



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000
May - November 2026 - \$136,470

Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Don't Ever Forget | Ephesians 2:1-13 7.26.26

Big Idea: Memory is an incredible gift given to us by GOD. However, like all of GOD's gifts, sin has distorted the proper and full use of our memory. The reality is this: our memory is typically short where it needs to be long, and long where it needs to be short. Paul challenged the congregation in Ephesus to never forget what it means to be "in Christ." Today's message is the same challenge 2,000 years later.

Ephesians 2:1-9 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts (passions) of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (**by Grace you have been saved**), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by **Grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Grace is GOD giving us what we did not deserve.

Mercy is GOD **not** giving us what we did deserve.

- **Ephesians 2** teaches that our sin only has one solution. Re: **Romans 5:8**
- Paul referenced the "heavenly places" five (5) times in this letter.
- **Believers** have been spiritually resurrected, awaiting the literal resurrection of the future. Re: **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**
- It's a gift to see our need for Christ, and it's a gift to place our trust (faith) in Christ - the only one who fulfills our deepest need.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

- Salvation in Christ isn't just a pass into Heaven; it is a path for us to follow on our way to Heaven.
- Good works are a display of GOD's grace and mercy in the life of a redeemed sinner... Don't forget that *any good works that we do are a result of GOD's grace in our life.*

Ephesians 2:11-18 *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the **enmity**, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the **enmity**. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

- **"enmity"** is used twice and means deep-seated hatred, hostility.
- **The Law of GOD** condemned us because we were unable to keep it, thereby exposing our guilt.
- Christ satisfied the demands of the Law on our behalf. **Romans 2:25-4:25**

Colossians 2:13-14 *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

- The **Temple** was the most holy place on the planet for the Jewish people – and it had multiple barriers.

Ephesians 2:19 *Now, therefore, you (Gentiles) are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow **citizens** with the **saints** and **members** of the **household (family) of God**.*

The message of the church is that Christ has removed every barrier between Jew and Gentile. Christ is also building a new holy Temple made up of every single person who places their faith in Him and has assurance of such through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22 *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy **temple** in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a **dwelling** place of **God** in the Spirit.*

→ Guests are encouraged to contact Pastor Jerry with any questions or comments: jpelfrey@gbcmason.org

Special 9:15 Summer Services:

- 8.2.26 Missions Highlights with Pastor Mike, Missionary guests Gedi and Joanna Laskauskas – Lithuania
- 8.9.26 Members and Guests – The signing of the construction beams
- 8.16.26 Pastor Tim Pasma; he will also lead a Parent Seminar at Grace on September 12th
- 8.23.26 Student Ministry Sunday
- 8.30.26 Pastries with the Pastors in the Pavilion – All ages welcome!
- 9.6.26 Foundations #20 – Old Testament Character Study

Upcoming Events:

Heart to Heart Picnic with Char - Ladies & teen girls - join us for our annual Heart to Heart picnic with Char on Sunday, August 2 at 5:30 at the GBC Pavilion. Last names A-M, please bring a side to share; N-Z, bring a dessert. Our church will provide chicken & drinks! Sign up with the QR Code or on the sign-up sheet outside the Worship Center.



Women's Fall Retreat - Women of Grace, save the date for our Fall Retreat - Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27, 2026! Sign up today in the church lobby!