

CCH All Age Service Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRO:

“Do you want the good news or the bad news”...?

- Man once given a flying lesson for birthday. THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
- But the plane caught on fire, so had to jump out. THATS BAD NEWS.
- He had a parachute. THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
- But he parachute didn't open. THAT'S BAD NEWS.
- He was heading towards a soft landing on haystack. THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
- But there was a pitch fork sticking up in it. THAT'S BAD NEWS.
- He missed the pitch fork. GOOD NEWS.
- He also missed the haystack... BAD NEWS.

Adults have been looking at Eph.

Jumping back to ch2 to remind us of bad news & Good news.

REALLY bad news, and REALLY good news.

Before hear Bible read, start with **song**. *I'm following the King*.

- “I'm ready to obey”.

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- “I don't deserve his mercy, yet he died to save me”

V4. “BUT....”

One of my favourite words. Good news **BUT** Bad News.

A) THE BAD NEWS

V1

Paul talking about what Eph like before Christians.

Dead!

- ▲ Unwrap= **Chicken!**

Can't say “wake up”/”peck some corn”/”lay an egg”.
(sorry veges!)

- ▲ Monty Python man sell dead parrot. “Pining for the fields”.

But no joke....

WITHOUT JESUS WE ARE **DEAD**

Very strong language. Almost don't want to share w kids.

Kids need to learn. DEAD!

Before we come to Jesus we have no life.

Doesn't mean as bad as poss cd be, but no life don't want to please God.

More details... Trapped by 3 terrible forces...

1) FOLLOWING THE **WORLD**

Not the planet, but the thinking of this world.

Follow everyone around us. Doing what they do. Thinking what they do.

Following culture.

▲ Anyone have friends at school? Do you like to be left out or do you like to be part of the gang!

Gets more serious...

2) FOLLOWING THE **DEVIL**

Ruler of Kingdom of air, spirit now at work in disobedient.

Air is what we have between earth and heaven.

And it's everywhere. In your bedroom, in your school (good thing! Need O2)

But Satan is everywhere, and he is whispering lies to everyone. Doesn't matter if you tell a lie. Doesn't matter if you choose your way instead of God. Before we followed Jesus we were trapped by him.

3) FOLLOWING THE **FLESH**

Not just the body and physical desires.

Best way to think of it = **Self**.

Can't break out of desires and thoughts.

So really stuck. Dead AND Trapped like in a prison. 3 guards.

I started to follow Jesus around 11. I was a nice boy so it looked.

But actually I was selfish. I remember when best friend Hugo had a tooth out before me. I was miserable, and wailing.

Stuck. (once I started follow J still struggled self and still do, but I had HS to help).

Worst of all. Dead, disobedient, doomed.

FACING GOD'S **ANGER**

Children, this is the saddest thing of all about sin. Where it leads.

God is angry.

He is right to be, because we have lived in his world without him.

▲ What would you say if you had a friend who was always horrible to you, who ignored you, who stole things from you, I think you would be sad, and I think you would wonder whether they could be your friend any more.

Well that's how we have treated God, and if he gave us what we deserved it would be to be cut off from him forever.

Very bad news....

But it explains our world.

In a moment Good news. But first

- 1) Don't think that we can **try harder**. A few good things to outweigh our bad. We are dead.
- 2) Don't be **mad** at Paul who wrote this, or mad at me for sharing this. If someone in hospital, they want to know the good news.
- 3) If not yet a Christian DO Cry out to God for a miracle. That's the only thing that can change our situation, and our friends.

1st sing.... Listen. Pick up as going along God's masterpiece.

B) THE GOOD NEWS

But! It's the best news in the world.

- I had a nosebleed and couldn't do my homework, BUT Mrs DU Toit gave me an extra day.
- I fell off my bike BUT I landed on the grass so didn't cut myself.
- I lost my toy rabbit and was really sad BUT found it in Martha's room.

This is a huge BUT! (If you'll pardon the expression)

You were dead! BUT been made alive.

See what's in here- LIVE CHICKEN!

What amazing power. To take thisand make it this...

That's impossible. It would be for us. What power!

What amazing love!

It's called Grace.

- That's a girls name
- And it's a prayer before food.
- But best of all it's a free gift. That we don't deserve.

▲ Remember that friend who was horrible to you, who ignores you and who steals things from you.

It would be **mercy** not to abandon her (we have a mercy in our church!)

It would be **grace** to give HER a present.

She just doesn't deserve it.

And nor do we! That's the amazing thing.

And what an amazing gift Jesus has given us.

Like a defibrillator giving life back to someone nearly dead.

But Jesus gives new life to already spiritually dead.

And how do we receive it?

Is it by hard work?

Do we need to deserve it. "Mummy says cookie if good".

NO- not by hard work.

We can't cos already dead

It comes through faith

Believing is receiving.

We say sorry, we turn to Jesus and ask him to do the miracle.

Faith itself is a gift- such good news.

And here's where my thinking has often gone wrong:

Faith is a gift.

It's not something clever that makes me special.

That would be to add a new hard work.

It's crying out.

▲ "It was the moment all mothers dread, losing track of your babies and going into sheer panic". Hunts post article a year ago. VIDEO

It's 100% God's rescue, and 0% our work.

Does that mean that we don't do any good works for others? No

We are God's masterpiece. Handiwork.

We are not saved by good works

But we are saved for good works.

Response

1) Ask Jesus to save you

2) Thank Jesus for saving you. Greatest gift! Greatest privilege.

Hunts Post July 17th 2018

It was the moment all mothers dread, losing track of your babies and going into sheer panic.

However, all was not lost, because in this case it is the story of a mother duck and a wildlife enthusiast who came to the rescue, to reunite her with her five ducklings stuck in a drainage tunnel.

Dan Martin, who runs "**That Wildlife Rescue Guy**" Facebook page, helps animals across the Fens.

"Pitch black and stuck, the ducklings were terrified," said the car sprayer whose workshop is in Wimblington.

Meanwhile, the mother duck had flown up to a house roof to look for her babies, probably only a few days old.

So Dan rolled up his sleeves and went into the tunnel to bring the babies back to safety for the happy reunion.

Dan said: "A lady contacted me via my Facebook rescue page "That Wildlife Rescue Guy" saying she could hear ducklings crying from a drainage tunnel next to her place of work and send me a picture of the mum who had been hanging around for two days going crazy,

"The woman had tried to find the ducklings herself but said the water was too deep for her and the tunnel was pitch black and seemed endless but the cries could be heard from inside.

"I agreed to go check it out and once I waded through the water and reached the tunnel I was saddened to find one little duckling hadn't made it.

"It soon became apparent why they were trapped inside the tunnel as the opening had a large drop far too high for them to jump up to escape.

"I can only assume the current had swept them down there. After wandering around in the dark I managed to find the survivors and quickly scooped them up."

Dan said of the rescue, in Ramsey: "I took the baby who didn't make it and laid him to rest in a bush next to the stream and away from the tunnel that claimed him.

"Once on dry land I loaded the little guys into my car and was about to head home to feed them up when I noticed mum duck on a nearby roof, she hadn't given up on them. "I put her babies where she could see them and she came straight to them so I led her away from the road to a safer place and reunited them all. "It was the best feeling!"