



Trail Guide – June 22, 2020

Ordinary Time

This is no ordinary ride. The London Eye rises 450 feet above the River Thames. It's 30 minute rotation gives riders an incredible view of London and the surrounding landscape – historic buildings, cathedrals, palaces, parks and gardens, Parliament and Big Ben. As N. T. Wright observes, Paul's Ephesians epistle provides a "London Eye" view of the rest of his writings, touching on many important Christian themes: salvation, the Trinity, grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation; and many practical applications of these themes in the lives of believers. As we work our way through what seems like an epistle but is more aptly named a sermon, these themes and their applications come to life for us as we read them in context, interpret their meaning and significance then, and derive the application for our lives and time. In chapter 2, Paul expands his teaching on the grace of God as the key to reconciling sinners to God-self. As you read this week's scripture in preparation for next Sunday, note the prominent role of God's grace. Why is grace so amazing? Because we deserve something else. Grace begins with the heart and purpose of God to save us from ourselves. It is the kindness of God who is rich in mercy, that seeks us out. (Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters, N. T. Wright)

Mon, 6/22 – [Ephesians 2:1-7](#) – Have you ever found yourself going in the wrong direction from your desired destination? How did you get turned (around) to the right direction? What has God done to get people turned from sin and death, to forgiveness and life? What did God do to get you turned in the right direction?

Tues, 6/23 – [Ephesians 2:8-10](#) – Why is grace so amazing? What makes grace so precious? How do you see yourself as part of God's handiwork? And, what good work(s) has God called you to do?

Wed, 6/24 – [Ephesians 2:11-13](#) – Imagine yourself as a Greek/non-Jewish resident of Ephesus, and part of the church community who are hearing this letter/sermon being read. At this point, what are you thinking? Have you ever been "far away" from God because of your own choices? What brought you back?

Thur, 6/25 – [Ephesians 2:14-18](#) – "He himself" is a standard way of adding emphasis to the subject, as if to say, "Listen up!" What does it mean to say that Jesus is "our peace"? Peace is not found in circumstances. Not found in our efforts. Rather, peace is grounded in a _____. When we say we want "peace" we're looking for things to change. Perhaps we also need to change.

Fri, 6/26 – [Ephesians 2:19-22](#) – Check out the three images Paul uses to describe what it means to be together as one in Christ. What is the significance of each – what does each contribute to the message Paul is trying to proclaim?

Sat, 6/27 – [Ephesians 2](#) – Re-read this chapter (it's short), listening and looking for the word or phrase that God has for you today. As you hear, listen too for whatever action God may be calling you to take in response. Write it down. Tell someone else.

Pray for God to "breakthrough" in our worship and in our lives, to bring new life, new hope, new opportunities to witness, welcome, grow and serve!