



LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

In 1955, Elizabeth Henson was cleaning out her closet. She had several things to throw away, one of which was an old worn green coat. When her son came home from college and saw the pile of clothes, he asked if he could have the green jacket. With a pair of scissors, and a needle and thread, Jim added half-cut ping-pong balls, creating the puppet we all know and love as Kermit, the frog. God is at work creating his masterpiece, too.

- God uses broken things to make other things beautiful again.
- Despite my deepest flaws and even beyond my own beliefs about myself, I am God's beloved.
- If you think God feels disappointed when he looks at you, then you don't know God very well.
- When God writes our lives, there are never mistakes, just moments to bring us closer to him.
- When fear runs your life, it ruins your life.
- Without the stains and scars, hope is an afterthought. Without our imperfections, there is nothing to place in the hands of God.
- You are God's masterpiece, the faithful ones meant for better things. We will look up and look forward to the home yet to come.
- We are not just reservoirs of his love and grace. We are channels. We are rivers meant to flow.

Excerpts from People of the Second Chance, by Mike Foster

SERMON NOTES

In Grace

July 25



CHEER UP!

- ◆ Cheer Up! You _____
- ◆ Cheer Up! God's _____
- ◆ Cheer Up! You _____
- ◆ Cheer Up! God's _____
- ◆ Cheer Up! God's _____

THE ACTIONS IN PRAYER

Part A - S _____ to the _____

Part B - By _____ the _____ at _____ in your life

Part C - S _____ with _____

Part D - E _____ is _____
(God's holy people)

SEE IT ANEW - LIVE IT AFRESH

- ◇ Now to him =
- ◇ Who is able =
- ◇ To do =
- ◇ Immeasurably more =

AUG. 1, 2021 EPH. 4:3
Next Week: **BOUND IN PEACE**
 MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Ephesians 3:1

Take stock of your current situation. Paul was in prison, but he saw it as a blessing for the Gentiles. Who could be blessed as you shine during challenging times?

Tu Ephesians 3:2-3

Paul had an interesting story about meeting Jesus. Your story about meeting Jesus will bring honor to God and bless others if you choose to share it. Tell someone today how you first met Jesus.

We Ephesians 3:7

With great faith, Paul recognizes God's grace and power in his life. Identify evidence in your life for both God's grace and God's power.

Th Ephesians 3:8

Notice Paul's humility and joy in his opportunity to work for the Lord. In 1 Cor. 3:5-9, Paul shares a similar humble position. How does Paul's humility motivate you toward humility and greater works?

Fr Ephesians 3:14-21

Write this prayer down. Read it several times today. Notice the strength and purpose you feel as you focus on God's power, love, and purpose.

Sa Ephesians 3:20-21

God's power has been working through every generation until today, is at work within us, and will continue to work until the Lord returns. You are a part of God's generational teamwork. How will you praise him?

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Ephesians 3. Take turns reading one verse at a time.
 - ◇ What themes do you see throughout this chapter?
- Paul says that he has been the recipient of God's grace in two ways. God revealed to him a mystery and gave him the privilege of preaching to the Gentiles the riches of Christ. How would you explain the mystery revealed to Paul (3:2-6)?
- What purpose does God have for the church (3:10-11)?
 - ◇ How does your attitude toward the church compare or contrast with Paul's?
- Several times in this chapter, Paul will refer to the distinct workings of the Godhead; Father, Son, and Spirit. What do you learn about each Godly figure?
 - ◇ In a letter about unity and the broadening borders of the Kingdom, why do you think the inner workings of the Godhead are important examples?
- Read Paul's prayer (3:14-21) as a prayer for the group.
 - ◇ How does this prayer compare or contrast to the prayers we often hear?
 - ◇ Paul mentions "love" and "power" three times. How would our prayers change if we incorporated these terms more?
 - ◇ Paul uses several powerful phrases to help us see the grandeur of God's power, love, and plan. What phrase(s) help you know this prayer is far greater than personal promotion, gain, or position?