**“Moving Forward” Part 3**
**Mount of Olives | July 12, 2026 | Matthew 5:13-16**
**Pastor Jim Reynen**

**Prayer of the Day**
Heavenly Father, as we lift our voices in worship to You, we praise You for all You have given us. In the midst of our daily struggles, You provide for us peace and provision. As we cry out to You in our worry and stress, You pour out assurance that we are in Your loving care. Help us to faithfully rely on You for direction and guidance as we seek to fulfill Your will in this world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 2:1-10
You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**Message Notes**

Genesis 2:8
And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Ephesians 2:10
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Matthew 5:13-16
You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Colossians 3:17
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Study Questions –** Read Ephesians 2:1-10

**ICEBREAKER – Getting started:**

**1.** Can you think of a time when someone gave you an unexpected second chance? How did it affect you?

**2.** Besides Jesus dying on the cross for the forgiveness of your sin, what is one gift you have received that you could never have earned or repaid?

**Based on** Ephesians 2:1-10**, answer the following questions:**

**OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

**1.** As you read Ephesians 2:1-10, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

**2.** In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?

**3.** What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

**INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?**

**1.** According to verses 1–3, how does Paul describe humanity's spiritual condition before Christ?

**2.** What does Paul mean when he says believers were "dead in trespasses and sins"?

**3.** Who or what influenced the way people lived before coming to Christ (vv. 2–3)?

**4.** In verses 4–5, what characteristics of God motivated Him to save us?

**5.** What does it mean that God "made us alive together with Christ"?

**6.** According to verses 6–7, what future purpose does God have in raising believers up with Christ and seating them with Him?

**7.** In verses 8–9, how does Paul explain the relationship between grace, faith, and works in salvation?

**8.** Why is it significant that salvation is described as "the gift of God" rather than something earned?

**9.** What does verse 10 teach about the purpose of good works in the Christian life?

**10.** Looking across the entire passage, how does Paul contrast who believers once were with who they have become in Christ?

**APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?**

**1.** How does remembering your spiritual condition before Christ increase your gratitude for God's grace today?

**2.** Are there areas of your life where you are tempted to rely on your own achievements rather than God's grace? How can you guard against that mindset?

**3.** What "good works" might God have prepared for you to pursue in your family, workplace, church, or community this week?

**4.** How can the truth that salvation is a gift—not something earned—change the way you relate to God or to others who are still exploring faith?

**5.** Paul emphasizes that believers are God's workmanship. How does that truth shape your understanding of your identity, purpose, and daily calling?