

Metro Women's Bible Studies
Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson 4

Ephesians 1 describes our spiritual possessions in Christ. In chapter 2, Paul turns to describe our spiritual position in Christ. The sinner who trusts God through Jesus Christ is translated from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive. This transaction is accomplished solely because of God's grace and love towards those who call upon Him in faith. What we have in Him is awesome. May you equally appreciate your new place in life, no longer bound by the prince of the power of the air, but seated in the Heavens with the King of Kings.

DAY ONE Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Read through this week's verses using your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase.

a. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

Verses 1-10

OPTIONAL: From the list below record the key words and their symbols on the chart.

This Lesson: *God, Jesus, made, were, and grace*

OPTIONAL: Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words every time they are used in Ephesians 2:1-10. Remember, as you mark the words: *God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

2. This portion of Scripture reveals to us many characteristics of God. In these verses, not all of the references to God that you marked speak of His character. From the verses below, record what they reveal about the attributes of our awesome God.

Verse 4

Verse 4

Verse 7

Verse 7

a. Which of these mean the most to you today?

DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 2:1-6

1. These verses in Ephesians 2 have often been referred to as the "Great Before and After" because of how they portray the way we were before we knew God and the wonderful transformation after conversion. Complete the questions below.

WHAT WE WERE LIKE BEFORE:

Verse 1 & 5

Verse 2

Verse 3

WHAT GOD DID:

Verse 1

Verse 4 & 5

Verse 6

2. Fill in your own personal chart by sharing your own "Before and After".

I WAS:

I AM:

3. According to the following verses, what should our response be to such a marvelous transformation?

Romans 12:1

1 Corinthians 6:20

1 Peter 2:9

DAYS THREE & FOUR: Reread Ephesians 2:1-6

Paul ended Chapter 1 by considering that the ultimate example of God's power was the resurrection of Jesus; now Paul considers in these verses what the implications of Jesus' resurrection is for us.

Let us never forget where we have come from - dead in trespasses and sins. We were not merely sick or injured, but were spiritually dead. And death always brings separation from our Creator.

1. Paul uses the same phrase in both verses 1 and 5 to describe our spiritual position before we came to Christ. How does he describe us?

2. In Genesis 2:17, before Eve had been created, what did God warn Adam?
 - a. What did the serpent of old, Satan, the liar and deceiver say in Genesis 3:4 to counter Eve's arguments?
 - b. What does Paul say in Romans 5:12 & 6:23?
 - c. Spiritual death defines all of mankind's condition. All unbelievers are in a state of bondage or enslavement to the power of sin. What did Jesus declare in John 8:34?
 - d. From a human standpoint, it appears that people might be able to do good, but what does God say regarding this through His prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 64:6?
3. JFB Commentary described one who is spiritually dead as a living corpse: without the gracious presence of God's Spirit in the soul, and so unable to think, will, or do that which is holy. How would you describe someone who is **spiritually dead**?
4. God's remedy to our spiritual deadness is also recorded twice (verses 1 and 5). What has He done?
 - a. How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 add to this?
 - b. Describe the new sensitivity you have to spiritual things now that your spirit has been *made alive*?
5. What are the two influences under which believers once *walked*? verse 2
 - a. Look up the word *walked* in your Concordance & write out the English translation.
Walked-
 - b. Verse 2 says that *we once walked according to the course of this world*. This present evil world system is continually seeking to squeeze men into its mold of godlessness. The unsaved either consciously or unconsciously are controlled by the values and attitudes of this world system and behave accordingly. How do you make choices to not walk according to the course of this world?

6. Ephesians 2:1-3 makes us look pretty evil. But, before you dismiss these statements, look at them again. How does verse 3 say we conducted ourselves?

a. What *desires* did we seek to *fulfill*?

7. According to Romans 8:7-8 why can't we *please God* if we live like this?

a. We still live in bodies of flesh; we still have a mind. In what ways does having your spirit *made alive* change your attitude about the *desires of the flesh and the mind*?

8. How can we live in a body of flesh without fulfilling its desires? See Galatians 5:16.

9. Ephesians 2:4 begins with a word of contrast, a word that turns everything around. What is it?

a. **Although** we were *dead in our trespasses*, **although** we *walked according to the course of this world*, **although** we *walked according to the prince of the power of the air*, God changed everything! Why did He do it according to verse 4?

b. What word does Paul use to describe God's love *with which He loved us*?

10. Look up the word *great* in your Concordance and write out the English translation
Great-

11. Read verse 5. When did God *make us alive*?

a. What does Romans 5:6-8 say about this?

b. Romans 5:6-8 is such a powerful passage! Think back to when you were without God, rebellious, stiff-necked, & fulfilling the desires of your flesh and mind. Does it blow you away that in that state Christ was thinking about you with such great love that he demonstrated it by laying his life down and taking your punishment upon Himself? How does knowing this affect you?

12. Look again at the phrase in Ephesians 2:5 that begins with the words *made us alive*. What words follow?

Made us alive together with means to cause to live with Christ. **With (Sun)** in the Greek means not only are we together with Christ, but we are so "mixed together" (so to speak) with Him that no one can separate us from Him or Him from us! This is good news and serves as just another marker that underscores the believer's eternal security in Christ!

13. List two other things God has done for the believer from verse 6.

14. Christians are a "heavenly" people according to what Paul said when he told the Ephesians that God has "*raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*" We live on earth, but "*our citizenship is in heaven*" (Philippians 3:20). Therefore how shall we live according to Colossians 3:1?

a. What do you think this means in a practical sense?

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 2:7-10

1. **So that (hina)** this Greek word introduces a purpose clause explaining why believers have been saved and seated with Christ. What reason does Paul present in Ephesians 2:7?

a. Dear ones, as a set apart saved sinner, **are you** living with this "other age, world to come" mindset in this present evil age which is passing away even along with its wicked lusts?

b. Sisters, did you know that your life as a follower of Christ is a display case for the grace of God? What an awesome and honorable thought! In what ways can you demonstrate to others his great kindness to you?

2. How does it describe His grace from verse 7?

a. What is the definition of the following words? Use your Concordance or a Dictionary.

Surpassing- (Exceeding)

Riches (ploutos from pletho = fill) defines a plentiful supply, a wealth, an abundance, plentitude. God's riches are immeasurable, extraordinary, outstanding! We need to recall this great truth to our minds (and turn it into a praise in prayer) when we are tempted to think otherwise and be pulled down into the miry clay of this present world ruled by the Evil One. The Fortune 500 list of the World's Wealthiest, pales in comparison to the inestimable, inexhaustible wealth of our very own dear Heavenly Father! Stop & praise Him right now!

Kindness-

Paul piles up words to make a deep and lasting impression on our hearts. God's settled purpose is to be gracious to those who are in Christ Jesus. And lest we miss the sweetness and gentleness and gladness of the word "grace" he adds the words, "in kindness toward us."

3. Ephesians 2:8 is one of the most assuring verses in the Bible. What does it say?

a. What is the *gift of God* given to you?

b. By what means have you been saved?

4. Define this *grace* by looking it up in your Concordance and writing out the English translation.

Grace-

a. According to verse 8, what response is necessary on our part?

5. How did Paul and Silas answer the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31 concerning his question about salvation?

Faith, like grace, is not static. Saving faith is more than just understanding the facts and mentally acquiescing. It is inseparable from repentance, surrender, and a supernatural longing to obey. None of those responses can be classified exclusively as a human work, any more than believing itself is solely a human effort.

Faith is manifest by not believing in spite of evidence but by obeying in spite of the consequences.

6. Reading Ephesians 2:8 and 9, what two phrases tell us what we are *not* saved by?

7. Before you were saved, did you ever think that your good works or good behavior earned you points with God in getting to Heaven? I did! I thought all the good things I did & my good behavior could one day out balance all my wrong behavior, but that is never possible! According to Verse 8, how do we acquire salvation?

“⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” “That” (5124) (touto) refers not to grace or to faith but to the act of being saved.

a. What does being saved by *grace* prevent us from doing? (see the last part of verse 9)

8. According to 1 Corinthians 1:31, what should believers *boast* or *glory* in?

Salvation is a gift of God and does not find its source in man. Furthermore, this salvation is not “out of a source of works” thus explaining salvation by grace. It is not produced by man nor earned by him. It is a gift from God with no strings attached.

9. What are we called in Ephesians 2:10?

a. Although we are not saved by good *works*, as God's *workmanship*, we have been created for a purpose. What is God's intention for *good works* in the life of the believer? See verse 10b.

10. How would you explain to someone who was struggling with what part doing *good works* has in the life of a believer? See the following passages and underline what you discover about works.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

Titus 1:15-16 “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

Titus 2:14 “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Titus 3:8 “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”

James 2:14-21 “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

11. What is the difference between what you might have called *good works* before you were a believer and the *good works* you do now?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 2.1-10

1. As a believer, God has *made you alive*. Many would abbreviate their testimony by stating, “I once was lost, but now I am found”. Using several one-word answers to describe the changes in your life, complete this sentence: I once was dead, but now I am _____, _____, _____, and _____.

2. Summarize the life of a person without Christ.

3. Scan through this lesson and record the responses we are to have because of what God has done for us.

a. What does 1 John 5:3 say about God's commandments?

b. How have you found this to be true?

4. Describe God's *gift of salvation*.

5. Record in your Worksheets “**Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, and Instructions.**”

*But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.
Daniel 9:9 NLT*