Before & After
Ephesians 2:1-10

Intro: Have you seen Marie Osmond before & after Nutrisystem? Oh what a difference a diet can make! In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul paints a picture of people before & after they are saved by Christ. Oh what a difference a Savior can make!

Before Christ Saves Us
- **Dead** – vs. 1. Insensible to physical world; funeral procession. We are insensible to spiritual world.
- **Disobedient** – vss. 1-2. Trespasses/sins. Gn. 2-3. Rm. 5:12
- **Deceived** – vs. 2. Jn. 8:44, Rev. 12:9, 1 Jn. 5:19,
  - Gn. 2-3. Devil twists truth & denies the truth
  - Moral relativism and new moral absolutism, i.e. what used to be wrong is now declared right and what used to be right is now declared wrong.
- **Debased or Depraved** – vs. 3. Debased = Moral quality is diminished/ Depraved = moral quality is corrupted. Ga. 5:19-21
- **Doomed** – vs. 3. Rm. 1:24-25, 28-32, 2:5

Interlude: Objection: You may say, “I’m a good man/woman; better than most.” Yes, but you are like Midshipman who says he’s better than other students because he got 30% while they got 20% on test. He’s still failing! Rm. 3:9-12, 23.

After Christ Saves Us
- **Adored** – vs. 4. Hinge vs. True before & after we are saved.
  - Rich in mercy/great love. Bill Gates is a pauper by comparison. Loved w/great love!
  - The love of God is greater far
    Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
    It goes beyond the highest star,
    And reaches to the lowest hell;
    Could we with ink the ocean fill,
    And were the skies of parchment made,
    Were every stalk on earth a quill,
    And every man a scribe by trade,
    To write the love of God above,
    Would drain the ocean dry.
    Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
    Though stretched from sky to sky.
- **Alive** – vs.5. Sensible to God and spiritual things.
- **Ascended** – vs.6. Raised to new life on earth & everlasting life in heaven. Jn 14:1-3. When I got saved, Christ didn't make me better than anyone else...he made me better than myself & gave me a home in heaven.
• **Advertised** – vs. 7. Companies invest $ to advertise their products; TV, radio, print, billboards, etc. God invested his grace in us to advertise how good he is! Our lives show forth the mercy, love & grace of God & point people back to him.

• **Active** – vs. 10. Workmanship = Poiema = poem. We are God’s work of art; we are empowered to do beautiful deeds that beautify the world!

**Interlude:** Recount life before and after Christ. Oh difference Savior makes!

• Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but held it up with a smile; "What am I bidden, good folks," he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me? A dollar, a dollar; then two! Only two? Two dollars, and who'll make it three? Three dollars, once; three dollars twice; going for three..." But no, from the room, far back, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; then, wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody pure and sweet as caroling angel sings.

• The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said; "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three? Three thousand, once, three dollars twice, and going and gone," said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand what changed its worth." Swift came the reply: "The touch of a master's hand."

• And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin, A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine; a game - and he travels on. He is going once, and going twice, He's going and almost gone. But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that is wrought by the touch of the Master’s hand.

**Application**

• **Unsaved:**
  o Acknowledge your spiritual condition – 5 Ds.
  o Accept the fact that you cannot save yourself – vs. 8-9.
  o Trust Christ to save and change you! vs. 8

• **Saved:**
  o Remember the change that was wrought by the touch of the Master’s hand; too often we forget it.
  o Give thanks you’re adored, alive, and ascended.
  o Renew your commitment to be an active advertisement for God’s grace, mercy, and love!