

LOGO/GRAPHIC w/email

There should be **nothing** off limits or “safe” from God.

Anything untouched (off limits) by God’s grace is **unsafe and unsound**.

□ Grace hunts **sin, enslavement, & hurt**.

Question:

How does the gospel of grace **inform** *this*? □ **Transform** *this*?

This week’s “*this*” □ Our past ...

{can put on one slide – left side & right side of screen}

Eraser Marks -- IMAGE

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.2VDQ1NLMtfQWMIDbOa1HIAHaEV?rs=1&pid=ImgDetMain>

Cleaning Shoes – IMAGE

<https://www.myheartliveshere.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/e52ce0e543d542d9bc2860d316bf1537.jpg>

Our past **stays** with us ...

... *For better or for worse.*

... *One way or another.*

{all together; one slide; clear formatting}

Our past shows up ... Where?

THROUGH ... *emotions, attitudes, mindsets, anxieties, identity*

IN ... *relationships, work, conflict, holidays, etc.*

{come up ONE at a time}

Our past enslaves us ... how?

The pain of the past ...

The joy of the past ...

The way(s) of the past ...

Psalm 145:4

One generation will declare Your works **to the next** and will proclaim Your mighty acts.

Judges 2:10a

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did **not** acknowledge the Lord ...

Luke 9:61-62

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house." ⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 17:31-32

On that day *{the 2nd Coming}*, a man on the housetop, whose belongings are in the house, must not come down to get them. Likewise the man who is in the field must **not turn back**. ³² **Remember Lot's wife!**

Anemic Christianity:

- **Believe ... get saved ... go to heaven!**

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, He **saw** a man named **Matthew sitting at the tax office** and He said to him, "**Follow Me**," and he got up and followed Him.

Jesus meets us **where** we are and **as** we are ... not where we should be or who we should be (=Grace & love).

{come up one at a time}

Nobody meets Jesus and stays the same (=transformation).

- ***Drawn into & toward life in Christ.***
- ***Hardened against life in Christ.***

{all together; one slide}

Matthew's Past:

- **Reputation**
- **Regret, Shame, Guilt**
- **Loss of lifestyle**

{come up one at a time}

Our past **shapes** us:

- **Patterns**: *ways of thinking & doing things*
- **Traumas**: *the "not rights"*
- **Scripts**: *roles we are told to play & life we are told to live*

Matthew 9:10

While He {Jesus} was reclining at the table in the house, **many tax collectors and sinners** came to eat **with** Jesus and His disciples.

{one at a time}

Jesus:

- Put transforming grace on our past
- Bring positive, Gospel purpose from our past.

{one slide}

Problem: the way we **speak & feel** about our past

- Why did I ...? Why did God ...? Why did my mom/dad ...?
- Pity, victim, futility, anger, regret/shame/guilt, stuckness, loss, etc

{one side all together}

Gospel Question:

God, how will You use my past to help **transform me **to become more like Jesus**?**

****Hope & expectancy; Purpose & Promise**

{one slide; all together}

Gospel Movement:

Moving **toward Jesus **with** Jesus.**
Pursuing the prize in Christ.

Matthew 9:11

¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat **with tax collectors and sinners**?”

Be careful what you **listen** to about your past.

Check movement: Gospel-driven or not?

- New: does not feel normal and/or comfortable

Be willing to confess **present sin** that has arisen from **past experiences**.

{both on same slide.}

Gratitude is a key gauge to monitor.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

... give thanks **in everything**; for this is **God's will** for you in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 9:12-13

Now when He heard this, He said, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are **sick**. Go and learn what this means: **I desire **mercy** and **not sacrifice****. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but **sinners**.”

Matthew 10:2-4

These are the names of the twelve apostles: First, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and **Matthew the tax collector**; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and **Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him**.

{come up one at a time; same slide}

Judas ... who betrayed ... **Information & Explanation**

Matthew the tax collector **Transformation**

Embrace grace ... all of grace.

{one at a time}

Our Past in view ...

- **Feel what you need to feel ...**
- **Confess what you need to confess ...**
- **See God meeting you ...**
- **Hear God inviting you to move forward ...**

Romans 8:28-29, 31-32

And we know that God causes **everything** to work together **for the good** of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to **become like his Son** ... ³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since He **did not spare even his own Son** but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?