

SERMON NOTES

Ephesians 2:1-10 | Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

1. Review briefly what we’ve covered so far in this series on ECO’s Essential Tenets, especially on our DNA as Reformed, Evangelical, and Egalitarian Christians, as well as on the authority of Scripture and the mysteries of the Trinity and the Incarnation. What has impressed itself upon your heart and mind so far? What calls for further investigation or reflection on your part?

READ Essential Tenets III.A, “Essentials of the Reformed Tradition: God’s grace in Christ”:

2. Review the flow of Section III.A. (hereafter “the Tenet”) as we move from beliefs all Christians share to beliefs more descriptive of the “Presbyterian way.” The Tenet starts with God’s good creation, but then it quickly moves to human sinfulness, so that less than halfway through, we discover: “No part of human life is untouched by sin. Our desires are no longer trustworthy guides to goodness, and what seems natural to us no longer corresponds to God’s design.” But this sounds so negative! Yet what past and present experiences and examples support such a viewpoint? How is it clear we are broken people living in a broken world?

3. “Our only hope is God’s grace,” states the Tenet. Then, a few sentences later, what strong word of love and relationship does the Tenet borrow from a family context to stress how lovingly and intentionally God moves people into His family? Talk about the hope for life we find through God’s grace in being both accepted and transformed to this extent.

READ Ephesians 2:1-10 in both NRSV and NLT (if you have access to both):

4. Ephesians 2:1-3 are clearly a source for what the Tenet says about humanity. A word used in the Tenet shows up in this passage in a big way and sums up our chief problem. What does it mean to be spiritually “dead” (verse 1, NRSV and NLT)? How is “dead” in a different category than other descriptions we often use to describe our existence outside of God’s love?
5. Ephesians 2:4-7 explains how God’s great mercy and love pull us into a relationship with him. What does Paul say is the only way in which human beings are saved in verse 5? How does Clay define grace? How is this grace connected to Jesus Christ in verses 5-7?
6. Clay shows a brief video cut from when Alistair Begg was the MDPC Speaker Series speaker in 2022. How does this video illustrate both the human condition and everyone’s need for grace on a daily basis, even for those who are considered mature Christians or religious authority figures?
7. Then Paul elaborates on the grace he mentions in verse 5 with a stunning and famous statement from Ephesians 2:8-10. How is grace connected to faith or trust? How is this combination of grace and faith all God’s doing, so we can’t boast or claim we’ve done some or all of it? When we are touched by God’s grace, how does the purpose for our lives change?
8. Some people are suspicious of grace. It’s too easy. What’s the catch? But if this grace through faith in Jesus Christ isn’t really how things work, what’s the alternate prognosis for us? It isn’t good...
9. July 4 marked the 250th birthday of the United States of America. In closing, Clay tells a little of his personal story of citizenship and patriotism. As great as the USA is, even with its problems, how does God’s project of saving people by grace through faith for ministry as His “masterpiece” (verse 10) outshine and transcend it? Give thanks for this shining, transcendent grace and live in gratitude for it!

Sun, Jul 5, 2026



DIVE INTO SUMMER!

Special 4th of July Treats!

Be sure to join us for refreshments in the Sanctuary Breezeway this morning. Between 10:45 and 11:15am, a brass quintet will play patriotic music!

Married Life Prep

Sat, Aug 1 and 8 | 9am-1pm | MDPC

A free series open to dating couples, engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current research to give your marriage a firm foundation! Learn more and register: mlp.mdpc.org

Men’s Night at HRC

Tue, Aug 4 | 6:30-9pm | Houston Racquet Club

Men, invite your buddies to join us for Astros on the big screen, Tex-Mex, beer, and fun fellowship with other men. Come be part of the excitement! \$20/person includes food and drink. Registration: mensnight.mdpc.org

Transforming Grief

Wed, Aug 19-Oct 7 | 4-5:30pm

Join others in an 8-week program based on the curriculum Walking the Mourner’s Path. Group size is limited to 10. Trained facilitators guide the group. Learn more and register: grief.mdpc.org

Adults 55+ Fellowship

Events and activities all summer long!

Dinners, lunches, fellowship events, and get-togethers over games and puzzles. All adults 55+ are welcome! Find details on all activities at adults55plus.mdpc.org.

STEP INTO FALL!

H-Town Fellows at MDPC

Sep 2026-May 2027 | Wednesdays at 6pm

Are you a professional ready to seek God’s purpose for your career? H-Town Fellows trains Christians to live the gospel coherently across vocation, community, and culture. For scholarship information, reach out to Joshua Smith at jsmith@mdpc.org. Apply at fellows.mdpc.org.

Save the Date! Marriage Retreat

Sat-Sun, Oct 17-18 | Moody Gardens Resort

Registration is open! marriageretreat.mdpc.org

ECO Theology Conference

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC

Join ECO pastors, elders, deacons, and covenant partners from across the nation at *Light in the Darkness: Faithful Responses to Heresy*. Presentations on contemporary expressions of ancient heresies, and their impact today. For schedule and to register, visit theologyconf.mdpc.org.

Upcoming Global Mission Trips

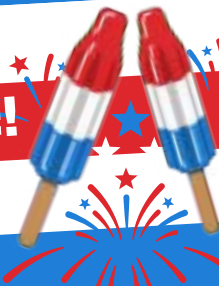
Join us on one of our upcoming global mission trips to visit partners in Honduras or Southeast Asia or participate in a partner-led trip to Guatemala or Turkey. Learn more at trips.mdpc.org.

Word and Worship 2026-2027

Weekly, Sep 2026-Feb 2027

Grow deeper through the book of Daniel as we study this fascinating Old Testament book together. Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: wandw.mdpc.org

THE ROCKETS RED GLARE.
THE BOMB POPS WE SHARE!



Popsicles are available in the Sanctuary Breezeway all morning—a festive treat for all ages!
Please enjoy your treat outdoors before entering the building.



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Invitation to Worship	<i>Patriotic Medley</i>	
Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Songs of Praise	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus Oh But God</i>	
Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Worship Song	<i>Is He Worthy?</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: God Saves (Grace) Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT & NRSV)	Clay Brown
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction		Clay Brown
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Invitation to Worship	<i>Patriotic Medley</i>	
Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Songs of Praise	<i>Thank God I'm Free Oh But God</i>	
Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Worship Song	<i>Is He Worthy?</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: God Saves (Grace) Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT & NRSV)	Clay Brown
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction		Clay Brown
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Blended & Contemporary Worship Leaders:
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, Tim Hughes, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>A Patriotic Suite</i>	Charles Callahan (1951-2023)
Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>The God Who Gave Us Life (from Testament of Freedom)</i>	Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	#379; Vs. 1, 2, 4 SOLID ROCK

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostle's Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	#298; Vs. 1 IN BABILONE

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942)
Message	R & R: God Saves (Grace) Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT & NRSV)	Clay Brown

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	#356; Vs. 1, 3 NETTLETON
Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Anthem	<i>America the Beautiful</i>	arr. James Mulholland (b. 1935)

SENDING

*Doxology #592	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Clay Brown
Postlude	<i>God Bless America</i>	Irving Berlin/arr. Jari Villanueva

Traditional Worship Leaders:
John Parker and Randy Adams, trumpets | Deborah Harvey, French horn
Rick White, trombone | Brandon Padilla, tuba | Kathryn White, organist/pianist
MDPC Sanctuary Choir | Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Our pastors are here to help. They'd love to hear from you!



Alf Halvorson
Senior Pastor
ahalvorson@mdpc.org



Rachel Poysky
Next Gen Pastor
rpoysky@mdpc.org



Beth Case
Caring & Christian
Formation Pastor
bcase@mdpc.org



Dan Aikins
Evangelism Pastor
daikins@mdpc.org



Clay Brown
Adult Discipleship
Pastor
cbrown@mdpc.org



Almir Dias
Portuguese-language
Pastor
adias@mdpc.org



Brett Hurst
Relationships Pastor
bhurst@mdpc.org



Bin Wang
Chinese Ministry
Partner
bwang@mdpc.org



Guillermo Yela
Spanish-language
Pastor
gyela@mdpc.org

Financial Update	as of Jun 28, 2026
2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	6,548,102
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	8,180,626

Births and Deaths
Judy Presswood passed away June 30.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org .