. I want you to be unified with Jesus."

Verse 6 blows my mind. Look at verse 6: *"He raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places..."* He sat us at Jesus' table. There are really just a couple of places that we have in the pages of Scripture that describe what it would be like to sit at the table of Jesus. Let me read you one of these. This is from John chapter 13, starting in verse 21... This is one telling of the Lord's Supper: *"After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit and testified. 'Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom He spoke. One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.' So when He had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot."*

The picture that's there in the Lord's Supper... those tables were low. They had to have their feet washed because their feet were nose-level. The picture there is that they sat back-to-back at the table. They reclined at the table. So literally, the picture is that John is sitting back and his back is against Jesus' back. They're talking over their shoulder to one another. That's what it means to be seated with Jesus. And he says, "You

have been seated with Christ." I don't know about you... I want that. I want to get to sit with Jesus like that. And then did you see what happens in the very next verse? "...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace..." I just want you to picture... seated at the table with Jesus, back-to-back, and He goes, "Hey, look at this over here. Do you see that? I made that. So do you see this over here? Look at the way that I created redemption. Hey, look at this over here. This is the way that I save. This is the way that I love." And He just begins to show you, throughout all of eternity, the immeasurable riches of His grace. You get to sit down with Him, and He just shows you over and over and over how good He is. I don't know about you, but sometimes when I get to have dinner with people or sit with people who are wiser than me, and they begin to just share things that they've learned along the way... I always get in my car afterwards, and I am so thankful that I got to experience that. What would it be like to sit with Jesus for eternity? Why would He do that?

3. By Grace For Work. (v.10)

Verse 10: *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

You say "Wow... God does this so that we can then do the things that He wants us to do. So how do I get to sit at the table?" The short answer is "You just sit down." He has already got a chair waiting for you. He says, "I want you to sit with Me at the table." But the way that you get there... it's through grace... through faith. You just take a seat.

Sometimes I share this and people say, "Well, I can't sit with Jesus. I've had an abortion." "I can't sit with Jesus; I'm an addict." "I can't sit with Jesus; I have a child that I abandoned." "I can't sit with Jesus; I left my wife." "I can't sit with Jesus..." for what reason. May I please tell you something today? You are not so bad that Jesus is not that good. He is good enough for you. (Clapping) I don't care who you are, and I don't care what you've done. Jesus is at the table right now, and He has pulled out a chair and He says, "Here... have a seat." He wants you to sit with Him. Too many of us have decided that we are not worthy to sit there at the table.

You see, the Bible says... and this is probably the most shocking verse, perhaps, in all of Scripture: *"By grace you have been saved through faith."* (verse 8) *"And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* You see, this faith... it's not optimism, it's not a good feeling, it's not just "Yeah, I'm going to go for it." It's a totally different idea. Faith is this: It's that you begin to know Him, you see Him, and you move to a point where you want to trust Him and you say, "I will sit at this table because I believe this is the best way to live, this is the thing that is best for me, and He wants me, so I'm going to choose to follow Him. And once you decide "I will sit at His table, and I will do that"...this is the thing: He has already made a way, through grace... not through anything that you have ever done. It doesn't matter how bad you are. It doesn't matter anything that you've done. He just welcomes you to the table.

James Montgomery Boice puts it this way, and I love this: "Grace means that there is no cause in us why God should have acted why He did. He just decided to save us because it pleases Him." It gives Him pleasure to pull a chair out at His table and say, "Have a seat; I want you."

People say, "Well, what about this workmanship thing? Here at the end of verse 10 it says, '*...we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*'" so that means that I have to do something to be able to earn His favor? No; that's not what it means. It means that once He sits you at His table, you are

going to want to do the things that He wants you to do, because once you recognize that you ought to have been destroyed and instead you were given a relationship with Him, you want to live for Him.

You see, some people say that it works like this: If we were to write it out as an equation... some people say this:

Faith + Works = Salvation.

That's the way they think about it. Have faith in Jesus, but also do some stuff. So if I have the faith and then I do some stuff, then God will one day allow me into heaven. But what the Bible teaches, in Ephesians 2 and all the rest of Scripture... it teaches the same thing. It teaches this:

Faith = Salvation + you will also do works.

You see, once you have placed your faith in Jesus, you will reach a point where then you want to sit at His table, and you will want to do this thing. The only one who is doing the saving in this scenario is not us. It's just God. He is looking around, taking dead people, plucking them, picking them up and saying, "I want that one, and that one, and that one..." And He is just pulling out the chair, saying, "I want you to sit right here." That's our God. When that happens, when you drink from the 200-proof chalice of grace, you are going to start acting nutty... if you really get it.

Two quick stories. I had a long day earlier this week, and I was sitting in my chair. I had started super early and didn't get home until late; I was kind of tired. I was sitting there having to answer some emails, sitting in my chair. I was kind of worn out. Joy went over to mess with one of the light switches. We have those light switches that are knobs that you turn to dim or brighten the lights. She started messing with it, and for some reason it was giving her a fit, and she was clicking it... "click, click, click, click..." and just because I'm evil... (Laughter) ...for whatever reason, that became the object of my wrath in that moment. And because I'm a very spiritual person, in a very godly tone of voice, I said to her, "You press it in and turn it to the right." (Laughter) Yeah... yeah... that's what I said... (Laughter) And my wife, because she actually does love the Lord... (Laughter) ...she said, "I'm sorry about that." Yeah... that was the worst. Of course, also because I'm a very godly man, I did not apologize for being a jerk. I just went on about my life. "This is your pastor, ladies and gentlemen." (Laughter) So, the next day, I'm at the office just working on stuff. I mean, it was like the Holy Spirit just reminds me, "Hey... yesterday you were a complete jerk to your wife. Do you remember that?" "Yeah... I was kind of hoping I'd forget about that." I was also hoping too that she is not going to care, and she's going to move on and I'm going to move on... isn't that good enough? The Holy Spirit said, "No... It's not good enough. Do you know why? ...Because I came after you whenever you were a jerk, so now I want you to chase after your wife and show her how I've changed you." So I picked up my phone and texted her: "Hey... I just remembered that yesterday I was a complete idiot about that light-switch thing, and I just want you to know that I love you, and I'm really sorry that I did that." That doesn't mean that I'm great; it just means that God has showed me so much grace in my life that I have to extend that grace to as many other people as I can. That's the way that grace works. Once you've drunk deeply from the chalice of grace, you start doing foolish things. If you're like me, you hate to apologize, but you do it anyway because you have been graced.

Another story... I walk into my neighborhood Walgreens, and there's a young lady who is behind the cash register wearing a hijab... a Muslim head covering. I've spent a little bit of time... not much, but a little bit of time in the Middle East, so I know the traditional greeting for those who are Muslims. It's basically, "God's peace be upon you" in Arabic which is "as-salamu alaykum," so I say that to her. She looked at me

as if I was an alien who had just landed right there (Laughter) in the middle of Walgreens. So I go back and I get whatever the items were. I come back and I'm checking out and she looks at me and she says, "Are you a Muslim?" I said, "No, I'm not." She said, "Why did you say that to me?" "Well, you know, I'm a Christian, and the Bible tells me that I am to love my neighbor as myself. That's what Jesus commanded. Your Book calls Him, 'Isa.'" She said, "Yes. Do you know Isa?" I said, "Yes, I follow Isa." Why would you do those things? ...Because you know that the people that are surrounding you every day are people who need to hear about Jesus. They need those pinpoints of light that break through so that they can understand and experience God's grace.

Here's the thing. In just those two tiny little encounters that I had... nothing giant happened. My wife was going to, hopefully, stay married to me, whether I apologized to her over the light switch or not. To be honest with you, revival did not break out at Walgreens... (Laughter) The young lady did not decide to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Why do either of those things? Do they make a difference? Well, I don't know if they make a difference for either of them, but they make a difference for me. ...Because do you know what they do? They teach me that my God has given me His grace. They take that idea of grace like a stake, and they just drive it deeper and deeper and deeper... into my heart. You see, Church, this is what I've become convinced of. A revolution in our city is not going to take place through a great preaching gathering, primarily. It's going to happen because the people of the Church become so drunk on the grace of God that they begin acting like grace-filled fools whenever they are, taking the great news of Jesus out into the city. I say, let's grab the chalice of grace. Let's knock it back, let's polish it off, and let's become so filled with the grace of God, where we no longer attempt to prove our worth to other people through our actions and no longer attempt to perform for God, but instead simply sit down at His table, lean back against Jesus, learn from the immeasurable richness of His kindness and then decide, "May we go each and every day and show the grace of Jesus with others." And as He gives us opportunity, we tell them, "He died for you, He loves you, He saved you, He was resurrected for you," because this is the way that we were all changed once too.

I don't know about you, but to me that's an action story. It's not boring at all. It's a God who made us, who loved us, acted on our behalf, and says, "Now... you're my army. Go... be my gracious people." Do so... with grace. We were dead... "But God..." Let's pray.

"Lord... I deserve nothing, really. I deserve to be abandoned. I deserve to be punished. But there You are, giving Your grace, day-in and day-out. I deserve to be abandoned, but there You are, giving Your grace, day-in and day-out. Lord, this is the sort of message, this is the sort of truth that holds us fast. Father, we eat the bread and drink the cup, being reminded... Yes... being reminded... we need Your grace, God. We thank You. We pray this in the Name of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen."