

God's Gift of Grace – Ephesians 2



MEMORY VERSE: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

DAY 1 EPHESIANS 2:1-3—Human Nature

1. Describe the human condition without Jesus Christ.
2. To what do you think “the course of this world” refers?
3. Who is the “prince of the power of the air,” and what does he do?
John 8:44

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

1 Peter 5:8-9

4. Why do you think living solely to fulfill the passions of fleshly desires makes us “children of wrath?”

DAY 2 EPHESIANS 2:4-7— God's Nature

5. What words describe God's character in this passage?
6. What actions did God take on our behalf?

LEARN THE TRUTH

The truth is that without Christ we are dead in our sins. But do not despair! The GOOD NEWS is that not only can we be saved by grace because of Christ's death on the cross, but we can then fulfill the purpose for which we were created. We are meant to be part of God's bigger picture!

7. Think about these verses. How would you define “mercy” and “grace” within this context?
8. How do you see grace and mercy as being similar, and how do you see them as different?
9. What reason is given for God’s generosity toward people who were dead in sin? v. 7
10. Do you think it is possible to be “alive in Christ,” and yet feel dead in sin? Why or why not?

Romans 6:5-12

DAY 3 EPHESIANS 2:8-10 — God’s Gift of Grace

11. How are we saved? Why are “grace” and “faith” both crucial elements in our salvation?

John 1:12-13

12. Why is it wrong to boast about our salvation?
13. What do you think it looks like to boast about our salvation?
14. How does verse 10 describe us?
15. How does this affect your thoughts and goals? How can we know what works God has prepared for us?

DAY 4 EPHESIANS 2:11-18 — Reconciliation

16. Describe the state of the Gentiles (non-Jews) before Christ. vv. 11-12
17. What did Christ first do for individuals- Gentiles or anyone else who was separated from God? v. 13

Galatians 3:28-29

18. Why did this act of Christ also make peace between the Jews and Gentiles? vv. 14-15

1 Corinthians 12:13

19. What did Christ then do for this one body of Jews and Gentiles? vv. 16-18

20. What do you think it means to be “far off,” or “near” to God, both in this context and in life today?

DAY 5 EPHESIANS 2:19-22 – Citizens and Saints

21. How is this new body of believers described *relationally* before and after the cross? v. 19
Before:

After:

22. Verses 20-22 paint a picture of the body of believers *structurally*, a spiritual version of the temple of God. What do the definitions of each of these terms mean in the context of these verses?
Foundation

Cornerstone

Holy temple

23. What further insight do these verses give you about your place in the body of Christ?
1 Corinthians 3:10-16

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

24. How does Ephesians 2 challenge or encourage you regarding your place in the body of Christ?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Do you realize that you are God’s workmanship? Are you part of His unique family of believers? If so, the Holy Spirit dwells in you and will enable you to do the things God planned for you before you were even born. Look for opportunities to serve Him and your life will be successful and satisfying.

Ephesians 2

God's Gift of Grace

No matter how impressive anyone might seem, God's Word tells us that we are by nature evil, dead in sin and actually under the influence of Satan, who would have us live according to our own sinful and selfish desires rather than how God commands us to live. The human condition is quite hopeless! We cannot fully appreciate God's gift of grace until we recognize just how lost we are without Him. Yet, God loved us, even those who did not love nor care about Him, so much that He made a way for us by sending sinless Jesus Christ to pay our debt for sin on the cross.

Ephesians 2:1-10 is a powerful passage of Scripture because it proclaims the way of salvation. It might be called the "Gospel in a nutshell."

To be saved by grace through faith rather than works and good deeds is so very freeing. It is good to earn something by our own efforts like a paycheck, favor with people, or an award, but it is truly amazing to be saved from eternal damnation because of grace alone. There is simply no greater gift. God not only saved us *from* death, but He saved us *for* the actual good works He prepared for us before we knew Him. The purpose of the good works He planned for us is to help others find God. "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Every one of us knows what it is like to be an outsider, no matter what our life experiences have been. The Gentiles were outsiders because they were not the original "chosen" ones like the Jews. They did not know God or His law, and believed in false gods or in nothing at all. They were without hope. At the same time, the

Jews were also outsiders because, while they knew they were God's chosen people through whom the truth about God could be known, many were far from Him in their hearts because they had a sense of entitlement rather than gratitude. Because they took inordinate pride in their bloodline instead of God's love, they failed to recognize Jesus Christ as Savior. Instead they wanted a Messiah who better fit their idea of a conquering king.

But God brought peace, drawing both Jews and Gentiles near to Himself because of His love for everyone He created.

WALK IN TRUTH



God went to great lengths to make peace between very different kinds of people. In spite of our differences, God unites those who realize their own depravity and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. Only God's power can unite people like this. This body of believers is God's family, the church. If you feel like an outsider, there is a place for you in the body of Christ. When you believe, His Spirit will live in you and help you. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

God has good works planned for each of us, all to help others be reconciled with Himself. But we cannot effectively do this until realize how lost we are/were because of sin and know what it means to be found and reconciled to God. When we grasp this truth we begin to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and are used by God to help other people find and experience His love and saving grace.

Notes