

**BRIARCLIFF CHURCH**  
**Small Group Study Guide: Ephesians**  
Week of September 24 (Week 4)  
Ephesians 2:1-10



## REVIEW OF CHAPTER ONE

In Ephesians 1, Paul begins with a brief introduction (1:1-2), followed by two significant sections. First, in his doxology or praise (1:3-14), Paul describes the act of the Triune God in our salvation. God the Father chose us in love for adoption before the foundation of the world so that we would be blameless. God the Son redeemed us with his blood and provided us forgiveness of sins through the riches of his grace. God the Holy Spirit sealed us, ensuring our inheritance in God. All of this was done by God "to the praise of His glory." The second section (1:15-23) concentrates on Paul's prayer for the Christians. Paul is thankful to God for the believers' faith in God and love for one another. However, he feels the need to pray that the eyes of the believers' hearts will be enlightened to know the hope of their calling, the riches of the glorious inheritance they have in God, and the greatness of God's power that resurrected Christ from the dead and put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.

## BIG IDEA

God wants us to know that we were dead in sin and deserved His wrath, but by His grace we are saved, and have become God's masterpiece artwork created in Christ to showcase good works.

## OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT

Eph. 2:1-10 is a continuation/sequence of Paul's prayer from 1:15-23: Jesus Christ was dead, but God raised and exalted Him. And you also were dead, but God raised and exalted you with Christ. In this passage (Eph. 2:1-10), Paul describes the past condition of both the Gentile and Jews believers (vv. 1-3). The Gentiles were dead in trespasses and sins (vv. 1-2), and the Jews were no better; they too, lived sinful lives "like the rest of humankind" (v. 3). Thus, the Jews and Gentiles share a common denominator – they "were by nature children of wrath." The Jewish converts were as much in danger of judgment as anyone else. But God, in the richness of His mercy and because of His great love made the sinners alive together (both Jews and Gentiles) with Christ. The status of this new life – raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly places, is by grace through faith and not the results of our work for which we can take credit. We are God's "masterpiece" created to do good works.

	<b>Gentiles</b>	<b>Jews</b>
<b>The Old Condition</b>	You were dead in trespasses and sins... (vv. 1-2)	We all once lived in the passions of our flesh... (v. 3a)
<b>The Common Denominator</b>	[Gentiles and Jews] were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (v. 3b)	
<b>The Intervention of God</b>	But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (v. 4)	
<b>The New Condition</b>	Made us alive together with Christ Raised us up with him and Seated us with him in the heavenly places (vv. 5-6)	
<b>The Means of Salvation</b>	By grace through faith (vv. 5, 8)	
<b>The Purpose of Salvation</b>	To demonstrate God's immeasurable riches of his grace throughout the ages (v. 7)  For believers to do good works (v. 10)	

**OBSERVING THE TEXT**

**Starting with God**

1. What do you understand about the character/nature and works of God in Eph. 2:4-10?

**Continuing the Conversation**

2. Paul refers to three influences as controlling and directing our former pre-Christian existence. What are the three influences?
3. There are several prepositional phrases that Paul used in Eph. 2:1-10 to describe who we were (our past condition) and how (the means by which) we have become to be who we are now (our present condition). Read verses 1-10 carefully and find out the key prepositional phrases that talk about who we were and how we have become to be who we are now.

4. How does Paul continue the thought of Eph. 1:19-20 in 2:5-6?
5. To whom is Paul addressing in Eph. 2:1-10? Who are the **“you”** and who are the **“we”**? Compare Eph. 1:12 & 13
6. According to Eph. 2:1-10 what is common about the Jews and the Gentiles before and after believing in Christ?
7. Why does Paul emphasize that salvation is by grace and not by our works or human effort? (Read Eph. 2:8-9).

## CONNECTING WITH OTHER TEXT

1. What similar thought(s) do you find in Eph. 2:4-5, 8-9, Rom. 5: 6-8, and Deut. 7:7-9?
2. Compare Eph. 2:5-6 with Col. 2:13 & 3:1. What is Paul saying in these passages?
3. Read Eph. 2:8-9 and compare with Rom. 3:19, 28, 1 Cor. 1:29, and Tit. 3:4-5. What do you think Paul is emphasizing in these passages?
4. What does Paul say about doing good works according to Eph. 1:10, Tit. 2:14, and 3:9?

## APPLYING THE TEXT

1. Eph. 2:1-3 describes your life without Christ. How do these verses help you to understand about the spiritual state of your neighbors and friends who do not know Christ?

2. The description in 2:1-3 was the description of your life without Christ, but God extended his mercy and grace to you. What should be your attitude to those who live their life as described in Eph. 2:1-3?
3. How should Eph. 2:8-10 motivate you in the areas of obedience, outreach, and acts of love and mercy toward your neighbors?

## PRAYER

### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

September 25-29

Read Ephesians 2:1-11

Paul clarifies the meaning of salvation and what it means to be a part of the church, the body of Christ. He shows the depth of our sins and the rich mercy and grace that makes us alive with him, seating us with him in heavenly places. Wow!

**Monday:** *you were dead in the trespasses and sin in which you once walked.* Who do you know that is apparently still dead in sin, unaware of their being dead in sin? Resolve that you will pray for them every day, asking for God's Spirit to convict and awaken their heart. They would no longer be *children of wrath*.

**Tuesday:** *Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.* Stop for a moment and let *made us alive* with Christ soak in. Think back to the time you were dead in sin and Christ made you alive (saved) to walk with him. Thank God for your new life.

**Wednesday:** *raised us up with him and seated us with him in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.* Stop! That is worth thinking about for a moment. Ask God to help you grasp the awesomeness of that statement. How will that cause you to live today. Write it down. Carry it with you today.

**Thursday:** *by grace you have been saved.* Think back when you were *saved*. You were (justified in the past), forgiven *by grace*. You are also *being saved* (sanctification in the present) by his *grace* to grow. In the end you will *be saved* (glorification future) for all eternity. Thank God for what he did, is doing, and will do in your life by grace. Write it down.

**Friday:** *We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.* Chew on that for a moment. Created for what purpose? Stop and write out your purpose in life. If you don't have your purpose in life written, start on it now. Remember, he had your purpose in life in mind *beforehand*.

For more resources, visit [www.briarcliff.church/ephesians](http://www.briarcliff.church/ephesians)