

The Second Half of the Gospel

Ephesians 2.8,10; Ephesians 4; 1 Thessalonians 5.22-23 / October 15, 2019

The New Testament book of Ephesians communicates the whole gospel:

- Eph 1-3 = first half of the gospel. The first half is about being saved by God's generosity in Jesus through trusting. It happens as the Holy Spirit empowers us to confess and repent from our sin and receive the grace of God in Jesus Christ who saves us from sin and eternal death.
 - Eph 2.8 says it like this: *God saved you by his grace when you believed.*
 - First half FIRST!

- Eph 4-6 = second half of the gospel. It reorients us, realigns us, equips us, & transforms us to profoundly love God and people.
 - Eph 2.10 previews it like this: *We are God's masterpiece...created anew in Jesus, so we can do the things he planned for us long ago.*

FIVE BIG STATEMENTS call us to experience the second half of the gospel:

1/ Eph 4.1 – Lead a life worthy of your calling

2/ Eph 4.12 – Be equipped to do God's work & build up the church

3/ Eph 4.15 – Grow in every way more and more like Christ

4/ Eph 4.24 – Put on your new nature, created to be like God

5/ Eph 5.1-2 – Imitate God as his dear children...live a life filled with love

>> Research shows that 89% of Christians live their lives in the first half of the gospel only. Just 11% of believers say they're experiencing the second half.

>> What does the second half of the gospel look like on a college student? What would it look like on you? Let's dive in to the second half of the gospel!